THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

JANUARY 7, 2016 • 26 TEVET, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Israel on edge after Tel Aviv shooting

A deadly rampage leaves two dead and prompts an urgent manhunt. **PAGE 22, 37**

More coverage at CJNews.com

Religious Zionists condemn notorious wedding video

Canadians speak out against celebration of attack. **PAGE 12**
PLUS Duma arrest **PAGE 24**

Va'era

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	4:33 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Montreal	4:10 p.m.	5:19 p.m.
Ottawa	4:19 p.m.	5:28 p.m.
Toronto	4:39 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
Winnipeg	4:27 p.m.	5:42 p.m.
Calgary	4:30 p.m.	5:46 p.m.
Vancouver	4:14 p.m.	5:28 p.m.

Out west, a community in flux

Vancouver is undergoing rapid change, but adjustment isn't always easy for Jewish newcomers. **PAGE 8**

Keeping an eye on the United Nations

UN Watch head Hillel Neuer fights anti-Israel bias on the world stage. **Q&A PAGE 38**

Accommodating interfaith families

Rabbi 2 Rabbi: Shuls grapple with a new reality, and how to keep young Jews connected. **PAGE 4**

It's hard not to love *Transparent*

Family at centre of acclaimed show is a bit of a trainwreck, but in a good way. **PAGE 30**

Kinky Boots
TORONTO'S BIG, FAB, FUN MUSICAL!
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 MIRVISH.COM

Get ready for kosher pot, and what happened in the Garden of Eden?

OU certifies marijuana products

A New York company said last week it's preparing to market what it says is the world's first kosher-certified pot. The Orthodox Union has certified Vireo Health of New York's non-smokable medical marijuana products, Vireo said Dec. 29. Vireo is one of five medical marijuana providers selected to take part in a New York state medical marijuana program that goes into effect this month. None of the others will be certified kosher. "Being certified kosher by the OU will not only help us serve the dietary needs of the largest Jewish community in the United States, but also combat unfortunate stigmas associated with medical cannabis," Vireo CEO Ari Hoffnung said.

Cotler honoured by WJC affiliate

Former Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler was honoured Dec. 21 in Jerusalem by the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians, an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress since 2006, for his legislative achievements and human rights work. His successor, Liberal Anthony Housefather was among 12 current Jewish parliamentarians from around the world brought to Israel last month for three days of meetings with Knesset members and officials.

It's medicinal. Really!

Was Eve really made from Adam's rib?

American Jewish University professor Ziony Zevit has raised a stir with a new book that says Eve was made from a bone in Adam's penis, not his rib, as per tradition. In *What Really Happened in the Garden of Eden*, Zevit, who studies biblical literature and Semitic languages, makes the case that the Genesis account is the only place in the Bible where the Hebrew word *tzela* means "rib." Elsewhere, it means the side of something. Also, since men and women have the same number of ribs, how could one have been taken from the first man? And while human phalluses have no bones, other mammals' penises do. But critics say the idea is phallacious. *Ha'aretz* journalist Elon Gilad noted the text says God takes "something from Adam of which he has many," there are instances of *tzela* meaning rib in other Semitic languages, and there's a Sumerian myth about life being created from a rib. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 25	Parshah 35
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 32	Q&A 38
Cover Story 8	International 22	Social Scene 34	Backstory 39

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

18

Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert had his prison term cut to 18 months from six years on Dec. 29 for his part in the Holyland corruption case.

30,000

The number of immigrants to Israel exceeded 30,000 for the first time in 12 years in 2015, the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption reported last week.

Quotable

The UN, instead of holding the Palestinians to account, are treating them like children, not... agents who can be held responsible for their actions.

— Hillel Neuer, head of UN Watch. See full interview on page 38.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

The status of the Kotel

Norma Baumel Joseph states that the Kotel is "not a synagogue" ("We won't stop until we have equal rights at the Kotel," Dec.10) and therefore, Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, the legal administrator, has no authority to issue guidelines that restrict women from praying with a Torah there.

The Kotel is indeed a synagogue where services are held every day of the year, and there is a regulation, enacted in 2010, that does prohibit women from bringing a Torah to the Kotel Plaza, so Rabbi Rabinowitz's ruling is consistent with the law.

Ezra Franken
Montreal

Jews and Christmas

Michael Taube's column ("Jews and Christmas: enjoy the holiday," Dec. 17) is very troubling.

Maintaining strong Jewish identities within our community is crucial for our community's future, and threats to this future abound, with the high costs of Jewish education and the rising rates of intermarriage. For Jewish communities to thrive in the future, Jewish children must be raised in a Jewish environment with an understanding of who they are. Jews who choose to celebrate Christmas (or any other non-Jewish holiday) in their homes are confusing their children and putting their Jewish identities at risk.

During this season, Canadian Jews cannot help but be immersed in the "Christmas spirit" because it surrounds us in many places. We can appreciate the beauty of decorations in the malls and on the homes of neighbours, and we can enjoy the music of the season on the radio, but Christmas celebrates a significant event for Christians, and it is not our holiday.

Joanne R. Fisher
Thornhill, Ont.

Jews and Christmas II

I have no problem with Michael Taube being irreligious, agnostic, atheist or whatever religious title he bestows upon himself. But to flaunt his utter love for Christmas, almost in the same breath as his disdain for Chanukah, has no place in the pages of *The CJN*.

I grew up in Montreal among Christian friends and have many today, especially in the Armenian community. I have had many of them over for Pesach seders, Shabbat dinners and Rosh Hashanah celebrations. The respect we have for each other's holidays and traditions is mutual.

I have been buying Christmas gifts for my Christian friends for as long as I can remember. I have enjoyed listening to Christmas music for as long as I remember. I love seeing the Christmas decorations and enjoy going to Christmas parties whenever I am invited.

But my wife and I do not celebrate Christmas as a holiday in our home.

We don't flaunt it above our own holidays and traditions – no trees, pagan or otherwise, no wreaths, no presents for Jewish friends or family members etc.

Taube needs reminding that the word Christmas means "Christ's Mass."

Isidore Baum
Laval, Quebec

Resigning in the year 5776

Kol hakavod to the Beth Tzedec choir for resigning under pressure to affirm their Jewish identity ("Renowned Beth Tzedec choir resigns en masse," Dec. 17).

This act of maintaining solidarity with their non-Jewish colleagues speaks volumes for the choir as individuals and reflects a very poor, outdated judgment on the part of the authorities who proposed this. We are living in Canada in the 21st century (or 5776, if you prefer), not in some medieval ghetto.

Howard Mednick
Thornhill, Ont.

Question of the week

What do you hope 2016 will bring for the Jewish community?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks FREE.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview, North York
Amica at Bayview Gardens, North York
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill

1.855.738.7248

AMICA

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to respect her values."

We needed a funeral that was economical. However, we didn't want to lose the Jewish traditions that were so important in our mother's life. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged a service that was fully observant. She would be proud knowing how we honoured her wishes.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Accommodating interfaith families

What are the limits to synagogues' acceptance of the new reality, and how can they encourage young Jews to keep a strong connection to their own community?

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Finegold: The issue of interfaith families has arisen lately, both in my rabbinic life and in the greater community. I would love to hear how you deal with people who have married or are partnered with non-Jews.

Are there limits to what you are willing to extend to them in terms of ritual or communal life?

How much of your decision is governed by communal norms, and how much of it is theologically driven?

I am torn between, on the one hand, wanting to accept interfaith couples as far as I theologically can and, on the other, still wanting to set a boundary about how limits can and should matter.

Rabbi Scheim: I see this as primarily an issue of communal norms and less as a theological concern.

Even though my community does not include non-Jews in ritual roles and extends synagogue membership only to Jews, we have become more sensitized to the needs of intermarried Jews, or Jews in significant relationships with non-Jews.

There was a time when our institutions stigmatized the intermarried, as if the cold shoulder approach would prevent a single intermarriage. But the truth is that no one benefits when Jews and their partners are made to feel unwelcome in a synagogue. After all, how are we to encourage an intermarried couple to raise their children as Jews if they are shunned in our community?

True, we will not call up a non-Jew to the Torah, but we will make the non-Jewish spouse or partner of a Jew feel welcome and respected in our community.

With few exceptions, Jews who intermarry have not acted in rebellion against the Jewish People. They simply fell in love.

Yes, our demographics are better served by endogamic Jewish relationships, but an unwelcoming posture toward those who intermarry helps no one, least of all the Jewish People.

> *Guilt is not enough to encourage Jews to marry other Jews.*

Rabbi Finegold: I agree about removing the negative associations that many of us grew up with and that we have a need to welcome intermarried couples and families into our religious lives.

For example, the classic custom of sitting shivah for a child who intermarried may have deterred some people from intermarrying at some point in time, but it seems to not have any teeth anymore. Furthermore, intermarried individuals and families have demonstrated that many of them still desire to have a strong connection to their community and their faith.

I am skeptical about the argument that it is a demographic preference for Jews to marry Jews and not something more than that. We need to construct an argument that goes beyond telling our children that they should only fall in love with another Jew because "it would be good for our numbers."

Rabbi Scheim: Your point is valid. Guilt is not enough to encourage Jews to marry other Jews.

There is a serious demographic concern, but that will not persuade our youth to direct their love within Jewish circles. More than that is necessary.

Our goal should be creating new generations of passionate Jews for whom Jewish identity, Jewish practice and Jewish life are of the highest importance. Should that be the case, it is far more likely that the life decisions they make will take into account the need for a solid, sustainable Jewish tomorrow. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 1 (2,227)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933. E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation: July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to: CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

MOUNT CARMEL
DINNER | 2016

IN TRIBUTE TO

ROBERT LANTOS C.M.

SUNDAY • MAY 1 • 2016

THE FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL

ROBERT LANTOS, C.M. will receive an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Haifa in recognition of his lifelong contribution to the Canadian film industry as a visionary executive, award-winning filmmaker, and passionate, unwavering supporter of the State of Israel and its people, particularly as it relates to combating antisemitism, anti-Zionism and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

Robert has been bravely outspoken in his opposition to the pernicious BDS anti-Israel campaign that seeks to delegitimize and isolate Israel, both in film and on campus.

The conferment ceremony will take place on May 1st at the Canadian Friends of Haifa University 2016 Mount Carmel Dinner.

Proceeds will establish *The Robert Lantos Scholarship Fund* for students who wish to enroll in the University's Israel advocacy program, *Ambassadors Online*, housed within *The Elizabeth & Tony Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism.*

Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be **J. Robert S. Prichard, O.C. O.Ont.**

For reservations or more information contact
Hetty Shapiro, Executive Director
Canadian Friends of Haifa University
416.972.9400 hshapiro@haifa-univ.ca
To view the invitation and response form:
www.haifa-univ.ca/events

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HAIFA UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Arnie Aberman, C.M., M.D.

DINNER PATRON
Tony Comper, C.M

HONORARY TRIBUTE CHAIRS
Annette Bening
David Cronenberg, C.C., O.Ont.
Atom Egoyan, O.C.
Ralph Fiennes
Paul Giamatti
Norman Jewison, C.C., O.Ont.
Rosamund Pike
Christopher Plummer, C.C.

TRIBUTE DINNER CO-CHAIRS
Michael Bregman
Susan Harris
Ellis Jacob, C.M.
Sharyn Jacob
David J. Kassie
Melanie Munk
Peter Munk, C.C.
Katie Osborne
Heather M. Reisman, C.M.
Gerald W. Schwartz, O.C.
Isadore Sharp, O.C.
Rosalie Sharp
Dr. Barry Sherman
Honey Sherman
Judith Tanenbaum
Lawrence M. Tanenbaum, O.C.

TRIBUTE COMMITTEE
Barry Avrich
Norman Bacal
Michael A. Baker, C.M., O.Ont., M.D.
Laszlo Barna
Georgina Bencsik
Philip B. Berger, M.D.
Lawrence S. Bloomberg, C.M., O.Ont.
Paul A. Bronfman
Lawrence B. Cohen, M.D.
Sara R. Cohen
Susan Cohen
Barry Corbin
Ruth M. Corbin, Ph.D.
Anna Dan
Leslie L. Dan, C.M., O.Ont.
Michael W. Davis
Anna Day, M.D.
Kiki Delaney, C.M.
Arthur Dodek, M.D.
Wendy R. Eisen
I. George Fantus, M.D.
Elham Farah
Kenneth E. Field
Oshrat Freedland
Senator Linda Frum
Sonny Goldstein
Allan S. Gordon, M.D.
Carol Gordon
Harold Sonny Gordon, Q.C.
Jesse Guberman
Piers Handling
Donna Holbrook
Simcha Jacobovici
Allen Karp, Q.C.
Ari B.Kashton, CPA, CA•IFA, CBV
Hon. Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Miriam Kerzner
Jay A. Lefton
Michael A. Levine
Jeremy S. Levy
Madeleine Levy
Mo Lidsky
Justin Linden
Laurie May
Norman May, Q.C.
Susan McArthur
Kenneth R. Melvin, M.D.
Barbara Merkur
Ephry Merkur, Q.C.
Karen R. Mock, Ph.D.
David C. Nathanson, Q.C.
Debbi Nathanson
Anna Porter, O.C., O.Ont.
Howard Price, M.D.
J. Robert S. Prichard, O.C., O.Ont.
Arlene Perly Rae
Hon. Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., O.Ont., Q.C.
Alex Raubvogel
Marsha Raubvogel
Jeff Rayman
Robert Robinson
Marvin A. Sadowski
Jeff Sagansky
Gina Scola
Marilyn Seltzer
Dr. Phillip A. Seltzer
Saul Shulman, Q.C.
Lawrence Smith, Ph.D.
Marsha Elser-Smith
Howard Sokolowski, O.Ont.
Goldi Steiner
Helga Stephenson
Frank A. Stronach, C.M.
Marvin Tile, C.M., M.D.
Hon. Gerry Weiner, P.C.
Sasha Weisz
Thomas J. Weisz
Sam Wineberg
Sylvia Wineberg
Oscar Zimmerman
Moses Znaimer, O.Ont.
Bernard Zucker, M.D.
Carole Zucker

אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa
جامعة حيفا

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

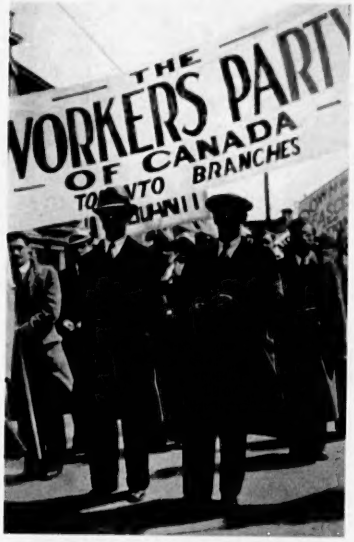
Editor Yoni Goldstein **General Manager** Tara Fainstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus.
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Demonstration



Members of the Workers Party of Canada, Toronto branches, attend a demonstration likely held by the International Left Opposition in the 1930s.

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

SeeJN | Fun in the snow

ISRAEL SUN PHOTO

Youths try to build a snowman in the Golan Heights on Jan. 2. Temperatures in the area were colder than usual at the start of the year.

From Yoni's Desk

Will 2016 bring changes to Israel, or more of the same?

As 2016 begins, the situation in Israel looks much the same as it did during a difficult 2015. The first weekend of the year saw a terror attack at a pub on Dizengoff Street in the heart of Tel Aviv, which left two people dead. The alleged perpetrator, Nashat Milhem, an Israeli Arab who previously served five years in prison for attacking an Israeli soldier in 2007, is also suspected of subsequently murdering a taxi driver in the city's north end.

As Israeli security forces searched for Milhem over the weekend, Tel Aviv residents were left on edge, debating even whether to send their children to school while a terrorist remained on the loose, armed, reportedly, with a submachine gun and plenty of ammunition. The spectre of a murderer on the run only added to the tension Israelis have felt for three long months during a spree of terror attacks some are calling a new intifadah. Whatever you want to call it, the current spate of terrorism, including knife attacks and car rammings, often committed by Israeli Arabs and celebrated by Palestinian leaders, shows no signs of abating.

Meanwhile, the early days of January also brought a stark reminder of one of 2015's most painful moments in Israel. On Sunday, Israeli prosecutors indicted Amiram Ben-Uliel, 21, for a firebomb attack last July that killed three members of a Palestinian family in the West Bank village of Duma. A fourth member of the family, a five-year-old child, is still in hospital recovering, while an unnamed Israeli minor has been charged with accessory to murder for assisting Ben-Uliel.

The Duma terror incident, along with video footage from late December that showed Israeli wedding-goers celebrating the attack, left most Israelis horrified, much in the same way as the kidnapping and murder of 16-year-old Palestinian Mohammed Abu Khdeir by Jewish extremists in July 2014 did. Those incidents, plus a series of lower-grade attacks by Israeli youths, prove that the Jewish state has a terror problem of its own that needs to be addressed.

Though the numbers of young people associated with these cells remains small – by most accounts, there are perhaps only a few dozen willing and able to plan and carry out attacks – the potential damage they might cause, in terms of human lives and Israel's image worldwide, is great. The indicting of Ben-Uliel, and a simultaneous series of arrests, are important steps in stopping these dangerous Jewish extremists.

Even so, it is hard to see at this early point how this year might end up being different from the one just completed. The dual hope of peace and security seems like a distant dream, the gulf between Israel and the Palestinians appears unbridgeable, and the tenor of the Israel dialogue – in the Diaspora, too – shows increasing signs of anger and ferocity.

Of all those, the last appears to be the most easily solvable, since it is a purely internal problem. At our most vulnerable moments, we ought to be able to talk – and listen – to each other with respect. That's something we all might resolve to work on this year. It could make a big difference. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

How investing in the Diaspora helps strengthen Israel

Michael Diamond

In a recent column, *CJN* editor Yoni Goldstein raised eight important questions for Canadian Jews to ponder. One of them was: "At the heart of Diaspora Jewry is the need to balance support for Israel and the health of our own communities. Should we be focusing more on Israel? Or is the growth of Judaism in the Diaspora an equal imperative?"

Those of us who enjoy the benefits that come from giving of our time and dollars to others also know the challenges and responsibilities that come with those benefits. The challenge of choice – the unlimited choice that exists for those of us who care about the world around us, and particularly the Jewish world, which has, in and of itself, virtually unlimited needs.

The powerful pull of Zionism, and the extreme need of the Zionist initiative both before and after the formation of the State of Israel, have overwhelmed the Jewish world for well over a century. The Jewish world necessarily got used to the idea that the ideal of "next year in Jerusalem" needed our support – and if we were not going to be physically available to live the dream of our own state, the next best alternative was to raise or provide money, or both, to enable those who were making that dream a reality. Giving to Israel –whether through the local federation, the Jewish National Fund, the Jewish Agency or a host of other charities that sprang up to focus on the specific needs of the nascent state – became a wonderful habit.

Meanwhile, back at home in the Diaspora, our communities, particularly in North America, prospered beyond any expectations we would have had a century ago. Having had the opportunity to operate freely amongst our neighbours, we learned that we could live the good Jewish Diaspora life if we worked hard, obeyed the law and supported each other.

Israel needs friends with influence who care, the author says. FILE PHOTO

But in the last several decades, much has changed, both in Israel and in our Diaspora communities. Israel has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world. Its status as the "startup nation" has become legendary. Its economic health is strong, its standard of living reasonably high and improving. Despite its many existential threats, life in Israel now is treasured by most.

Paradoxically, the Diaspora communities are now facing threats to our communities associated with our total acceptance by the broader communities we enjoy. Questions of Jewish identity and intermarriage, as well as the lack of religiosity, have become existential to the long-term strength of our communities. In addition, all of our Jewish institutions – whether they be synagogues, day schools, Jewish camps or social service agencies – are short of money. Many in our communities live below the poverty line. Our seniors, including Holocaust survivors, are in need of support.

In my view, the question of where we ought to invest our time and dollars should be answered by considering how we can best strengthen the Jewish People, a people that is comprised of many Diaspora communities, together with Israel at our centre.

In my regular association with members of the shinshinim program – comprised of 18-year-old Israelis who visit Toronto for a year of public service – I am often asked why, if I love Israel so much, I do not make aliyah. The answer to that question is similar to the answer I believe applies to the question raised at the beginning of this column – that is, I can do more for the Jewish People, and therefore for Israel, while living in the Diaspora, where I can make a good living that allows me to support Jewish (and non-Jewish) causes, and build strength in Israel through building strength in our Jewish community.

Ultimately, Israel cannot survive on its own in this world. Like all of us, Israel needs friends – friends with influence, and friends who care. Friends who send money, and friends who raise money. Friends who advocate for Israel, and friends who visit. After all, the Jewish People is every one of us – whether we live in Israel, or in the Diaspora. And to the extent that we build the stronger Jewish communities, whether in Toronto or Los Angeles or Tel Aviv, we are strengthening the Jewish People as a whole.

If we need both the Diaspora and Israel – and I believe that we do – then our obligation is to support both, or, more accurately, to support the Jewish People by investing in our local communities, in Israel and in organizations that strengthen both. That is what federations and other organizations do. They allocate significant funds to Israel, while large amounts stay at home to build our own communities, which in turn allow those communities to continue to support Israel, both financially and as a good friend.

Without building the Jewish communities of the Diaspora today, we cannot hope to continue to support Israel tomorrow. In the long run, an investment in the Diaspora enables ongoing investment in Israel and the Jewish People. ■

Michael Diamond is a business consultant, entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist. He is involved extensively in Jewish and non-Jewish community life and sits on or chairs several boards and committees of a number of non-profit organizations.

DON'T JUDGE OUR RISK AVERSION BY OUR RETURNS.

With a 49-year history of capital preservation and consistent returns, our commercial mortgage fund is ideal for accredited investors, foundations, endowments and pension funds seeking a low-volatility asset that performs like anything but. To discuss your investment of $150,000 or more:
Dianna Price diannaprice@romspen.com | 416 928 5105

Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

YEAR	NET RETURN	YEAR	NET RETURN
2005	9.9%	2010	8.7%
2006	10.3%	2011	8.2%
2007	10.5%	2012	7.7%
2008	9.9%	2013	7.4%
2009	8.7%	2014	7.8%

Results from January 1, 1995, to January 16, 2006, are those of a pool of individually-syndicated mortgages managed by the manager of Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund (the "Fund"). The indicated rates of return are historical returns calculated on a cash-on-cash basis, after fees, and the annual compounded net returns assume a monthly reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not take into account income taxes, changes in unit values, third-party expenses or redemption charges that would have reduced returns. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy units of the Fund, which are offered to investors who meet eligibility requirements under applicable securities laws. Fund units are offered only by offering memorandum, which contains important information about the Fund's fees, objectives, and risk factors, and which should be read before investing. Consult your financial advisor. The Fund's returns are not guaranteed, unit values may change, and past performance may not be repeated.

ROMSPEN

Vancouver's Jewish scene filled with new faces

The community is undergoing rapid change, but adjustment isn't always easy for newcomers

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT

Despite the high cost of living in British Columbia, the face of Vancouver's Jewish community is changing rapidly, with 36 per cent of its population born outside of Canada – the largest percentage in the country.

In the Grade 1 classroom at Richmond Jewish Day School (RJDS), half of the class speaks English as a second language, with students hailing from Israel and Argentina and speaking a mixture of Hebrew, Russian and Spanish.

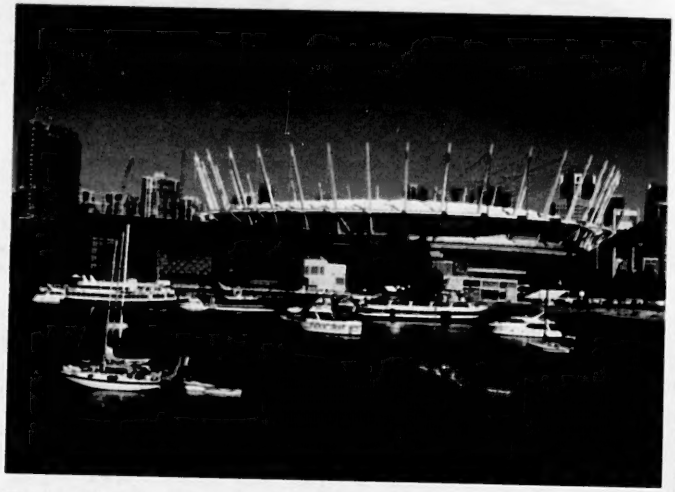
"There's definitely a growing number of Israeli families in all our Jewish day schools," said Abba Brodt, principal at RJDS. Among them is the second wave of Russian Jews consisting of Russian emigres who made aliyah as children and moved to Vancouver after doing army service in Israel and starting their families.

"They maintain strong Russian ties, but have an incredibly strong connection to Judaism and Israel," he said.

The new arrivals place extra demands on Jewish day schools in terms of meeting their children's language needs, and RJDS has had to shift resources internally so children of new immigrants can learn successfully in class.

"When people come, what's our obligation to them?" Brodt said. "They want their kids to get a Jewish education as they get established. Many of these parents come without jobs, are not established financially and are trying to adjust, but it takes many, many years. The only menschlich thing to do is to open our doors, figure it out and let them know they're not a burden at all. I think that's the right approach for any Jewish organization in town. The faster we help them get on their feet, the better for the community."

Adjustment is easiest for the youngest children. Brodt recalled a Russian Israeli family that arrived in June 2014 with a kid who couldn't speak a word of English. "He entered kindergarten, and by December that year, he was speaking to his parents outside of school hours, in English!"



The city's high quality of life is attracting Jews, experts say. SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

At Vancouver Talmud Torah (VTT), head of school Cathy Lowenstein has also witnessed an influx of new immigrants from Israel, Brazil and this year from Estonia and Hungary.

"For students in the younger grades, ESL support isn't as much of an issue, as they can really immerse themselves in language much faster than students in intermediate grades. But over the past few years, we've increasingly had to allocate budget to students who require ESL support," she said

That can be difficult to do, because ESL needs vary year by year. "Often these students don't present until late summer, so we're left trying to reallocate dollars in August so that we can properly help them transition into the school."

Tuition assistance is provided on a case-by-case basis, and by August, VTT has already allocated close to $2 million in assistance, Lowenstein said. "Even though we may have allocated our cap, we do our very best not to turn away a family wanting a Jewish education."

Before they arrive, Jewish families have researched the Lower Mainland's Jewish schools carefully, both Brodt and Lowenstein agree, and a small percentage shop around to find the school where they can get the cheapest tuition price.

"They won't get that at VTT," Lowenstein said. "It costs money to deliver programming, and most newly arrived families recognize that. They don't always know what they'll do for work when they arrive or where they'll live, but their primary goal is to enrol their kids in school first and everything else will work itself out."

Newcomers are attracted to Vancouver by the quality of life, says Ezra Shanken, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (JFGV).

"Today's immigration is driven by quality. We see a great deal of quality here in Vancouver. That's why we see that the large numbers of Israelis who are coming are... motivated by the fact that Vancouver is ranked high in places to raise your kids," Shanken said.

"They and other new Jewish immigrants are coming because this is a great place to raise your kids. Not everyone is coming here with money, but... for all the challenges of affordability in Vancouver, this is still an extraordinary place to live and is attracting really amazing people who want to be here."

And even with the expense of living in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, the area's Jewish population grew 14.2 per cent between 2001 and 2011, Shelley Rivkin, the JFGV vice-president for planning, allocations and community affairs, told *The CJN* in 2014. "That's a faster increase than any other city in Canada, and our population is now at 26,750."

Nevertheless, financial pressures are indeed having far-reaching effects on the Jews who call this corner of the West Coast home. Approximately 14,000 of them live in Vancouver, close to 6,000 in Richmond and the remainder in outlying cities such as Burnaby, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Maple Ridge and Langley – where Jewish resources are few and far between.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Allan Newman, H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor
Greg Newman, B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
HELPING OUR CLIENTS PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH
We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca
416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com
The Newman Group
ScotiaMcLeod®
® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI"). SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

BEST BRANDS HUGE 2016 SALE!

NANUK FAMILY PAC SLICED COHO SMOKED SALMON, 300g
SAVE $3.00
14.99

FOODFEST BAGELOX, 3 VARIETIES, 70g
SAVE $1.20
3.79

FOODFEST STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, 140g
SAVE $2.00
6.99

FOODFEST STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, FAMILY PAC, 250g
SAVE $5.00
10.99

FOODFEST SALMON PORTIONS, 3 VARIETIES, 200g
SAVE $2.00
1.99

FOODFEST POLLOCK FILLETS, 400g
SAVE $1.50
4.49

OF TOV DELI MEATS ASSORTED, 125g
SAVE $1.50
4.49

OF TOV TURKEY BACON, 150g
SAVE $2.00
4.99
WE HAVE KOSHER OF TOV TURKEY BACON FROM ISRAEL

OF TOV NUGGETS, KIDS SHAPES, CUTLETS, ASSORTED 680g/907g
SAVE $4.00
14.99

FOODFEST SMOKED RED SOCKEYE SALMON, 140g
SAVE $2.00
7.99

RAW FOODFEST RED WILD SOCKEYE SALMON FILLETS, 9.99 lb
WOW!!!
SAVE $5.00
9.99 lb

RAW STEEL HEAD SALMON FILLETS, 3.99 lb
WOW!!!
Half Price Sale
3.99 lb

MANISCHEWITZ TAM TAMS CRACKERS ALL VARIETIES, 227g
WOW!!!
SAVE $2.00
1.99

MANISCHEWITZ ASSORTED MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $1.20
3.79

ELITE CHOCOLATE BARS, SELECTED VARIETIES, 85g/100g
WOW!!!
SAVE $1.50
0.99

MANISCHEWITZ CELLO SOUP MIX, ALL VARIETIES, 113g
WOW!!!
SAVE ¢70
1.79

CROYDEN MATZO BALLS AND SOUP MIX, SELECTED VARIETIES, 128g
SAVE $2.20
1.79

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO BALLS AND SOUP MIX, SELECTED VARIETIES, 128g
SAVE $2.50
2.49

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO BALLS IN SOUP ALL VARIETIES JAR, 680ml
SAVE $2.40
4.99
WOW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ ASSORTED EGG NOODLES, STOCK UP, 12oz
WOW!!!
SAVE $1.49
1.49

MANISCHEWITZ CONSOMME & CHICKEN WITH MATZO BALLS, 10.5oz
SAVE $1.00
1.99

TRADITION INSTANT SOUP IN BOWLS, SELECTED VARIETIES, 70g
SAVE $1.00
0.99
WOW!!!

TRADITION INSTANT TOMATO SOUP, 65g
SAVE ¢60
0.69
WOW!!!

JASON PLAIN BREAD CRUMBS, ALL VARIETIES, 425g
WOW!!!
SAVE $2.00
2.99

GALIL HERBAL TEA, ASSORTED, 20 BAGS
SAVE $1.00
1.99

GALIL TEA BISCUITS, 2 VARIETIES, 120g
SAVE ¢39
0.39
WOW!!!

GALIL JAM FRUIT PRESERVES, 13oz
WOW!!!
SAVE $1.00
2.99

HA SHACHAR CHOCOLATE SPREAD, 2 VARIETIES, 16oz
SAVE $1.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ BALSAMIC VINEGAR, 250ml
SAVE $2.00
6.99
WOW!!!

SHANE BAGHAI PARADISE FARMS EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL 500ml
SAVE $2.00
5.99

BEN'Z FROZEN GEFILTE FISH LOGS, ASSORTED, 624g
WOW!!!
SAVE $3.00
6.99

SABRA FAMILY PACK , SELECTED VARIETIES, 482g
SAVE $1.00
4.99

ZOGLOS BOUREKAS PUFFS, ALL VARIETIES, 400g
WOW!!!
SAVE $2.00
3.99

ZOGLOS TUFU VEGETARIAN CUTLETS, NUGGETS, SELECTED VARIETIES, 400-500g
WOW!!!
SAVE $3.00
2.99

ZOGLOS FAMILY PIZZA ASSORTED, 500g/550g
WOW!!!
SAVE $2.00
6.99

PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1st UNTIL JANUARY 28th, 2016

nofrills
lower food prices

Durante's No Frills 1054 Centre St., Vaughan

Happy New Year 2016

ZOGLOS MIX VEG, CORN, BROCCOLI, SPINACH, SWEET POTATO NUGGETS, 300g
SAVE $2.00
2.99

ZOGLOS FAMILY PAC MEATLES VIENESE SCHNITZEL AND ASSORTED 500/525g
WOW!!!
SAVE $3.00
4.99

All references to any savings claims(ie. "save", "was", "1/2 price", etc.) is in comparison to our regular retail. we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some franchise and independent stores may have sold or will sell for less. Product selection may vary and may not be available at all stores. Image prevails when text does not correspond to the description of advertised product. ®/TM trademarks of Loblaws Inc. ©2011 Loblaws Inc.

Canadian Jews could use their own Mohawk Girls show

David Weinfeld

Bailey, a proud Mohawk, finds it difficult to find a native husband while living on the Kahnawake reserve in Quebec. She moves to Montreal and meets Aaron, who is offering a homeless man some food.

"That was really nice of you," she remarks.

"Tikkun olam," he replies. "It's Hebrew for repairing the world."

Bailey and Aaron go out on a date and compare their equally overbearing Mohawk and Jewish parents pressuring them to marry within the tribe. After they sleep together, Bailey jokes about their families meeting. Aaron, however, spoils the party. "This is just fun, nothing more. I could never date someone who is not Jewish."

These scenes take place on *Mohawk Girls*, an entertaining comedy-drama set in Kahnawake. Featuring a largely First Nations cast and airing on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, *Mohawk Girls* criticizes colonialism and confronts the very real problems aboriginals face, including poverty, racism, alcoholism and violence. It recounts the horrors of the residential schools and the missing indigenous women. But it also celebrates First Nations culture, community, diversity and individuality.

Tracey Deer, the show's creator and executive producer who grew up in Kahnawake, describes it as "*Sex and the City* for the native set." The show chronicles four young women looking for love and sex on and off the reserve as they debate whether to date only Mohawk men.

Despite its unfamiliar setting, *Mohawk Girls* deals with themes deeply familiar to Canadian Jewry. In the above episode, Bailey's family wonders whether Jews are white. They can't decide, but are certain that Jews are not Mohawk. Indeed, differences between the two peoples are vast. Though both groups suffered genocide and systematic persecution, today most Jews are economically successful and well integrated into Canadian society, while First Nations communities face far bleaker realities. Nonetheless, both Mohawks and Jews fight to preserve their cultures in the face of assimilation.

The parallels go beyond intermarriage. Another character in *Mohawk Girls*, Anna, was born to a Mohawk father and white mother. She grew up in New York and returns to the reserve to rediscover her heritage. Anna struggles for acceptance in Kahnawake, just as Jews of patrilineal descent see their Judaism questioned by some in the Jewish community. Many Mohawks are obsessed with blood quantum, an American-imposed system for determining aboriginal purity highly reminiscent of the Nazis' Nuremberg Race Laws.

Anna's attempts to fit in reveal the cultural genocide her people suffered. When she takes Mohawk language classes, Bailey explains that only one per cent of First Nations can speak their native tongue. Jews in the Diaspora face similar struggles maintaining Hebrew. When Anna mentions a native ritual, a friend sharply notes that she was raised Catholic, but that does not make her less Mohawk. Jews, too, wonder if their identity is religious, cultural or ethnic.

These shared struggles run through the series. As Montrealer Cynthia Knight, the *Mohawk Girls*' head writer, told the *McGill Daily*: "I'm Jewish, and my whole life was about, 'do I continue and stay in the faith because my family wants me to? Do I marry a Jewish guy because of all the sacrifices my ancestors made? If I don't keep it up my people will disappear.' These are exactly the questions the ladies have to ask themselves in the show."

Canadian Jews could use their own version of *Mohawk Girls*, a show that is thoroughly Jewish, proud but self-critical, a show that confronts assimilation and cultural survival head on. Like *Mohawk Girls*, it could feature characters dedicated to the community who maintain their individuality and refuse to succumb to stereotypes.

One can even imagine a protagonist who leaves her synagogue and meets a Mohawk mensch. ■

David Weinfeld teaches American studies at the University of Toronto.

Learning from Limmud

Daniel Held

In England, winter break is Limmud season. Each year, more than 2,500 learners of all ages descend on the U.K. Limmud conference to engage in activities and lectures spanning the full spectrum of Jewish learning. This year, Limmud celebrated its 35th anniversary. In that time, it has formed the basis for an international movement, marking a new form of Jewish learning and engagement now active in more than 80 communities worldwide.

Limmud was once referred to as British Jewry's greatest export. While I might argue that my British-born mother should hold that title, Limmud has created a compelling model of Jewish education that successfully addresses the needs of a new generation of learners. The underpinnings of this model can serve as an important example for other settings of learning and engagement.

First, Limmud is driven by volunteers rather than professionals. The constantly revolving core of volunteers, who are largely in their 20s and 30s, has ensured that the organization regularly reinvents itself, remaining relevant to a changing audience and changing needs. In some ways, this base of young leaders resembles the youth movement activism of the past. What's more, the generations of Limmud volunteer alumni have started to reshape the face of British Jewry. The United Kingdom's "40 under 40" list of future Jewish leaders consistently features Limmud volunteers. Today, Limmud organizers throughout the world can network with one another, sharing experience and expertise. For these individuals, Limmud is a critical and ongoing form of Jewish engagement, stretching well beyond the event they are organizing.

Second, Limmud is designed for "prosumers" – a generation that seeks to both consume and produce experiences. Everyone is involved in creating Limmud. Beyond the organizing volunteers, presenters at Limmud are largely drawn from participants who respond to an open call for sessions. In most conferences, the ratio of presenters to participants is quite low, indicating the high level of engagement. Similarly, the conferences themselves are brought to life by "Limmud makers" – individuals who offer time at the conference in return for reduced fees. In some way, everyone at Limmud is both a producer and consumer of the experience.

Third, Limmud is not institutionally bound. While it draws on institutional leaders, it bucks the trend of institutional collaboration, often characterized by each partner including its own logo and criteria for content and structure. Rather, Limmud maintains a non-institutional identity. Part of balking at the institutional yoke, Limmud operates in public spaces. Conferences take place on university campuses and in public schools, places with lower barriers to entry than synagogues and yeshivot.

Fourth, Limmud is multi-generational. The program usually includes activities geared to kids, teens and adults as well as cross-aged programming. By opening itself to children of all ages, Limmud enables parents to mix family time with personal growth. For many young families, Limmud is like camp with programming both separate and together.

Fifth, Limmud works on our schedule. Limmud was originally conceived of as a response to the December dilemma – while our neighbours celebrate Christmas, Jews gathered for their own celebration. Beyond a Christmas alternative, it's scheduled at a time when school is closed, work is slow and families can vacation.

Finally, Limmud is replicable, but not mirrored. In 2015, there were 66 Limmud events run by 3,000 volunteers with 33,000 participants in more than 50 communities from New York to New Zealand, China to across Canada. While the core values of Limmud remain common across various settings, the program is unique to each community and shaped by individual volunteers and participants.

Limmud's growth stands in contrast to waning participation in many legacy forms of Jewish engagement. It's worth our while to consider what lessons we can learn from this relatively new start-up on the Jewish educational stage. ■

Cast me not away in my old age

Jean M. Gerber

Every year we recite *Kaddish* for our parents – also for friends who have died without someone to say it for them. We recall their hopes and dreams, and what they meant to us. We reflect on how they died – not from what diseases, but the process by which they came to the end of their lives. Not always pretty.

This year, I celebrated my 75th birthday. I am older than many of my close relatives and friends were when they died. Our generation, beneficiaries of medical advances our parents could only wish for, however, has yet to discover a way to close off our lives.

Both my husband and I had widowed grandmothers living with us. Few people contemplated tucking their parents away in a "home." Children were supposed to take care of parents. That is no longer the assumption. Despite good intentions, finding an "appropriate level of care" in an institution has shifted the traditional way of caring for the aging from a personal to an institutional one.

So, when a dear friend (thank you, G.Y.) told us to read *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Dr. Atul Gawande, it opened up the conversation on a completely new level.

I really, really want this man to be my doctor when I get to the stage of needing help. Failing that, the lessons learned from his book will certainly be incorporated into whatever decisions our family makes when the time comes.

Gawande describes the history of the nursing home, now called assisted living or long-term care facility, euphemisms for what is in essence a place where we go to live out our time once we can (supposedly) no longer "manage on our own."

I do not denigrate these facilities; they can be light and airy places with trained staff and caring professionals. But, Gawande points out, too often they are run on a schedule and with expectations that emphasize safety, routine and top-down management of the residents. Too often, residents have little say as to what would make their lives truly livable.

> *What do we want out of the end of our lives?*

What do we want out of the end of our lives? When we are creaky but still well, ask us what would make us happy, not just safe. When we are dying, help us to manage that.

The rise of hospice has been a great boon, although that option will soon be overwhelmed by the boomer bulge. Home care? Again, public resources are just not there to meet the needs.

These are topics Gawande addresses, giving brave examples from his own life as well as from those of some of his patients. And here I give a shout-out to the nurse practitioner (in the chapter "Hard Conversations"), a newer art that we should hope will be part of future health care at many levels.

One of the great temptations as we near the end is to hope medical science will somehow see us through, that there is always another treatment, remedy, pill, that will cure, or at least mediate, our disease. Recall that I said we have treatments that our parents could only dream of.

But maybe there is a wiser way.

Gawande writes: "if to be human is to be limited, then the role of caring professions and institutions... ought to be aiding people in their struggle with these limits. Sometimes we can offer a cure, sometimes a salve, sometimes not even that. But whatever we can offer, our interventions and the risks and sacrifices they entail, are justified only if they serve the larger aims of a person's life. When we forget that, the suffering we inflict can be barbaric. When we remember it, the good we do can be breathtaking."

We pray: "Cast me not away in my old age." I pray that our own community will take to heart the lessons of this book, sift its messages and hear its wisdom. ■

Can Israel and Turkey establish full diplomatic relations?

Paul Michaels

As 2015 came to a close, the only good news, potentially, to come out of the Middle East was that Turkey and Israel were trying to re-establish full diplomatic relations.

It'll be interesting to see if Turkey's self-interest will prevail over President Recep Erdogan's habitual hostility to the Jewish state.

Relations had deteriorated since 2002, when then-Turkish prime minister Erdogan and his Islamist-oriented AK Party rose to power. With his roots in the Muslim Brotherhood, Erdogan was not only hostile to Israel, he was anti-Semitic. Relations spiralled into total crisis in 2010, when Israeli commandos, acting in self-defence, killed nine Turks aboard the Mavi Mamara, the lead ship of the Turkish flotilla trying to breach Israel's legal naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

In 2013, in an effort to break the impasse in Turkish-Israeli relations, U.S. President Barak Obama prevailed upon Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to apologize for "any error that may have led to the loss of life." Contrary to Obama's expectations but consistent with his (Obama's) misreading of the region, Erdogan, intransigent as ever, refused to reciprocate Netanyahu's magnanimous gesture (magnanimous since Israel felt it had nothing to apologize for).

In the meantime, Turkey was becoming more isolated in the Middle East. Turkey had alienated Egypt after preaching to it and other Arab countries about being a role model for democratic reform. Ankara did so while imprisoning scores of journalists and generally clamping down on free speech. Erdogan expressed open hostility to former friend and major trading partner Syrian President Bashar Assad after Assad attacked his own people and caused a Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey.

In mid-December, as Erdogan threatened to "annihilate" Kurdish militants, many based in northern Iraq, the Arab League condemned a Turkish troop deployment in Iraq as an "assault" on the country's sovereignty.

Then came what was perhaps the most serious diplomatic setback for Turkey – Erdogan's decision to shoot down a Russian bomber that had made a 17-second incursion into Turkish airspace. One bully, Erdogan, had taken on another, even greater bully, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who had just a short while earlier moved major Russian military assets into Syria in order to prop up his brutal ally Assad and secure Russia's naval base at the Syrian port of Tartus.

While acting short of military retaliation against Turkey, a furious Putin imposed sanctions against his former friend. Turkey currently gets over half its gas from Russia and has substantial trade agreements with Moscow.

But now Turkey is looking to Israel, which is developing massive gas fields off its Mediterranean coast, as a possible supplier – and partial replacement for Russia – once pipelines are built into Turkey.

This is the sort of practical, mutually beneficial economic deal that would help shore up ties between Israel and Turkey. Nonetheless, Russia, which has good relations with the Jewish state, but which badly needs all the revenues it can generate from its gas and oil sales, would almost certainly not be pleased by Israel's incursion into its markets.

As this column is being written in late December, there are reports that Erdogan, characteristically, is throwing other obstacles at Israel, insisting that Israel end its blockade of Gaza before relations can move ahead. While this has long been one of Erdogan's demands, there were indications that Turkey, a NATO member, would end its overt support of Hamas, foremost its being home to a faction of Hamas' "military wing" led by Saleh al-Aruri that, among other things, is trying to establish terror cells in the West Bank.

Yet, in another act of defiance against Israel, Erdogan just recently feted Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Turkey.

It's sheer hypocrisy for Erdogan to support a terrorist organization dedicated to Israel's destruction while he ruthlessly attacks Turkey's own Kurds (200,000 of whom have been displaced in the last few months in the south-eastern part of the country), and who are demanding nothing other than autonomy. ■

News

Religious Zionist leaders condemn 'wedding of hate'

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Jewish wedding revellers celebrate the murder of a Palestinian family. CHANNEL 10 SCREENSHOT

Religious Zionist leaders in Canada have joined the chorus of condemnation against Jerusalem revellers featured in video footage, released Dec. 23 by Israel's Channel 10, of what has been dubbed by some media outlets as the "wedding of hate."

The video, which has since been confiscated by Israeli police, shows mostly young Jewish men in traditional religious garb dancing at the wedding of a religious couple while waving rifles, pistols, knives and Molotov cocktails.

One masked man can be seen stabbing a photograph of Ali Dawabsheh, the Palestinian toddler who was killed along with his parents in a firebomb attack on their home in the Palestinian village of Duma last July. The attack is thought to have been orchestrated by members of an extremist right-wing group living in the hilltops of the West Bank.

A number of people in the video, including the groom, were arrested by Israeli police last week.

Israeli politicians across the spectrum, numerous religious Zionist rabbis in Israel and the president of the Orthodox movement's Rabbinical Council of America have expressed disgust at the video, and Canadian rabbis and religious Zionist leaders are also distancing themselves from those involved.

"We condemn all violence that is portrayed in that video. It doesn't represent the mainstream religious Zionist community," said Jonny Lipczer, director of Bnei Akiva of Toronto, the local branch of the youth movement affiliated with the religious Zionist Mizrachi movement.

He stressed that the men shown celebrating in the video don't reflect Jewish values. "I don't think any moderate-thinking Jew would identify with what that video represents."

He's seen no evidence of this type of extremism being alive in Canada, he said, adding that Bnei Akiva believes in finding solutions to the conflict in Israel "through dialogue and discussion rather than violence."

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto said that "any celebration of violence against innocence is absolutely unconscionable in our tradition. I, as every rabbinic leader you speak to in Toronto, will condemn this celebration of wanton violence against innocents."

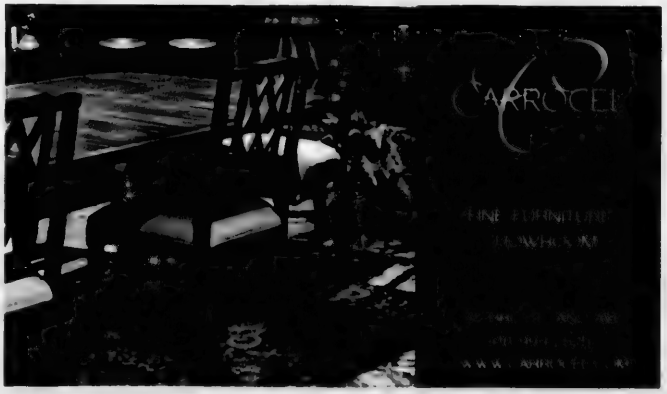
Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, the largest Orthodox congregation in Canada, was the most strident in his response, saying, "I'm horrified that there's a ring of religious Zionists in the world that believe terrorism against people – especially children – is justifiable and worthy of celebration. It needs to be condemned in the loudest of terms… there's no room whatsoever for terrorism in the Jewish world."

Even among the most right-wing elements of the Canadian Jewish community, he hasn't heard anywhere near this sort of incitement to violence, he said.

Rabbi Korobkin added that he was considering discussing the ethics and morals of combating terrorism and "the proper ethics of facing your enemy" during a Shabbat morning sermon.

No matter how obvious it may seem that a group of people or congregants abhor terrorism, it's important for Jewish leaders to address these issues in the community and to condemn terrorism in the strongest and most explicit of terms, he said.

"Sometimes when the challenge is put forth to members of the Islamic community to condemn [Islamic] terrorism, they'll say, 'My brand of Islam isn't associated with terrorism, so why should I condemn groups like ISIS and other wackos?' But the truth is, the latter are doing what they do in the name of Islam. Just as we want moderate Muslims to distance themselves from that behaviour, we in the Jewish community have to do the same thing. If it's not said overtly, we're not fulfilling our responsibility." ■



FLORIDA, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, CANADA
WE SEND YOUR CAR & CONTENTS (and return)
CALL 416-225-7754
www.torontodriveaway.com
TORONTO DRIVEAWAY AND TRUCK SERVICE
5803 Yonge St., #101
North York M2M 3V5
Since 1959

Toronto deli Ben & Izzy's closed again after fire

Restaurant had only been open for about a month after being shuttered since the summer

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

After being closed for much of the summer and most of the fall, retro kosher deli Ben & Izzy's will be closed again "for a few months" following a fire at the restaurant.

According to a spokesperson for Toronto Fire Services, a call came in on Dec. 28 at 12:43 p.m. about a fire in the deli's basement.

He said the blaze was categorized as a two-alarm basement fire, which resulted in 12 fire trucks and 45 firefighters being dispatched to the scene. The fire was put out by 1:14 p.m.

While no injuries were reported, he said he couldn't speak to whether people were in the restaurant, located on Bathurst Street south of Wilson Avenue, at the time the fire broke out, and he had no information about the fire's cause at this time.

"Everyone is fine. Deli is not," read a tweet from the Ben & Izzy's Twitter account at 2:43 p.m. on Dec. 28. About an hour later, another tweet read, "Deli went up in smoke this afternoon. Not sure when we will be reopened. No injuries, but the basement went up in flames."

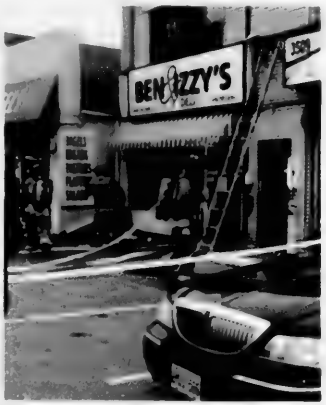
On Dec. 29, the restaurant tweeted and posted on its Facebook page, "Sad to say, but it looks like we're out of commission for a few months."

Ben & Izzy's owners Ben Venasio and Izzy Bernath did not respond to *The CJN's* multiple attempts to reach them.

The restaurant, which first opened in 2013, was known in the Toronto kosher community for its old-school delicatessen approach to meats, which were handcured and smoked daily on site.

In late July, the deli posted on social media that it would be "closed for summer." A month later, this message was posted on its Twitter account: "I was going to reopen, but since closing, brisket prices went up an additional 1.50 since July. That's a $6 increase in 1.5 years."

The CJN tried to reach the owners at that time, but they would not respond to phone calls, emails or Facebook messages.



Firefighters at Ben & Izzy's on Dec. 28
FACEBOOK PHOTO

In September and October, several postings on the deli's social media accounts announced upcoming dates for its reopening, but they were ultimately postponed, and the restaurant didn't reopen until the middle of November.

> *Business wasn't as good as people think it was.*

Tzvi Hirschman, the owner of Toronto Kosher, a kosher butcher and grocery located in the same plaza as Ben & Izzy's, said he saw fire trucks outside the deli the day of the fire, but didn't speak to the owners or any of the employees, and his own store was not affected.

He noted that since it reopened recently, the deli was only open in the evening hours for dinner, and not during the day for lunch.

"Business was slow. Business wasn't as good as people think it was," Hirschman said. ■

TD Wealth

Discover "Tax-Smart Investing"

"I had no experience with investing prior to my husband's early death. Michael has not only helped me create an investment portfolio that will see me through my retirement, he's also taken the time to educate me about the markets and my overall strategy." – Ruth-Ann Weinberg

Most investors worry about the total return on their retirement portfolio. But the biggest cost of a portfolio is usually the tax bill.

In fact, at the highest tax bracket, *every tax dollar you save is equivalent to almost two dollars earned by you.*

That's why we urge you to contact Michael and his team today at **416 308 9084** or **Michael.Marcovitz@td.com** to see whether you qualify for a free, no obligation tax smart-evaluation of your retirement plan.

Michael Marcovitz MBA, LL B
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
michaelmarcovitz.com

The Marcovitz Group

The Marcovitz Group consists of Michael Marcovitz, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor, Jason Edmunds, Sales Assistant, Shareena Wong, Assistant Investment Advisor, and Jane Ly, Assistant Investment Advisor. The Marcovitz Group is a part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. – Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund. ® The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. 1507216?PC

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 7, 2016

New digital project highlights Canadian social movements

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Elisa Birnbaum spoke to former prime minister Paul Martin about marriage equality.

SEE Change Magazine editor Elisa Birnbaum said she hopes the multimedia project she produced, which explores Canadian history through the lens of 10 20th-century social change movements, will help Canadians have a better understanding of where they come from and where they're heading.

The Canadian History of Social Change encompasses an e-book, digital stories, and video interviews about 10 social movements including aboriginal rights, multiculturalism and immigration, suffrage, the environmental movement, marriage equality, social entrepreneurship – or aligning economic activities with social values – and health care.

Birnbaum explained that when she learned last year that Heritage Canada, a government organization that awards grants to publications, was looking for historical content, she saw an opportunity to do something big.

"It was perfect because I was already sort of delving into the whole concept of social change and social movements and how they've impacted Canada and how it impacts who we are today. I was already looking into that stuff so when they put up this call for historical-based projects, I thought, well that's perfect," Birnbaum said.

Among those featured in the multimedia project is former prime minister Paul Martin, with whom Birnbaum explored the issue of marriage equality, as well as former Chief of Tsawwassen First Nation Kim Baird who has worked to help Canada's Aboriginal communities move towards empowerment and self-governance.

"We looked at the evolution of the social movement and how it adapted and changed things," she said.

She said they chose to focus on social movements from the 20th century onward because "if we looked at social movements prior to that we'd be drowning" in material.

"That is the reason we only focused on 10 social movements. There could have been 20… narrowing it down to 10 was difficult… As we moved forward, we realized that there was so much more we could be doing. If we get more funding, I could see it developing into something bigger. And in terms of that interactive element, educational element, I see that it could evolve," Birnbaum added.

"I still feel like it's a work in progress… the videos and digital stories and podcasts are all sitting on their own on a micro site called a HistoryofSocialChange.ca."

She said for each chapter, or each movement featured in the book, there are two digital stories.

"At the end there is a link that takes you back to the main website, where you can see video interviews, podcasts, and things like that."

Birnbaum said that the project, in addition to the ongoing work she does as editor of *SEE Change Magazine*, is very much in line with the Jewish concept of tikkun olam.

"I think the whole concept of tikkun olam is important… especially with one of the movements featured about multiculturalism and immigration. I just think it is so timely," she said.

"I think it is important that we understand our environment, and the social movement is a big part of who we are and where we come from. By extension it is a big part of understanding where we want to go next, and the challenges we face. I think Jews have a particular understanding of that. As a community, we know how important it is to remember where we come from, especially as we struggle and look to where we want to go next."

The e-book is available for sale at www.historyofsocialchange.ca, with proceeds going to support Lifeline Syria. ■

THE FRENCH ANTIQUE AUCTION
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13TH, 2016 PREVIEW FROM 12 NOON
The Tent at The St. Lawrence Market, 125 The Esplanade Toronto

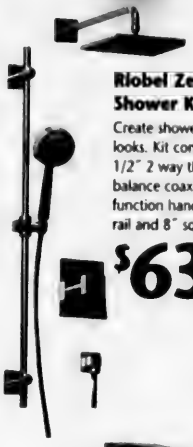
A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS
299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
WINTER DIRECT FLIGHTS from $836
Including all taxes.
Book by Jan. 31, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES · NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary · All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels · More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar. 10-21, 2016
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01, 2016
Summer 2016 July 03-14 | July 24 – Aug. 04 | Aug. 07-18 | Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND · One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All Inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com · www.peerlesstravel.com

January Sale on Tap

Ring in the New Year with Extra Savings on these and more Bath and Kitchen Fixtures

All Advertised Prices Are Available While Supplies Last!



Riobel Zendo Shower Kit

Create shower power with good looks. Kit comes complete with 1/2" 2 way thermostatic/pressure balance coaxial valve, multi function hand shower on slide rail and 8" square rainhead.

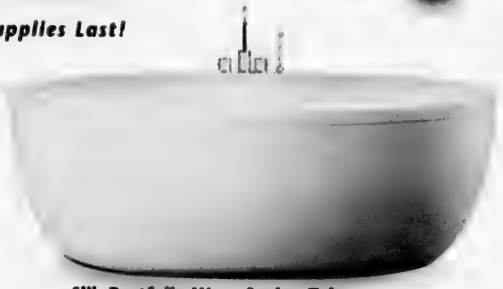
$637

Rubinet Genesis Faucet

Compare against faucets at twice the price. Choice of lever or cross handles. Priced in chrome.

$287

Satin Nickel $397



Slik Portfolio Wave Soaker Tub

Beautifully designed free standing tub will enhance any space. 4 adjustable leveling legs. Faucet, optional chromotherapy lights and Apurity air system extra. 67.25" x 33.5" x 23.5".

$1297

Rubi Fall Single Hole Faucet

Priced in chrome.

$177

American Standard Studio

You can't beat high efficiency and low consumption. The Studio is dual flush: 6.0 or 4.1 lpf. Great design, slow close seat, concealed trapway. White.

$397

Graff Kitchen Faucet

Clean, minimalist single hole design. Peak performance and sophistication. Priced in chrome.

$377

Boutique on Sale

From bathroom accessories to home furnishings, Taps Boutique is the perfect place to shop for unique products.

30-45% OFF

EVERYTHING IN STOCK

Catalano New Light 80 Vanity & Sink

Wall-Hung Vanity. 31.5" x 18.5" x 20". Optional stainless steel legs available.

FROM **$897**

Aquabrass Madison Floormount Tub Filler

Featuring a stylish polished chrome square design, combined with a subtle curve beneath the spout. Priced in chrome.

$597

www.tapsbath.com

TORONTO
1020 LAWRENCE AVE. W.
2 LIGHTS WEST OF DUFFERIN
416.785.0224 or 1.800.263.2976
Mon-Wed 9-5, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

TAPS
a WOLSELEY company
31 YEARS

MISSISSAUGA/OAKVILLE
3050 VEGA BLVD.
1 LIGHT EAST OF 403, NORTH OFF DUNDAS
905.569.1262 or 1.866.899.8801
Mon-Wed 9-6, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

Non-profit uses toilets to tackle social issues

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Marc Soberano says the word "toilet" a lot, but not for the reasons you might think.

Last September, the 25-year-old Toronto entrepreneur, a graduate of Western University's Richard Ivey School of Business, launched a Toronto non-profit that aims to achieve social and environmental change by training workers to retrofit toilets, showers and sinks and at the same time helping affordable housing units reduce their operating costs and consumption.

Building Up, which Soberano modelled on the Winnipeg-based initiative Build, offers a four-month, compensated pre-apprenticeship training and work program to people with barriers to employment, such as poverty or involvement in the criminal justice system.

In addition to in-class instruction in math, financial and general literacy, and some soft skills, participants are taught how to do energy and water efficiency retrofits and are contracted through Building Up to take on supervised jobs in residential low-income housing in Toronto.

Payment from the jobs goes toward hourly wages for the workers, who make $14 per hour for their work and in-class time.

After the four months, Building Up connects trainees with trade unions or employers, who then ideally take them on as apprentices.

"With the trades, you can start as a labourer, then become an apprentice, then a second-level apprentice. There are steps you can keep moving up through and keep earning more. A journeyman, for example, can make about $50 an hour," Soberano explained.

Building Up was one of the recipients of last year's Genesis Generation Challenge, a competition that awarded $100,000 apiece to nine innovative projects that reflect Jewish values.

The competition is an outgrowth of the U.S.-based Genesis Prize, the $1-million so-called "Jewish Nobel," designed to reward Jewish leaders who exemplify Jewish values. Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg was its inaugural recipient.

"This money has allowed us to figure things out in our first year. It's given us wiggle room to pay people and deliver training," Soberano said.

Marc Soberano

Building Up finds its trainees through the Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF), a local organization that matches marginalized people with skills training and employment.

In teams of three and under the supervision of Building Up's resident master plumber Paul McCullough, trainees start by reviewing a building's water bills and then taking measurements of toilets, shower heads and faucets to figure out how energy consumption can be reduced.

They then give the building manager a free report on the cost of retrofitting and what eventual savings will look like.

"If they don't have the money to pay us up front, we offer them to pay nothing at first and pay us back over time through the savings they generate on their water bills," Soberano said, stressing that he wants to make Building Up as accessible as possible.

So far, the non-profit has trained about seven people and worked on 11 different buildings, which Soberano said translates to a total of just over 1,000 retrofitted toilets and a collective savings of about 70 million litres of water each year.

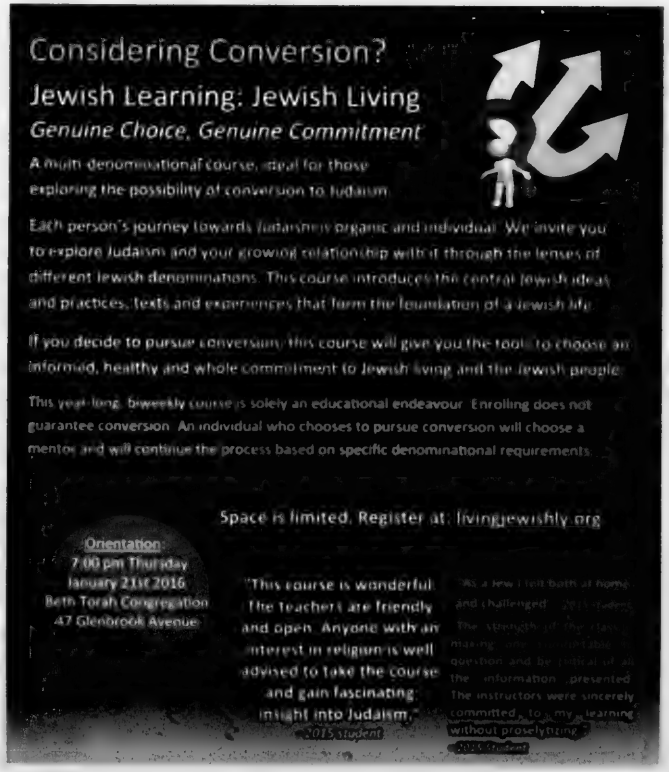
"Any building, even ones that recently got new toilets, can do this upgrade, and it'll pay for itself through the savings in well under three years. We just did a building that'll now save $90,0000 each year on water bills," Soberano said.

As the organization grows, it plans to expand its operations. So far, the classes, held on LEF's premises, have been taught by Soberano and McCullough themselves, based on materials they've pieced together from several educational partner organizations. A new grant from Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, however, will enable Soberano to hire a training manager and streamline lessons.

As well, Building Up has already started to broaden its services beyond plumbing to general trades projects that benefit the community: a team of trainees renovated a kitchen at The 519 community centre in the Church and Wellesley area of Toronto, and it's currently doing bathroom renovations at the downtown Centre for Social Innovation, a shared work space for social entrepreneurs.

Trainee Divaldo Miguel, 28, has worked on about 10 buildings with Building Up. He was recently accepted to a training program with the Labourers' Local 506 union.

"Not only do we get paid for what we do, but we get to work as a team and learn new skills. I had no experience before this when it came to plumbing, and now we've learned a little bit of everything, like how to use different tools – it's been a really good experience," he said. ■


Considering Conversion?
Jewish Learning: Jewish Living
Genuine Choice, Genuine Commitment
A multi-denominational course, ideal for those exploring the possibility of conversion to Judaism
Each person's journey towards Judaism is organic and individual. We invite you to explore Judaism and your growing relationship with it through the lenses of different Jewish denominations. This course introduces the central Jewish ideas and practices, texts and experiences that form the foundation of a Jewish life.
If you decide to pursue conversion, this course will give you the tools to choose an informed, healthy and whole commitment to Jewish living and the Jewish people.
This year-long, biweekly course is solely an educational endeavour. Enrolling does not guarantee conversion. An individual who chooses to pursue conversion will choose a mentor and will continue the process based on specific denominational requirements.
Space is limited. Register at: livingjewishly.org
Orientation:
7:00 pm Thursday
January 21st 2016
Beth Torah Congregation
47 Glenbrook Avenue
"This course is wonderful. The teachers are friendly and open. Anyone with an interest in religion is well advised to take the course and gain fascinating insight into Judaism."
-2015 student

Maccabi Canada basketball team makes history in Chile

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Canada team beat Team USA 82-75 in its second game. MACCABI CANADA PHOTO

Although the Maccabi Canada delegation at this year's Pan American Maccabi Games is just a fraction of the size of the 2011 contingent, it made history last week.

For the first time in Maccabi Canada's history, the open men's basketball team beat the American team in its second game of the tournament in Santiago, Chile, which ran from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5.

Tali Dubrovsky, Maccabi Canada's national executive director, said the U.S. basketball delegation traditionally dominates the competition, leaving the Canadians to compete for the silver or bronze, but with a 82-75 win against the Americans early in the tournament, the Canadian team set its sights on the gold medal.

Ave Bross, a 22-year-old Thornhill native who played four years as point guard on McGill University's varsity team and is currently participating in his fifth Maccabi Games, is one of the team's star players.

After a disappointing seventh-place finish at the Maccabiah Games in Israel in 2013, Bross said, "our expectation for this team is to get the gold. That's what we're here for.

"We had a tough start. We lost to Argentina in the first game by three, in a game that was difficult, and we definitely didn't play our best, but since then, we've been playing really well and really hungry, and we pulled off that win against the United States by seven," said Bross, who served as flag-bearer for the Canadian team during the opening ceremonies.

In their third game, Bross said they came out early with a 20-point lead and didn't look back, beating the Guatemalan team by 42 points.

Basketball is one of only two sports in these games that Canadians were competing in. The entire Maccabi delegation included 20 athletes, compared to the 175 athletes who travelled to Brazil for the games in 2011.

Dubrovsky blamed the weak Canadian dollar for the last-minute cancellations that resulted in a smaller team.

In addition to the basketball team, Maccabi Canada was also represented by a masters tennis team, consisting of 44-year-old Anton Rabie and 40-year-old Lauren Liverman.

Following a win in his first set in the singles tournament to a Chilean player, and a loss to the gold medal-winner from the last PanAm games in Sao Paulo, Rabie was eliminated from the tournament.

Liverman won her first two matches, which qualified her for the semi-finals in the singles tournament, and both Rabie and Liverman were gearing up to play in the mixed doubles tournament at the time this article was written.

Rabie said that although the Maccabi Games are about competition, that's just one aspect of it.

"The magic of this trip has been bringing the kids to Chile and having them meet Jewish kids from around the world and having a magical, warm experience," said Rabie, who brought his wife and three daughters, aged nine to 12, to Chile with him.

"Santiago has a really warm Jewish community. It's like the Winnipeg Jewish community. It's about 15,000 people and there is so much warmth and so much spirit," he added.

"When you leave North America, the first thing you learn is the comfort you have with Jews around the world and you realize that you're all from the same place. The Maccabi Games really does deliver on what they say, which is exposing Jewish kids to Zionism around the world."

Maccabi Canada president Tommy Bacher explained that for the countries that host the Pan Am games, it's an opportunity for them to engage with other Jewish communities.

"It allows them to mobilize and involve their Jewish communities, which, oftentimes feel pretty isolated from the rest of the Jewish world, in something that is Zionist, and certainly spreads the message of Jewish solidarity throughout the world," Bacher said.

"We have communities from Israel, Australia, Great Britain, South Africa, as well as the South American countries and the United States and Canada. I think there are 21 countries represented here, and about 2,300 athletes."

For Bross, the Maccabi Games, in which he's participated since he was 14, have contributed positively to his Jewish identity.

"Judaism is important to me and sport is a passion of mine, and the fact that this is a combination of the two is unbelievable," he said. ■

Do you have a signature recipe that has become a family favourite? Submit your traditional recipe to our "Tradition With a Twist" Recipe Contest and our Executive Chef, Mitchell Lash, will reinvent your dish with a new modern "twist". A panel of judges will select four winning recipes that will be turned into a V!VA*licious* meal for you to enjoy! *Plus*, all entries will be entered into a keepsake cookbook.

GRAND PRIZE!
FREE 3-night stay at V!VA Thornhill Woods!

RECIPE SUBMISSION DEADLINE
January 31, 2016
Send to
marteen.valleau@vivalife.ca

Tradition with a Twist Tasting Event

Thursday, March 3rd at 12:30pm
V!VA Thornhill Woods Retirement Community
9700 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, ON

RSVP by calling 905.417.8585!

Vaughan's premier Jewish all-inclusive retirement community!

V!VA Retirement Thornhill Woods
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585

*Conditions apply

miller bernstein LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

We are pleased to announce that

Rhonda Pomerantz

Has accepted our invitation to join our firm as senior tax partner.

Rhonda brings with her over 25 years of experience in the field of taxation.

We look forward to a long and successful relationship and we also give our best wishes to her family.

1801-5000 Yonge Street | 416.482.7050 | millerbernstein.com

SHABBAT SHIRAH
Community Concert

Friday, January 22 to Sunday, January 24

Celebrate these four exciting music events with Cantor Simon Spiro and our special musical guest, one of America's favourite Jewish recording artists, Sam Glaser—direct from California

Musical Friday Night Live Shabbat Service

Friday, January 22 at 6:00 PM

- A lively and *frayleikh* Carlebach-style service led by Sam Glaser and a delicious Shabbat dinner with time to schmooze and sing along.

Cost for dinner: $25 adults; $18 youth (ages 5-14); $6 children (ages 1-4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, January 18.

Shabbat Shirah Community Concert

Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 PM

Sam Glaser joins together with Cantor Simon Spiro and friends for a fabulous evening with a musical Havdalah.

Tickets: $25 in advance; $36 at the door.

Special Shabbat Shirah Morning Service

Shabbat, January 23—Services at 8:45 AM

- Sermon-in-song by Sam Glaser on *The Power of Music in Prayer: Preserving Nusah in a Folk-Song World* and an appearance by the *Voices of Tomorrow* Children's Choir.

"Rockin' with Sam Glaser" Youth Concert

Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 PM

Join hundreds of young people from around Toronto for an exciting rockin' event. Great music and fun for the whole family. Free admission but reservations required.

For reservations and tickets, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org

Beth Tzedec Congregation
www.beth-tzedec.org
60 בית צדק
Beth Tzedec Congregation
Vision of Tradition. Building for the Future

GUEST VOICE

Jews and Christmas: a bad match

Rabbi Michael Skobac

I know it's dicey to write a critical reflection on Jews embracing Christmas. Hearing the inevitable chorus of "intolerant Scrooge" certainly gives me pause. But seeing a piece in *The CJN* this winter holiday season by Michael Taube ("Jews and Christmas: enjoy the holiday," Dec. 17) urging fellow Jews to celebrate the wrong holiday was too painful to ignore.

My concern here is not, as Taube argues, an "obtuse hang-up" about Christmas. In a world where ideas, beliefs and religious expression have real meaning, it's simply disingenuous to ignore those intrinsic definitions and replace them with whatever just feels cozy. Christmas is not a universal wintertime celebration of gift-giving, lights and tree-decorating. It's a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Christian Messiah. But by all Jewish standards, Jesus was not the Messiah.

The magnetic attraction of Christmas for some Jewish people is not hard to understand in light of Prof. Solomon Asch's conformity experiments of the 1950s and Maimonides' dictum that people are profoundly influenced by their surroundings. There is likely an inverse relationship between the strength of this pull and the degree to which Jews identify with the core teachings of Judaism.

To be sure, tolerance of others is an incredibly vital trait, one that we should strive to cultivate within ourselves and our children. But is there a need to embrace the religious traditions of other faiths in order to be tolerant and respectful? That can only happen when we no longer have respect for our own values and heritage. We can only embrace everything if we ourselves stand for nothing.

The propensity to get detoured to foreign spiritual pastures is a litmus test indicating that we're just about running on empty. There is a well-known story of an accident that took place at a railroad crossing. A train crashed into a car, severely injuring the driver. He eventually sued the train company. At the trial, the signalman testified that he had given the driver ample warning by waving his lantern back and forth for nearly a minute. The court believed his story, and the suit was dismissed. Afterward, the signalman was congratulated for his testimony and doing so well under cross-examination. He winced and replied, "I was afraid he was going to ask if my lantern was lit!"

> *Christmas is not a universal wintertime celebration of gift-giving, lights and tree-decorating.*

The dynamic light of Judaism has fuelled the survival of our people for more than 3,000 years. Distilled in the wisdom of the Torah, this light has numerous hues that have resonated with our people in various ways. Some are drawn to its mysticism and pathways to developing a personal relationship with God. Others are attracted to its practical wisdom and guidance on personal and spiritual refinement. People of great idealism have been fueled by the Torah's vision of tikkun olam – perfecting the world. But without a passionate connection to our indigenous light, we are apt to be drawn elsewhere.

Rabbi Kalman Kalonymous Shapira, martyred in the Warsaw Ghetto, presciently expressed this in his small volume *Tzav V'Ziruz*: "The soul of each person loves to feel. The soul yearns not only for feelings of joy, but will also be drawn to morose and terrifying feelings. Emotion is as much a need of the soul as food is to the body. The person who fulfils this need with passionate prayer and study is nourishing their soul properly. But prayer and study without emotion will leave a vacuum that will drive the soul to search for emotion anywhere – even in inappropriate places."

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk used to quip that he didn't avoid doing the wrong thing because it was wrong, but because there was no time. And Christmas is a holiday that Jews shouldn't have time for. ■

Rabbi Michael Skobac is the director of education and counselling for Jews for Judaism Canada.

Reconstructionist shul sponsors four Syrian families

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Ensemble Zaman will play traditional Syrian music at a benefit concert for refugees.

When members of Congregation Dorshei Emet began talking in the fall about sponsoring Syrian refugees, Laurie Usheroff was doubtful the small synagogue would be able to raise enough money for even one family.

She has happily been proven wrong – the congregation, also known as the Reconstructionist Synagogue, has collected enough money to sponsor four families. An application has been submitted to the Quebec government for the first family, and the paperwork should be completed by the end of January for the other three, said Usheroff, who co-chairs the congregation's Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Project with Garry Beitel.

"The response has been overwhelming," she said, and that's been without any formal launch or announcement of the project.

Since the end of October, about 150 donations have been made, most of them from the congregation's membership, which numbers under 500 units.

"We also received cheques from friends, colleagues, and even neighbours who heard what we were doing and wanted to help," Usheroff said. The money often came from people making a real sacrifice, she added.

Dorshei Emet, like all private sponsors, had to have a government-prescribed amount in the bank before making an application. Sponsorships are based on the size of the family and the age of the children. The cost of the shul's selected families ranges from $20,000 to $31,000 each, she said. "They range from a young couple with an infant to a family with three kids."

The families are now living in Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to her knowledge, on their own or perhaps with relatives. "They are not in refugee camps, as far as a I know, but they have been moving around for a while."

Dorshei Emet identified the families through the Syrian Kids Foundation, a Montreal-based non-profit organization created in 2012, initially to build and support a school in Turkey for the children of Syrian refugees. It now provides humanitarian aid to all Syrian refugees regardless of their religion or affiliation.

All four of Dorshei Emet's families have relatives in Montreal, Usheroff said. Some have previously sponsored other relatives and can't afford to bring over others, some simply don't have the means, she said.

The presence of these relatives will be invaluable when, as Usheroff puts it, "the real work begins" of helping the families settle – a 12-month commitment for sponsors.

It's not known when the first family will arrive, but Usheroff expects it will be at least six months from now. All of the families are Muslim, but Usheroff stressed that religion wasn't a factor in their selection. Dorshei Emet did insist the families be aware they were being sponsored by a shul. "They were all very grateful and thanked us profusely," she said. "I think our religion was of as little concern to them as theirs was to us."

Choosing from the refugees the Syrian Kids Foundation provided was difficult for the shul's sponsorship project committee, which has about 18 members. "We selected on the basis of need and who we thought would be successful here," Usheroff said, "but everybody needs help." The livelihoods of those selected vary from pharmacist to engineer to car dealer, she said.

Dorshei Emet has a history of refugee sponsorship. In the 1970s, it was the Vietnamese "boat people" and, two decades later, Latin Americans. "A few members were around when we helped the Vietnamese," Usheroff said.

Congregants will have to mobilize when the Syrians get here, and subcommittees devoted to housing, employment, education and other practical resettlement matters are being formed. "Officially, our responsibility is for 12 months, but possibly it will be longer," she said.

On Jan. 23, Dorshei Emet will hold a "cross-cultural musical celebration" featuring Ensemble Zaman, a local group that plays traditional Syrian music, and the Syrian pianist Mohammad Abdou, who arrived as a refugee in Montreal six months ago, as well as The Musical Chairs, a folk group performing old-style hootenanny. The fundraiser's suggested contribution is $20.

Another local shul is doing its part for refugees. Congregation Adath Israel's Rabbi Michael Whitman said his appeal for clothes and personal care products last month bore fruit. "We had a huge response: several hundred toothbrushes, eight to 10 large garbage bags filled with new winter clothes," he said. "The person collecting for Syrian refugees in Jordan [someone known to the rabbi] could not take everything we collected." ■

Everyone is so friendly and personable, they all know us by name!

MAY AND MAX APPLEBAUM, AT CHARTWELL SINCE APRIL 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence

784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. **289-588-0974**

Conditions may apply

Report on discrimination felt by Jews misleading: expert

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

A recent government publication that reported half of Jews in Quebec experienced discrimination in the previous five years, more than double the Canadian average, is misleading, according to Jack Jedwab, executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS).

Coup d'oeil sociodémographique bulletin, numéro 44, by Marie-Andrée Gravel was released by the Institut de la Statistique du Québec in December and is based on data from Statistics Canada's 2013 General Social Survey on all forms of discrimination.

The study notes with concern that 51.4 per cent of Jewish respondents said they had felt discriminated against on the basis of "ethnocultural factors", while in the rest of Canada the figure was 23.6 per cent.

That section is headlined "La communauté juive est davantage touchée par la discrimination au Québec que dans le reste du Canada" ("The Jewish community is affected more by discrimination in Quebec than in the rest of Canada").

Noting that non-Christians in Quebec generally say they feel discriminated against proportionally more than in the rest of the country, the author states: "In this way, close to one person practising Judaism out of two indicated having been the victim of discrimination due to ethno-cultural factors (51 per cent)... It should be noted that ethno-cultural discrimination affects a much higher proportion of the Jewish community in Quebec than in the rest of Canada (51 per cent vs. 24 per cent)."

The report includes a table with these figures compared to other religious and ethnic groups, as well as other categories of respondents by age, visible minority status, language spoken at home, and, for immigrants, year of arrival in Canada.

Among other religions, 39.3 per cent of Muslims and 11.1 per cent of Christians in Quebec said they'd experienced discrimination based on ethno-cultural factors, compared to, respectively, 34.9 per cent and 16.7 per cent in the rest of Canada.

But Jedwab, who has conducted many demographic polls for the ACS, said he went back to the original Statistics Canada data and concludes the report is "confusing."

He found that 40 per cent of Jewish respondents in Quebec said they had experienced some form of discrimination in the previous five years, compared to 32.7 per cent for the Canadian average. (Forty per cent was the highest of any region. In Ontario, for example, it was 28.7 per cent.)

Jack Jedwab

Of those in Quebec, 51 per cent felt that discrimination was based on their religion, which Jedwab calculates as meaning 20 per cent of the overall Jewish cohort.

"One in five is still high, but it is not as alarming as half would be," he said.

The overall conclusion of the report is that discrimination of any kind is generally lower in Quebec than the rest of Canada, as perceived by respondents.

Just under one-quarter of Quebecers said they have felt some kind of discrimination, while in the rest of Canada, the proportion is almost one-third. The gap is true across most categories: ethno-cultural factors, gender, appearance, sexual orientation, age, and physical or mental disabilities.

However, the most frequent reasons for the perception of discrimination differ markedly. In Quebec, language (68 per cent) and ethno-cultural factors (48.5 per cent) are cited most often, while in the rest of Canada the top two are "ethno-cultural factors" (65.9 per cent) and race (61 per cent).

"Ethno-cultural factors" is a broad category that also includes race, religion and language, as well as origin.

When language is considered alone, just under 40 per cent of those whose language at home is English said they'd experienced discrimination, and among those whose most common language is neither French nor English the number was over one-quarter. These figures were also flagged by the Institut, as were the responses from recent immigrants that were also quite high.

Close to 40 per cent of respondents who had arrived in Canada since 2000 felt they've been victims of discrimination in Quebec, considerably higher than those who had immigrated in earlier decades.

The sample was 27,534 people 15 and over, of whom 5,301 were in Quebec. ■

SMALL WONDERS

SMALL WONDERS thanks you for supporting

NIGHT OF WONDER 2015
NOW
NOVEMBER 23, 2015
HOLT RENFREW 50 BLOOR STREET WEST

With your generosity, we can look forward to continuing to assist Jewish couples experiencing infertility to build their FUTURES

A local organization supporting Jewish couples medically, financially, halachically and emotionally.

For more information or to make a donation please call 416-742-0090 or visit smallwonders.ca
PayPal

Want the best Middle School education for your child and prepare them for High School?

Discover Danilack at Associated

Associated Hebrew Schools
A Great SCHOOL

Danilack Middle School
Hurwich Education Centre
252 Finch Avenue West M2R 1M9

The only Stand Alone Jewish Middle School in the GTA!

At Danilack you will Discover:

- Dynamic faculty committed to providing educational excellence in both General and Judaic Studies
- A student body of diverse learners who represent a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds and Jewish beliefs
- A nurturing student learning environment that builds strong skills in communication, collaboration and creativity

Please join us for Parent Information Sessions:
Monday, January 18 at 9:00 am OR
Tuesday, February 9 at 7:30 pm

To find out more and RSVP
associatedhebrewschools.com/parents/discover

To arrange a personal tour
or for more information:
Contact Pearl Greenspan
pgreenspan@ahschools.com
or 905.889.3998 ext. 508

Heidi Wilk runs marathon in memory of late husband

MARILYN LAZAR
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Matthew and Heidi Wilk with their children.

It's been four months since Heidi Wilk lost her husband, Matthew, to brain cancer, and less than one to go until the Chai Lifeline Half Marathon in Miami, which she is running in Matthew's memory Jan. 24.

Wilk is now the sole parent to Brooke, 8, Zachary, 5, and Josh, 3. She works full time and writes a monthly blog (hermagazine.ca). How does she do it? She says Chai Lifeline helps make it possible.

Chai Lifeline provides innovative year-round programs and services aimed at bringing joy back into the lives of seriously ill children and their families, but also to kids whose other family members have serious medical problems.

The people at Chai Lifeline pride themselves on fighting illness with love, designing programs with creativity and delivering them with empathy.

"We're looking to create a movement of people who care deeply about how illness can affect a family, whether it's the parents that are sick, or our core group, children who are seriously or chronically ill," Toronto executive director Mordechai Rothman says. "Our people really think about these things and what they can do to help."

Two Chai Lifeline programs, Camp Simcha and Camp Simcha Special, both overnight camps, are designed to meet the medical and social needs of very sick children and teenagers.

But "it's a challenge for an organization like ours to get the word out because we keep our clients confidential," Rothman says. "Heidi is very outspoken about the support she has received."

Wilk says the organization assesses the needs of a family, then finds a way to help. Initially, when she was juggling three children and becoming the family's sole breadwinner, and subsequently, when she was providing palliative care to her husband at home, the program that fit was Penina's Helping Hand, which helps the young children of a seriously ill parent.

Wilk recalls, for example, the time her son was picked up and driven to a Chai Lifeline "beach day" in King City, where the driver-volunteer got down in the sand to play and got messy painting.

She says it also helped that she could call her caseworker, Rifky Blau, if she hadn't been out of the house with her children on a particular day.

"My role as a Chai Lifeline Canada social worker is to make every family feel like they are my only family," Blau says. "They can call me any time, and I am here for them every minute, every hour and every day, holding their hand and providing compassion and care through it all. Chai Lifeline has perfected this art of giving and providing support in a family-centred way. That means helping people when they need it – not between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"Our kids and families inspire us to keep giving and we inspire them to move forward during difficult times."

Wilk says palliative care and watching her husband die at home were "traumatizing." Yet, she remains positive, her perspective on what's important forever changed. "People don't know how lucky they are just to have their health and enjoy the smaller things... watching a movie."

Funds raised by the Team Lifeline half-marathon support Chai Lifeline programs. Wilk feels she is giving back to the organization and the community by raising sponsorship dollars. ■

To sponsor Heidi, go to www.teamlifeline.org/my/61589

Cost of living affects planning of Jewish services

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

That's because the high housing prices force many new arrivals into these outlying cities, where accommodation is a little bit more affordable.

While RJDS has space available for more students, the challenge lies in reaching those Jewish families who live in the outlying suburbs.

"We know there are 700 Jewish school-age kids in the tri-cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody [east of Vancouver and northeast of Richmond], and as much as the schools may want them, how many families are going to have their kids get on a bus for an hour's commute each way?" Brodt wondered.

"You have to be super-committed to do that when there are good public schools around. If I could create a pipeline to [neighbouring] Burnaby, I'd do it, but the possible customer base there is not ready to make that sort of commitment. They're managing their Jewish lives out there, as is their right."

At the JFGV, Rivkin noted that more than 850 children now live in underserved areas beyond the borders of Vancouver proper, and few are receiving any Jewish education. "With community support, Jewish educators can develop innovative programs via which these kids can access that education, sharing fully the richness of our traditions and strengthening their Jewish identities."

In one such program, the federation collaborated with the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and funded a pilot project to enable Jewish children living in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody to attend Jewish summer day camp. The project made transportation and fee subsidies available to 22 kids.

The federation has established a regional communities task force that will begin work this month. In the meantime, the organization contributes to a shuttle bus in Richmond that helps seniors attend various community activities, and seniors at the Burquest Jewish Community Centre in Coquitlam can enjoy another day of programming thanks to additional funding provided to the Jewish Family Service Agency.

For young families, the PJ Library is an important outreach program, Rivkin noted. The Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA's PJ Library sends a free, age-appropriate Jewish content book or CD every month to children age six months to seven years who are enrolled in the program.

"For many young families who are raising children in interfaith households and/or who live in the suburbs, PJ Library is a primary Jewish connection. Recently, 100 people attended a PJ Library Chanukah event in Coquitlam," Rivkin said.

Shelley Rivkin

The federation is focused on the future of the Lower Mainland's Jewish community and anticipating programming to reach its needs over the next 15 years.

"Our population of seniors is expected to double by 2030, and an increased number of them will be 85 or older, so programs and services for this group will need to be expanded," Rivkin said.

"As issues of affordability persist, we expect there to be more Jews moving to more affordable suburbs that have little or no Jewish infrastructure. We expect these regional communities to play a larger role, and the Jewish federation will increase its focus on programs and services to reach them."

The cost of living in Vancouver will likely continue to affect those who pay a premium to live near Jewish services and institutions, but find that the cost of Jewish life prevents them from participating.

According to the 2011 National Housing Survey, 16 per cent of the Lower Mainland's Jewish community earned less than the living wage of $36,504. Among Jewish immigrants to the Lower Mainland who arrived between 2005 and 2011, the poverty rate is 25 per cent.

"We expect that increased subsidies for program participation will be needed," Rivkin said, noting that the Tikva Housing Society, a non-profit that helps working-age Jewish low-income adults and families, will expand the affordable housing stock for the Jewish community by 42 additional units in Vancouver and Richmond by 2017.

Vancouver's Jewish community is expanding and changing, and that's a great reason to join it, Shanken said. To those considering a move out west, "Go for it," he urges. "We have a diverse, growing community. The resources are growing and our ability to assist is growing with it. For those interested in coming here, this is really a Jewish community on the rise." ■

INTERNATIONAL

Tel Aviv shooting victims mourned at funerals

KEREN PREISKEL
JERUSALEM

Thousands of people turned out last Sunday for the funerals of two people killed in the Jan. 1 shooting attack at a bar in Tel Aviv.

Alon Bakal, 26, the manager of the Simta bar targeted in the shooting, was buried in his hometown of Carmiel, in northern Israel, while Shimon Ruimi, 30, was laid to rest in the southern town of Ofakim.

The two were killed when the suspected gunman, 29-year-old Arab Israeli Nashat Milhem from the village of Arara in northern Israel, opened fire on a bar on Dizengoff Street last Friday afternoon. Seven others were wounded in the attack. Milhem fled the scene and, as *The CJN* went to press Monday morning, had yet to be apprehended despite a massive manhunt.

Bakal's girlfriend, Lior, mourned that they had been separated so soon after his final message to her which pledged that they would be together forever.

Paying tribute to his son, David Bakal said "your death has left the family crushed, while you are in heaven with your generous soul. Aloni, Aloni, Aloni, we will love you forever."

Bakal recalled his son's drive and his giving nature, saying that as soon as he had achieved one goal, he would immediately move on to his next goal, and that he had collected items for Holocaust survivors but wanted to do even more for them. He also stressed his son's love of people and Israel, and his strong and dedicated personality.

"We had a son, but he is no more," Alon's mother, Nitza, added. "Alon, our beloved child, my prince. I always carry a heavy burden, but I cannot carry this terrible pain forever."

Nitza also called upon the Israeli government to define the attack as a nationalistic attack and that the terrorist should receive the appropriate punishment, stating "that every mother who gives birth to a terrorist should have her home demolished. The terrorist needs to receive a punishment [according to the adage] a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye and that he shouldn't sit in jail but should get what he deserves. His father shouldn't feel that his conscience is clean because he turned his son in. They should have disarmed him."

Milhem's father, a volunteer policeman, called police Jan. 1 after seeing security camera footage of the attack on television and recognizing his son. Milhem's brother, Jaudat, was arrested that day on suspicion of being an accessory to the crime, according to reports.

Women light candles outside a pub on Dizengoff Street in central Tel Aviv, on Jan. 3, two days after two people were killed in a shooting at a bar and several were injured.
BEN KELMER/FLASH90 PHOTO

> *You survived serving in Gaza, you survived war, but you were unable to survive one bullet of hatred that pierced your heart.*

In attendance at Bakal's funeral were Likud MK Yaron Mazuz and Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid, of whose party Bakal was a member. The heads of the nearby Arab regional councils also attended the funeral, among them Sakhnin Mayor Mazen Ganaim.

In Ofakim, some 2,000 mourners attended the funeral for Shimon Ruimi, who had been on a weekend trip to Tel Aviv when he was killed. He was eulogized by his aunt, Mor Peretz.

"Today, we are standing here and instead of celebrating your birthday, we are burying you. It is not the natural way of life for parents to bury their child. Now we understand the term 'before his time.' May God avenge your blood, Shimi," she said.

"You died a martyr's death and have become everyone's child. The fierce rain of the past few days shows how heaven is crying at your passing," she added.

"You survived serving in Gaza, you survived war, but you were unable to survive one bullet of hatred that pierced your heart and at the same time, pierced all of our hearts."

Ofakim Mayor Itzik Danino also paid tribute to Ruimi.

"Our beloved Ruimi family, the hearts of those in Ofakim and in Israel are crying with you at this time, over the murder of your beloved son Shimi, in broad daylight in a noisy street in Tel Aviv."

He also praised Ruimi's parents, Iris and Makluf, for raising a son of whom Israel could be proud, and who had served as a fighter in the Givati Brigade. Ruimi, he said, fell as a fighter on the battlefield of hatred, murdered simply because he was a Jew.

The government was represented by Likud Minister Ofir Akunis, who said that Ruimi had been "murdered by a bloodthirsty terrorist simply because he was a Jew. While we sanctify life, the murderer and his accomplices sanctify death."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the site of the Tel Aviv attack on the night of Jan. 2. Standing amid a makeshift memorial to the victims of the attack, including dozens of memorial candles, he sent condolences to the families of the victims of what he called a "heinous and unbelievably vicious murder," and wishes for a quick recovery to the injured. He called on the public to be on "maximum alert."

"I appreciate the condemnations of the crime that have been made by the Arab public," Netanyahu said. "I must say that I expect all Arab MKs, all of them without exception, to clearly condemn the murder without hesitation. Murder is murder, and must be condemned and acted against from whatever quarter."

The prime minister also acknowledged what he called "wild radical Islamic incitement against the State of Israel in the Arab sector."

"There is incitement in mosques, in the educational system and in social media," he said. "I am not prepared to accept two states of Israel – a state of law for most of its citizens and a state within a state for some of them, in enclaves in which there is no law enforcement and in which there is Islamist incitement, rampant crime and illegal weapons that are frequently fired at events such as weddings. This era has ended."

Milhem, the fugitive, received a five-year jail sentence in 2007 for attacking an Israeli soldier and attempting to seize his gun.

In 2007, Milhem said he attacked the soldier to avenge the death of his cousin, who was killed in 2006 in a police raid. Milhem also was arrested prior to his jailing for selling drugs. According to the family attorney, he suffers from mental disorders.

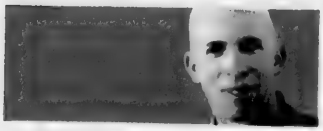
Schools in Tel Aviv opened as scheduled on Sunday, but only about half the students showed up. Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai said children whose parents did not send them to school would not be penalized.

Leaders of the Arab-Israeli community in Wadi Ara condemned the attack. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com
With files from JTA

OPINION

The speech that could change Israeli Arabs' reality



Sagi Melamed

My brothers and sisters, fellow Arab citizens of Israel:

We will soon mark 68 years since the State of Israel was established, an event our parents called the *nakba*, the catastrophe. We must do some soul-searching. I call upon you to join me and take a realistic and responsible look at our future here in Israel. I realize that many will attack me – politically, personally, perhaps even physically. I am not afraid. This is why I was elected.

I call upon you to embrace the following principles:

• Although we would have preferred otherwise, we recognize that Israel was established in 1948 as a home for the Jewish People – the only Jewish state in the world. And so, after almost a century of conflict, we renounce our aspirations to Arab rule over any part of Israel – aspirations that have mostly harmed us. Look around: is there any Arab country where you would prefer to live instead of this Jewish state?

• We know the road from armed confrontation and territorial conflict to peace, full equality and living in harmony, is long and rocky. War can start overnight, but a true and lasting peace is built over time. We choose to follow this path and take responsibility for the success of the process of building peace.

• We, Arab citizens of the Jewish state, expect full rights and equal opportunities. At the same time, we realize that as a minority in conflict with the ruling majority, we enjoy many rights and opportunities, more than we could expect anywhere in the Arab world. Some examples: a Supreme Court judge, affirmative action in universities and public service, and targeted economic development programs. Furthermore, Arab women in Israel enjoy more opportunities, representation and equal rights than practically anywhere in the Arab world. Yet, we Israeli Arabs still have a long road toward full equality.

• We look to the Jewish immigrants of the United States and Canada as our role models for successful integration of a minority. A century ago, they were excluded, persecuted, downtrodden. Today, a glance at the names of Nobel prizewinners, the world's wealthiest people, heads of major organizations, among others, shows us that an ambitious minority can thrive if they are willing to work hard and take responsibility. Let us learn from them and thrive ourselves! We are proud when we see more and more motivated, talented Arab engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs breaking glass ceilings. They show leadership and responsibility instead of complaining and waiting for others to lead. Let's put an end to being oppressed – from today we shall act and we shall be successful!

• We understand that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not over. We are torn by this bitter dispute, and there are times when it defines our identity. However, we recognize that we must choose. If we want to be citizens of Israel, we cannot act against it – nowhere in the world would that be tolerated. If we cannot accept that, we know we have a choice – we can emigrate elsewhere.

• • •

This (sadly) imaginary speech by the head of the Joint Arab List (political party with large representation in today's Knesset), and its adoption by Arab Israelis, could have a great impact on many levels:

One, on the responsibility and attitude of Arab Israelis for themselves and their future.

Two, on relations between Israel's Jewish citizens and their Arab compatriots.

Three, globally. Countries, organizations and people would rush to support this historic declaration to promote the integration of the Arab minority in Israel.

Four, among moderate Arab states. Many will be surprised, but much support can be expected from this quarter.

And finally, among radical elements in the Arab world. They will make every effort to torpedo the initiative and eliminate the initiator.

Will there be an Arab leader with the vision and courage to present such an initiative? If one is found, would that leader survive – politically and physically? ■

Beth Torah Congregation
קהילת בית תורה

A traditional Family Shul in existence for 50 years. Our approach to Judaism and Jewish education merges the traditional with the modern.

We are in search of a full-time Cantor to be an integral part of sustaining and growing our family Shul and the Congregation's Jewish identity.

At Beth Torah, the Cantor is a full time member of the Clergy and is directly responsible to the Rabbi. The Cantor works closely with other members of the professional and administrative staff and the lay leadership of the Congregation.

As an essential part of our Clergy, the ideal candidate will be warm, outgoing, and an effective communicator; an enthusiastic teacher of both children and adults, possessing a love of music; and a team player who brings creativity, innovation and a deep understanding of, and respect for traditional Judaism as it merges with the modern.

The role of Cantor includes responsibilities as Clergy, music and liturgy, educational and programmatic initiatives, Synagogue leadership, event and community responsibilities.

Interested candidates should send their CV by email to
rabbisoffice@bethtorah.ca

To be considered please attach an audio file (8mb max) representative of your style and vocal skills. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by return email.

47 Glenbrook Avenue, Toronto ON M6B 2L7

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital
we work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000[illegible]
[illegible] 1298 kyle@corwincapital.ca | **www.corwincapital.ca**

Police reveal details behind deadly July attack

JUDAH ARI GROSS
JERUSALEM

In the late hours of July 30, Amiram Ben-Uliel set out for the West Bank village of Duma, armed with a bag full of ingredients for Molotov cocktails, spray-paint cans and other supplies, in order to carry out a pre-dawn attack against Palestinians in revenge for the killing of Israeli Malachy Rosenfeld the month before, the Shin Bet security service revealed on Jan.3.

Ben-Uliel, 21, admitted his crime to Shin Bet investigators and re-enacted parts of it on Dec. 19, the agency said. That information, however, was kept from the public under a gag order until last Sunday when the indictments were filed.

Rosenfeld, 25, was fatally shot June 29 on his way home from a basketball game. Three other Israelis were hurt in that attack in the Kochav Hashachar settlement.

Ben-Uliel was a member of an organization called Givonim, a subset of the Hilltop Youth, a group of extremist Jewish activists. The Givonim seek to accomplish their goal of anointing a king over Israel by carrying out a violent coup against the government, and murdering or expelling all non-Jews from Israel, the Shin Bet said in a statement following the indictment of Ben-Uliel and his accomplice on Sunday.

Ali Saad Dawabsha, an 18-month-old, died in the July 31 attack. His parents, Saad and Riham Dawabsha, were evacuated with severe burns to Tel Hashomer Hospital where they eventually succumbed. His four-year-old brother Ahmed Dawabsha, who is still mostly confined to a wheelchair, was recently moved to a rehabilitation ward. The left side of Ahmed's face was unharmed, but the right bears bright red burn scars from the firebombing. He was only able to take his first steps on Dec. 22, nearly five months after the attack.

Ben-Uliel was supposed to meet another activist, a minor whose name has been withheld, at a cave near the village of Duma, located south of the city of Nablus and close to the Jewish settlements of Alon Moreh and Shilo.

Right-wing Jewish activists protest in late December outside a court hearing in Petach Tikvah, where one of the youths was arrested for his involvement in an arson attack in Duma, earlier this summer. TOMER NEUBERG FLASH 90 PHOTO

The minor – referred to only by his Hebrew initials, Aleph Aleph – had assisted Ben-Uliel in collecting information about the layout of the village and had helped plan the firebombing attack, the indictment said. On the night, however, the minor did not make it to their meeting place in time, the Shin Bet said.

So at around midnight, Ben-Uliel went to Duma to carry out the attack by himself, the security service said, contradicting Palestinian claims made earlier in the investigation that two people were seen fleeing the village soon after the attack. Investigators did not provide an explanation for the discrepancy between the indictment and the eyewitness accounts.

According to the Shin Bet account, Ben-Uliel arrived at the Palestinian village on foot and began searching for a house deep within it. He located two homes and allegedly sat down in the yard of one in order to prepare the firebombs he had brought to be used in the attack.

Once his weapons were prepared, Ben-Uliel spray-painted the words "Revenge" and "The Messiah-King will live" on the walls of the house, the Israel Police said.

"In one of the houses, the Dawabsha family was present at the time of the attack. The second house was empty of people," police said once a long-standing gag order on the case was lifted.

Ben-Uliel then allegedly lobbed his firebombs into the two houses and fled the scene on foot, bound for his home in Jerusalem.

"As a result of the firebombing, a one-and-a-half-year-old was burned to death, and his mother and father were mortally wounded and later died of their injuries. Another child, a four-and-a-half-year-old, was severely injured and is today in rehabilitation," the police said.

Israel Police, the Shin Bet security service and the Central District Attorney's office opened an investigation into the incident on July 31.

Over the course of the 156-day investigation, hundreds of people were questioned. In the end, Israel filed 36 indictments against Jewish extremists for various levels of connection with the attack, from Ben-Uliel and Aleph Aleph, who were directly involved, to those who were only peripherally connected with the deadly firebombing.

In addition to the Duma terror attack, the suspects were indicted for a variety of other "price tag" hate crime attacks – acts of violence and vandalism against Palestinians in the West Bank and Israel.

Yinon Reuveni, Hanoch Ganiram and three other minors – known by their Hebrew initials Tzadi Bet, Mem Shin and Yud Kuf, respectively – were indicted for an arson attack against Jerusalem's Dormition Abbey, the burning of a Palestinian taxi in the West Bank village of Yasuf, setting fire to a grain silo in the West Bank village of Akraba, two instances of tire-slashing in the Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood of Beit Safafa, an assault on a Palestinian shepherd near the West Bank settlement of Kochav Hashachar and other acts of violence against Palestinians.

An additional 23 young Jewish terrorists have been investigated for their roles in some 20 other attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank and Israel. The men have not yet been charged for their alleged crimes, but may be indicted in the future, the Shin Bet said. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Anne Frank's diary enters public domain after copyright expires

JTA
AMSTERDAM

Two editions of the *Diary of Anne Frank* were published online in a challenge to the foundation that allocates the book's royalties.

A French lawmaker and a French scholar published the diary on Jan. 1, when the current copyright expired.

European copyrights generally expire 70 years after an author's death, thus the copyright was expected to expire at the end of 2015. However, Anne Frank Fonds, the Swiss foundation that Frank's father, Otto, established to allocate the book's royalties to charity, announced recently that it planned to list Otto Frank as a co-author, thus adding 35 years to the copyright. Otto Frank, the sole survivor of the eight Jews who sought refuge in the attic, died in 1980.

Early last week, however, an Amsterdam court ruled that the original text of the diary may be copied for academic research.

Isabelle Attard, a French Parliament member whose grandparents died in the Holocaust, published the entire Dutch text of the diary on Friday, the French news agency AFP reported. Separately, Olivier Ertzscheid, a lecturer at the University of Nantes, published the text on his website the same day.

"The intimate diary, written in a secret apartment in Amsterdam by a Jewish teenager, born German but stripped of her nationality, has finally entered the public domain," Attard said in a statement on her website. "Seventy years after the author's death, the whole world can use, translate and interpret these works, and use them to create new ones."

Frank's diary, which chronicles two years of hiding from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic, may be the most famous Holocaust-era document and has inspired several play and film adaptations. Anne died in 1945 at the Bergen-Belsen extermination camp.

Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitic diatribe *Mein Kampf* also entered the public domain on Jan. 1. ■

SEE MORE INTERNATIONAL ON PAGE 27

Jewish Life

Sendak exhibit includes 'wild things'

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The Toronto Reference Library is hosting a travelling exhibition of original artwork by Maurice Sendak, the author and illustrator of the 1963 children's classic, *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Aimed at three- to five-year-olds, the book portrayed the darker side of childhood, including temper tantrums and bad behaviour, at a time when picture books offered safe, sanitized and happy-go-lucky versions of childhood. Sendak is "beloved for capturing the more complex feelings of childhood," said Nicole Dawkins, gallery and exhibit curator at the Toronto Public Library.

Developed in 2012 by the AFA NYC gallery, the multimedia exhibit features illustrations from *Where the Wild Things Are* and other works by Sendak, as well as set and costume designs for operas and theatrical productions, animation cels, posters and sketches of wild things that Sendak gave to his fans and friends.

In *Where the Wild Things Are*, Sendak's young hero, Max, is sent to bed without supper after misbehaving. That night, a forest grows in his room and an ocean rushes by with a boat to take him to the place where the wild things are. There he faces his fear and anxieties, depicted as horned monsters with clawed feet and yellow eyes, and confronts them.

The book won the prestigious Caldecott Medal for most distinguished picture book in 1964, while at the same time, it was banned in libraries across the United States for its dark undertones and lack of moralizing. The renowned psychiatrist Bruno Bettelheim was critical, too, but from a different angle. He maintained that the story of a boy who's sent to his room without supper for misbehaving would traumatize the book's audience. Far from becoming traumatized though, children loved and related to the simple 338-word story of how Max tames the beasts by staring into their eyes without blinking.

Where the Wild Things Are was an expression of Sendak's lonely and difficult childhood. According to the website Mental Floss, his mother, Sarah, was emotionally unbalanced, and Sendak has described himself as a sickly child who escaped by drawing in his room.

His parents were Jewish immigrants from Poland. At Sendak's bar mitzvah in 1941, his father, Philip, got the news that the Nazis had destroyed his shtetl and murdered the village's Jews or sent them to concentration camps. So the Holocaust was a cloud that hung over Sendak's family home in Brooklyn, N.Y., during his teen years.

The inspiration for the term "wild things" came from Sendak's mother. As a child, when he drove his mother nuts, she would call him a "vilde chaye," meaning "wild animal" in Yiddish.

When developing the monsters for the book, Sendak, who died in 2012, drew on his childhood memories of his immigrant relatives. "That's what art is. I mean, you don't make up stories, you live your life," Sendak has said.

According to Mental Floss, his uncles and aunts would come on Sundays and "all say the same dumb things," he once recalled. "How big you are, how fat you got, and you look so good we could eat you up. So the only entertainment was watching their bloodshot eyes and how bad their teeth were. You know, children are monstrously cruel about physical defects – the hair curling out of the nose, the weird mole on the side of the head. And so, you would glue in on that and then you talk about it with your brother and sister later. And they became the wild things."

At the Toronto Reference Library's Sendak exhibit, kids can board a re-creation of Max's boat and use a digital touch screen to choose different backgrounds for wild things and create their own scenes. Sendak Preschool Time from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 12, 19 and 26 in the library's TD Gallery features stories, songs and rhymes inspired by Sendak's work for children ages three to five, with their parents or caregivers.

The exhibit at the Toronto Reference Library continues until Jan. 31. A related exhibit at the Lillian H. Smith branch of the Toronto Public Library that showcases more of Sendak's work and the work of artists and innovators who inspired him runs until March 5. For more information, visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca. ■

A selection of Maurice Sendak's work on display at the Toronto Reference Library until Jan. 31.

Israeli Omri Casspi enjoys career year with NBA's Kings

SHLOMO KAPUSTIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Omri Casspi's trip through Toronto last month largely passed under the radar. UJA Federation didn't hold a post-Chanukah event for the Israeli basketball player. And the Raptors, playing Casspi's Sacramento Kings, didn't schedule a Jewish heritage night. The excitement of Casspi's first years on North American soil has subsided.

"I enjoyed it at the time," Casspi said about an hour before a Dec. 20 game the Kings won 104-94. "I enjoy every once in a while when they have Jewish heritage nights. Seeing the fans is always great. I don't think it was a distraction. Maybe when you're younger it takes some focus, but as you grow older and are a little more experienced, you can just focus on the game of basketball."

To call Casspi's first season in the National Basketball Association his 15 minutes of fame would be untrue. He developed his game in the Israeli league, where he became a go-to scorer. When the Kings drafted him in 2009, it marked the first time an Israeli was selected in the first round. He then became the first Israeli to play in the NBA.

Still, the small forward struggled after leaving the Kings at the end of the 2010-11 season – first with the Cleveland Cavaliers and less so with the Houston Rockets. He returned to Sacramento last year, playing well before signing a two-year contract in the off-season.

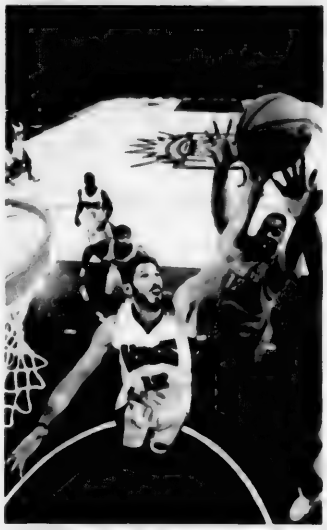
Now, despite being the only Israeli – or, for that matter, Jewish – player in the NBA, he has received more headlines for his game than for his ethnicity or nationality. At 27, he is recording career highs across the board. His 12-plus points per game eclipse the 10.3 mark of his rookie year.

But it's his shooting percentage that has drawn the most raves: 51 per cent from the field, including 46 per cent from three-point range. On Dec. 28, Casspi scored a career-high 36 points, though it wasn't enough to secure a win against all-star and 2015 MVP Stephen Curry and the reigning NBA champions Golden State Warriors in Oakland.

And while the bulk of Casspi's minutes have come off the bench, the small forward has started 13 games as Willey Cauley-Stein recovers from injury.

"It's a little bit of everything, I think," he said when asked to explain his improvement this year. "Experience comes into play – I'm learning my game, learning the NBA. I have a few years under my belt, with different coaches. I'm finally playing for the system that I wanted to play my whole career, with the right spacing and the right passing and making plays. It makes me feel better on the basketball court."

In basketball parlance, Casspi is a "glue guy," a player whose value to the team can't completely be described in numbers. Think former Raptor Amir Johnson or, on this year's team, DeMarre Carroll, a high-character, shut-down defender. Casspi frustrates opponents and number crunchers with other miscellany: speed, passing, feel for the game's rhythms, recognition of teammates' tendencies and how to adjust to them.



Omri Casspi battles Houston Rockets centre Dwight Howard. ROCKY WIDNER PHOTO

Last summer, Casspi escorted an Israel trip for a group of players from around the league, including teammates Demarcus Cousins and Caron Butler. Organized by Casspi's foundation, the week-long trip squeezed sightseeing and NBA Cares events into an itinerary covering Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the Dead Sea.

"I just wanted to do something to show my colleagues, celebrities around the world, to have good publicity for my country," he said. "Goodwill ambassadors are something you always need, especially people who have such a big following. For them to see a different market was awesome."

The trip received media coverage in the general press, but also drew fire for its perceived politics. Some pointed to the private jet provided by pro-Israel casino mogul Sheldon Adelson. Casspi, who still plays for the national team and has tweeted in support of Israel, remains nonplussed.

"I knew in advance [about the criticism]," he said. "It didn't really affect me. I felt like there was nothing political with it. Demarcus invited me to his house; I invited him to mine. It shouldn't be any different, even though we're in a conflict region. I'm planning on doing the same thing next year with different players – maybe some the same."

Between trips home, his family visits North America regularly, most recently over Chanukah. While he hopes to see other Israeli players join the NBA soon – compatriot Gal Mekel was waived by the Dallas Mavericks in 2014 after a season – he refused to name the most likely candidate.

"You never know. It's just a matter of guys who want to work hard, put in the work, getting better every year. You know, this league is good." ■

THAT'S TRUE WHOLESALE

$3350

Diamond Hoops with over 6 carats of sparkling diamonds set inside & out

Over 30 years as your wholesale source
For beautiful diamond jewellery

MCD JEWELLERY

BUY • SELL • TRADE

2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • MCDJEWELLERY.COM

LORNE'S

BOXING WEEK

Where are you going to find a store that puts EVERYTHING on Sale?

The Finest Collection of Luxurious Cloth and Goose Down Coats.

3000 Coats of Every Kind, Made in Canada and Around the World.

Men's and Women's

Lorne's Coats
101 Spadina Ave. (at King)
Toronto 416-596-1058
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 10-6

CJN Snowbirds

GOING SOUTH?
TAKE THE CJN WITH YOU!

Read the eCJN online and put your delivery on hold until you return.
OR
Arrange delivery to your destination for $10/month.
(Payable by cheque, or major credit card)

AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE, CONTACT SUBSCRIBER SERVICES
416 932 5095 / 1 866 849 0864
or Go to bit.ly/CJNContact
and complete the online form

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

Adventures in Jewish Pl-Euro-lism

Chaimie and Leizer

Greetings from Birmingham, U.K., coal mining epicentre and birthplace of Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osborne (or, as we like to call them, *Shvartzn Shabbes* and *Izzy Bornstein*). We write you on the latest stop of YidLife Crisis' first European Tour (what internally we are calling "National Lampoon's European Excommunication").

We started in Krakow, Poland, where we performed in the 16th-century-built High Synagogue, and found a fascinating combination of old survivors and many young non-Jews interested – in both academic and very practical, living ways – in the country's re-emerging Jewish roots. We also learned that Krakow was named for its medieval King Krak (references to Rob Ford were lost on our tour guide).

Next was a Yiddish Anarchist tour of London's historic East End. Many Jewish Russian and Polish immigrants arrived there at the turn of the century to live in sweatshop poverty, only for the neighbourhood to become gentrified as "the" hip new area. (It's NYC's Lower East Side meets Kensington Market, sprinkled with equal parts curry and Monty Python.)

While we learned a lot on that tour and thought we had Britain's Jews pegged, our gestalt would get *geshtupt* in Birmingham, site of Limmud UK, the largest Jewish conference of its kind. For 35 years, around Christmas, British Jews of all sects, orientations, dialects and relative resemblances to Benny Hill assemble for what can best be described as a veritable fringe festival of Jewish learning: academic conference meets music festival meets Jewish summer camp – in winter. (FYI, British Jews don't eat Chinese or go to movies on Christmas. They also call bagels "beigels" – Euston, we have a problem).

Limmud UK is the crown jewel in a global network of Limmuds – which includes events in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa – and attracts an incredibly diverse assembly of Jews and non-Jews among the more than 2,000 attendees, from the *frum* to the foul (that's us, obviously). Impressively, it's all buoyed up by the tireless work of 70 year-round volunteers, running entirely on youthful optimism and caffeine (realistically, the only two things that can save the world). There were 1,100 presentations given, not including seminars on where bathrooms are located.

Some of the more salient presentations that caught our attention, from the most intellectual to the most sensual:

Why the future is haredi… and why it might not be: Jonathan Boyd of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research has European Jewish demographics down to a science and as good a view as any about how the future of British Jewry might play out. Haredi or not, here they come?

JDOV Talks: These recorded online talks are like TED talks done by and for Jews (not to be confused with YID Talks, Yiddish ramblings that we shout at each other after our third pint of Guinness). To our dismay, we were privileged enough to be asked to give one of these talks – we'll post it next month for your viewing "pleasure."

Anglo-Yiddish popular culture –Cockney-Yiddish music hall: Be honest, you can't not be interested in "Cockney Yiddish."

Is Porky Pig Jewish? It's the question we've always wanted answered but were afraid to ask. Until now.

Rebbetzin's disco: A Limmud favourite, it's an inebriated dance party DJed by a rebbetzin and her associates. BYOB (Bring Your Own Booze/Bencher).

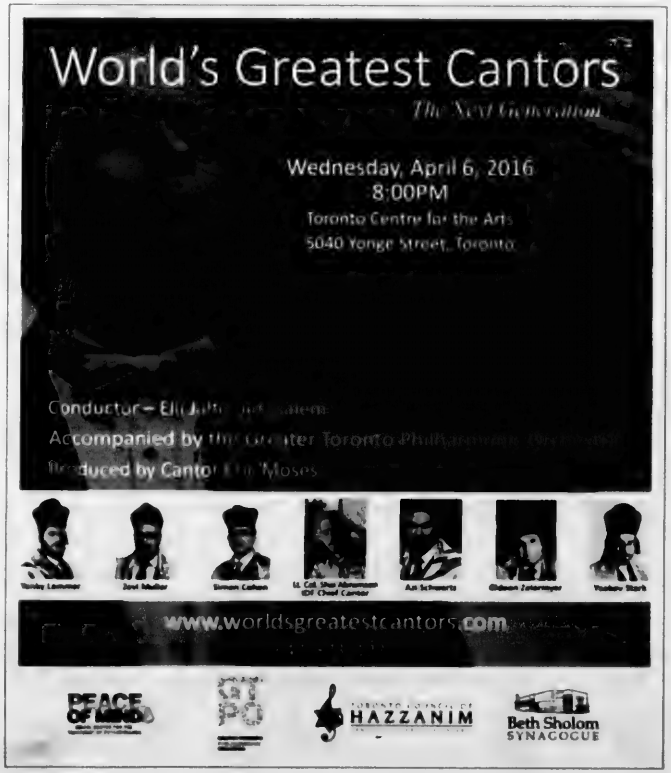
Zusha: We're biased because they appear in our videos, but a packed hall can't lie. This chassidic trio is like Matisyahu if he multiplied by three, harmonized with himself, and put his tzitzit back on.

Gefilte fish! New York's Gefilteria are experts of, amongst other things, the Gefilteration process. Can you say Carp-e Diem?

The power of smell in Judaism: This one left us speechless.

B'emess, hats off to the British Jews (the Brews?) for the lively learning and enrichment. And such huge portions! God bless their inquisitive minds. And God save the Queen (Elizabeth II or Barbra Streisand – your call). ■

Chaimie and Leizer are Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the world's first online Yiddish sitcom YidLife Crisis.



NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
For Canada's highest level of Alzheimer's and dementia care, it's the One.
One goal, one mission, one purpose. To provide the highest level of care in the world. One Kenton Place is a state-of-the-art residence built to provide unparalleled levels of care, service, and innovation for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. It's where personal, loving care combines with a customized full day activity schedule and leading edge programs at the forefront of Alzheimer's research to provide the highest level of care anywhere.
• Person centered care tailored to individualized needs
• 24-hour registered nurses and supervision
• Customized full daily activity schedule
• 24-hour call bell emergency response and resident location systems
• COR certified Kosher meals
• Daily housekeeping
One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one
1 Kenton Drive, North York, ON
> BOOK A TOUR TODAY: 647-932-7913 • ONEKENTONPLACE.CA

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 7, 2016

A land far away: Jewish Mitteleuropa

NORMAN RAVVIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Every end-of-year media round-up highlighted the plight of refugees as the story of 2015. Photographs held sway in capturing the depth and breadth of the disaster, and one could argue that the immediacy of events is better served by documentary photographers than the background causes for the outflow of millions from Syria on their way to Europe.

The idea that photographs offer something beyond language took hold in the aftermath of World War II, when, initially, print journalists led the way, until photographs proved brutally direct in their ability to take account of what the German war in Europe caused in total human suffering.

But the power of the photograph to examine social facts was recognized in the 1920s. In response to the work of German photographer August Sander, one writer concluded that entire "stories could be told" from Sander's photographs of ordinary Germans: "They are raw material for writers, material that is more stimulating and more productive than many a newspaper report…"

In the years that Sander was photographing German farmers, workers, and what he called "The Persecuted" of the Nazi regime, Joseph Roth was riding the rails across Europe, from Marseilles to Astrakhan, sampling the hotels of Tirana (in Albania), Rome and Hamburg, even off into the sticks in Polish Galicia. He was among the best-known European newspaper writers of his era, sending dispatches to newspapers in Berlin, Frankfurt and Prague, while working on novels and short stories.

The Hotel Years collects newly translated articles that date from the immediate post-World War I moment up to the outbreak of World War II. In this way, they depict the variety of disasters that transformed European life and sent millions in any direction that would take them away from their home's particular calamity.

Of Sarajevo Roth writes: "The World War began in Sarajevo, on a balmy summer afternoon in 1914. It was a Sunday; I was a student at the time. In the afternoon a girl came round. Girls wore plaits in those days. She was carrying a large yellow straw hat in her hand, it was like summer coming to call…"

The Hotel Years
by Joseph Roth

New Directions

> *Once the 1920s are in full swing, Roth's material is ripe and varied.*

The Russian Revolution sends its émigrés fleeing and Roth runs into them in Paris: "The émigrés saw themselves as the only rightful representatives of Russia. What grew to significance in Russia following the Revolution was decried as 'un-Russian' or 'Jewish' or 'cosmopolitan.'"

Once the 1920s are in full swing, Roth's material is ripe and varied. Emigrants crowd into ships heading for the unknown. On a ship called the USS Pittsburgh, leaving Bremerhaven, he spies "people from the east, mainly Jews, lucky to have escaped the Europe of pogroms; also Russian peasants and young Ukrainian women, with colourful headscarves like summer meadows…"

In Germany, political and economic crises throw up a vicious struggle between Marxists and German nationalist parties that include the Nazis. Strolling in wintertime Berlin in 1923, Roth encounters two "high-school kids" walking "arm in arm, like a pair of drunks, and singing: *Down, down, down with the Jewish republic, Filthy Yids, Filthy Yids!*"

Lurking in the background of all this, and especially difficult for Roth to accept, is the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the relatively safe home it presented to Jews under the rule of Emperor Franz Josef. "There was once an emperor," he writes nostalgically. "A great part of my childhood and youth happened under the often merciless lustre of His Majesty, which I am entitled to write about today because I was so vehemently opposed to it then." It is the "shock" of the emperor's death years before that Roth recalls for his readers in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* in 1928. "The chilly sun of the Hapsburgs was being extinguished, but it had at least been a sun."

The writer of such sharp-eyed commentary spent the '20s on the road, in hotels, wandering strange city streets and countrysides. Hotels became his haven. A section of *The Hotel Years* traces his travels, with attention to lobbies, cafés, window views, and the people met along the way. In one hotel, Roth takes account of "commercial travellers… the traveller in soaps… The paper seller… The man with the fountain pens…" He recalls receptionists, cooks, waiters and figures who appear now in movies as running gags: "the night porter comes along, and lights the evening. Fresh, youthful, shaved and powdered, in blue and gold livery, he rises like a second morning when the world has evening." The night porter and his comrades oversee Roth's magic land of "exotic" visitors who waft "through the glass wings of the revolving doors into the lobby."

Roth's life and work deteriorated in the 1930s as his alcoholism worsened. In 1936, he wrote to his friend and supporter Stefan Zweig, another chronicler of Jewish Mitteleuropa: "Journalism. Revolting work. Humiliation. Sixteen books. Success. And in the last five years, associated with personal unhappiness and therefore invalidated." Zweig struggled to save Roth from financial and personal collapse, but he was dead in 1939, at age 44.

It is as if Roth's writerly life was too tightly linked to the events he covered in his dispatches to newspapers in European capitals. As Europe headed toward its greatest disaster, the continent's eminent chronicler ran out of options. ■

Norman Ravvin is a writer and teacher in Montreal.

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a customized wealth management strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise CFP®
Director, Wealth Management
Senior Wealth Advisor

416.945.4983
JMWise@ScotiaWealth.com
www.thewiseinvestmentgroup.ca

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. ™ Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. Scotia Wealth Management™ is the name of a range of financial services provided by: The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank®), The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Scotiatrust™), private investment counsel services and 1832 Asset Management L.P., 1832 Asset Management U.S. Inc., Scotia Wealth Insurance Services Inc. and ScotiaMcLeod®, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Wealth advisory and brokerage services are provided by ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

A chicken in every pot

BEVERLY LEVITT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Chicken is like Scheherazade's tales – there are 1,001 ways to prepare it! Whether it be baked, barbecued, braised, boiled, broiled, fricasseed, fried, grilled, poached, sautéed, steamed, stewed, stir fried or stuffed, its mild flavour makes it the perfect foil for a wide variety of herbs, spices, fruits, vegetables, and sauces.

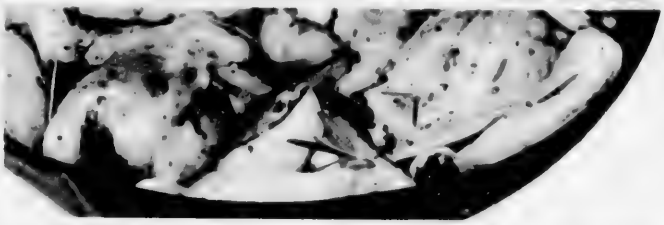
People are eating more chicken than ever before. Many health conscious folks are rejecting red meat in their fervent quest for lower fat diets. It's actually become a status symbol to announce, "Sorry, I only eat fowl and fish." Of course the extremists brag, "Sorry, I only eat white meat."

While chicken's skinless white meat is 33 to 80 per cent leaner than trimmed, cooked beef, its dark meat with the skin intact derives 56 per cent of its calories from fat. If low fat is what you're after, it's the white meat chicken breast that should grace your plate. It is also the most versatile to prepare.

San Francisco chicken stir fry

- ❑ 3 whole skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 in. chunks
- ❑ 2 tbsp. peanut oil
- ❑ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 2 small red peppers, cored, deribbed and cut into 1/2 in. chunks
- ❑ 1 yellow onion, cut into eighths
- ❑ 1 cup toasted, unsalted cashews
- ❑ 2 tbsp. chili paste
- ❑ 2 tbsp. soy sauce (can use low sodium)
- ❑ 1/2 cup vegetable broth (fresh, canned or cubed)
- ❑ 1 tbsp. corn starch mixed with 1 tbsp. warm water (optional)
- ❑ 1 bunch green onions, halved lengthwise and sliced diagonally into 1-in. pieces.

Heat oil to very hot in heavy frying pan or wok. Add chicken pieces; stir fry 2 minutes. Using slotted spoon, remove to plate. Place garlic, red peppers, onions and cashews in pan; stir fry for 1 minute. Add chicken back to pan, stir in chili paste, soy sauce, broth, corn starch. Add green onions, stir fry 30 seconds longer. Serve over white rice. Serves 6.



Texas barbecue chicken

Barbecue sauce depends largely on the whim and creativity of the maker. This recipe comes from a cowboy cook who has "barbecued enough to know." If it is too spicy, hold the pepper. The chicken may also be roasted or broiled. The recipe makes about 2 cups so you may have sauce leftover.

- ❑ 1 - 3 1/2 to 4 pound chicken, trussed and ready for a spit

Barbecue sauce

- ❑ olive oil for sautéing
- ❑ 1 large onion, grated
- ❑ 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ❑ 1/4 cup olive oil
- ❑ 1 cup vinegar
- ❑ 1/2 cup ketchup
- ❑ 1 cup water
- ❑ 2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ❑ juice of 1 lemon
- ❑ 1 tbsp. dry mustard
- ❑ 2 tbsp. chili powder
- ❑ 1 tsp. cayenne
- ❑ 1 tsp. black pepper
- ❑ 1 tsp. salt
- ❑ 1/4 cup brown sugar
- ❑ 2 bay leaves, crushed

Pour oil into a frying pan. When oil is hot, sauté onion and garlic until golden. Combine oil, vinegar, 1 cup water, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, spices, sugar and bay leaves. Add to mixture. Simmer 15 to 20 minutes or until flavours are thoroughly blended. Brush on chicken skin, place on barbecue spit. Continue basting chicken at intervals until chicken is finished, about 1 hour or until drumstick is pliable when moved. Serves 4 to 6.

Any car. Any age.
One passion.
Whatever vehicle you're looking for - new or used, from any brand - Pfaff Leasing offers you the flexibility you need, to drive what you want, when you want. We have access to every vehicle on the market, and offer a level of personal care unmatched in the business.
Heather Levitt
905-851-6311 ext. 5212
hlevitt@pfaffleasing.com
618 Chrislea Road
Woodbridge, ON L4L 8K9
pfaffleasing.com
PFAFF
LEASING

Daniel Hope:
Yehudi Menuhin @ 100
The Royal Conservatory
THURS. JAN. 28, 2016 8PM
KOERNER HALL
"Adventurous and brilliant"
(The New York Times) violinist
Daniel Hope honours his mentor
by performing Menuhin's signature pieces,
including works by Bach, Mendelssohn,
Walton, Ravel, Bartók, and more
Generously supported by Helen Sinclair & Paul Cantor
TICKETS START AT ONLY $35!
WWW.PERFORMANCE.RCMUSIC.CA

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 7, 2016

Transparent's hateful characters are hard not to love

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Sarah and Tammy's wedding is the focus of the first episode of season 2.

There's one line in the pilot episode of season 1 of Amazon's *Transparent* that perfectly sets the stage for the show's unfolding drama.

Protagonist Maura Pfefferman, played by Jeffrey Tambor, at 68 is beginning the process of coming out as a woman to her three adult children and ex-wife, all of whom know her as Mort, their father and former husband. She is sharing her feelings at a support group.

Coming to terms with the profound self-centredness of her progeny, Maura wonders aloud, "How did I raise three such selfish kids?"

The question highlights the irony that's at the heart of *Transparent*: all the members of the Pfefferman clan, on whom the show focuses, are distinctly tone-deaf to the ways in which their actions affect others, each believing completely in the primacy of his or her suffering.

The first season, which streamed in 2014, starts to explore the complex dynamics of this highly damaged family and sees Pfefferman siblings Sarah (played by Amy Landecker), Josh (Jay Duplass) and Ali (Gaby Hoffmann), as well as their mother Shelly (Judith Light), coming to terms with Maura's transition to a woman. But season 2, which began streaming Dec. 12 on Shomi, delves more deeply into the ways the characters inflict emotional wounds on one other and those around them, all the while enamoured of their own individual perceived sense of victimhood.

It may sound horrible, but show creator Jill Soloway, whose inspiration for the concept came from her own father's coming out as transgender later in life, does a brilliant job of tempering her characters' hatefulness with just the right notes of humour and poignancy, making *Transparent* both utterly entertaining and deeply satisfying to watch – and this is to say nothing of the show's interesting exploration of gender politics.

Season 2, in particular, is hilarious and horrifying from the very start, showing in near equal measure the outrageous lengths the Pfeffermans will go to serve their own interests as well as the depth of pain each experiences.

The first episode features the wedding day of the eldest sister, Sarah, who has recently left the father of her children for her lover, Tammy, with whom she betrayed him.

Jeffrey Tambor as Maura Pfefferman

> *Season 2 is hilarious and horrifying from the very start*

With all of them dressed in pristine white (again, Soloway prods at the irony of the Pfeffermans' blind attempts to absolve themselves of their many transgressions), the family poses for a photography session that is cut short when the photographer refers to Maura as "sir."

The physical beauty of the lavish outdoor wedding, set in the hills of Los Angeles, is offset by the fact, made increasingly clear to the viewer, that Sarah has realized she's made a terrible decision.

The episode comes to a hilarious head when Sarah ditches the horah and is found hiding in a bathroom stall weeping to sister Ali that not only does she not want to be married to Tammy, but that she "hates" her.

When Ali summons their brother Josh and his Reform rabbi girlfriend Raquel (played by Kathryn Hahn) to help deal with the crisis, Raquel, who officiated at the wedding, informs Sarah that she hasn't yet sent the requisite papers to the city and Sarah and Tammy aren't actually married.

"Well, what's a wedding then?" Ali sputters, to which Raquel responds wearily, "A very expensive play."

Giddy with relief, the sisters explode in laughter, while Raquel – frequently a casualty of the Pfeffermans' insensitivity – looks pained.

The joke is further played out in a later episode, when the siblings attend a party at Maura's house and are excited to find the leftover wedding cake in the fridge – they promptly add it to the buffet table.

While watching *Transparent* is a bit like watching a train wreck, its perfectly timed dark humour and emotional depth make it hard not to love. ■

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

TAJ RUGS
SINCE 1978
CLASSIC - MODERN - TRANSITIONAL - CHOBI - SHAGS
30 TO 70% OFF BOXING WEEK
BLOWOUT!
Everything
SALE ENDS JAN. 10
Visit our RATAN FURNITURE
Gallery in Mississauga & Stoney Creek
Sizes 2'x3' to 12'x20' Bring your room dimensions
Choose from 15,000 rugs from Iran, Tibet, Afgan, Pakistan, India, Belgium & Turkey
8400 WOODBINE AVE
MARKHAM, ON
In the Furniture Mall
905-940-0088
2111 DUNWINE DR
Corner of Dundas St. West & Dunwine Dr
MISSISSAUGA/OAKVILLE, ON
Next to Tesco & Jameson pools
905-940-0088
395 LEWIS RD & QEW
STONEY CREEK, ON
In Stoney Creek Furniture
905-643-8005
MANAGEMENT COMMENT:
On January 11, 16 Dollar Depreciation and Duty Increase of 6.5% of 2015 must be passed on
BUY NOW & SAVE
Monday - Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 12pm-5pm
www.tajrugs.com

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Claudine and Stephen Bronfman

Marissa Nuss, Rhoda Pinsky, co-chairs CFIM Montreal; Stephen and Claudine Bronfman, Karys Marcus, co-chair CFIM Montreal; Wendy and Elliott Eisen, CFIM national co-chairs

Sarah Rubin, Alvin and Emmelle Segal, and Rita Bronfman, CFIM board member

Dorothy Reitman and Joel Pinsky

CFIM Montreal

Israel Museum's 50th anniversary was celebrated in high style with Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum (CFIM) Montreal's Top Gifts Annual Partner event, held this year at the spectacular home of Stephen and Claudine Bronfman. CFIM Montreal's co-chairs Rhoda Pinsky, Karys Marcus and Marissa Nuss had a perfect backdrop to recognize the museum's remarkable achievements, as the Bronfman family's relationship with the museum dates back to its creation 50 years ago. The Israel Museum is Israel's largest cultural institution and one of the world's leading art and archeological museums. Funds raised by the CFIM support free admission to the museum for Israeli children of all religions and ethnicities. ■ – *The Socialite*

Henry and Kiki Etingin

Michael Vineberg, James Snyder, director of the Israel Museum, and Paul Lowenstein

Lisa Reitman Himmel and Jonathan Nuss, co-chairs CFIM Montreal associates

Naomi and Bernard Rosen

Lady Marion Naggar, co-chair Israel Museum international council, and Fernanda Ivanier

Diane Pinsky and Julia Reitman

Former senator Leo Kolber and Ronith Kolber

CHRISTINA ESTEBAN PHOTOGRAPHY | EMAIL THESOCIALITE@THECJN.CA FOR SUBMISSION DETAILS

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

JAN. 7 – JAN. 14

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Jan. 7

YIDDISH VINKL
Larry Anklewicz discusses "The evolution of Jewish films," noon. Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20, includes lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca.

RESTITUTION
Author **Kathy Kacer** discusses "Restitution: a family's fight for their heritage lost in the Holocaust," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

ISRAEL'S MUSICAL THEATRE
Beth Radom Congregation presents a 7-week program on Israel's musical history, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 416-636-3451, ext. 24. Location of program given on registration.

Sunday, Jan. 10

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE ILL
Ora Zirling discusses "What do we pray for when we pray for the sick?" 7:30 p.m., at Yeshivat Or Chaim. Email info@torontotorah.com.

YIDDISH CLASS
All levels of Yiddish classes are offered Sundays 10 a.m. to noon, Beth David Synagogue. $150/10 sessions. Starts today. 416-635-2883, ext. 5189, or www.committeeforYiddish.com.

ROCK AND ROLL TRIVIA
Shaar Shalom Singles, along with the Intersynagogue Singles 50+ hold a rock 'n' roll trivia night, 7:30 p.m. at 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. $15. 905-889-4975, ext. 72.

WOMAN IN GOLD
Beth David Synagogue shows the film *Woman in Gold*, 7 p.m. $5.

Monday, Jan. 11

MEDICAL ETHICS
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Cosmetic surgery: when is it justified?" 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Email info@torontotorah.com.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Jan. 21 is Jan. 11. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Tuesday, Jan. 12

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB
The Israel Stamp Club discusses "Where are the high values in Israeli stamps?" 7 p.m., Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr. 416-226-2050.

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *A La Vie*, 1:30 p.m. Showing includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz**. $5.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

REEL AND SPIEL
Beth Emeth Synagogue shows the film *Daniel*, with introduction by **Rabbi Leslie Lipson**, 7 p.m. $5.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Baycrest is looking for volunteers who have special interests or talents to share with clients. Russian-speaking volunteers also needed.

Volunteers are also needed to join the Simulation Program at Baycrest to authentically portray clients, family members and professionals as part of training and education activities. Specialized training is provided. For all volunteer positions, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2572, or email volunteer@baycrest.org.

Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs is looking for volunteers to provide visits and support to individuals with a life-threatening illness and their families. A 30-hour training course is provided, starting Feb. 8. Contact **Arnold Foss**, 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or afoss@circleofcare.com.

Circle of Care needs volunteers for kosher meals on wheels and friendly visiting programs. Call **Lisa**, 416-635-2900, ext. 284 or email lrae@circleofcare.com.

HEBREW CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers conversational ulpan Hebrew with **Yael Lev** for beginners (must read Hebrew), intermediate and advanced levels. Daytime and evening classes. New session begins the week of Jan. 5. Learn to read Hebrew part 2 is offered Thursdays, 7:15 p.m., starting Jan. 14. Call 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

MACCABI SPORTS
Maccabi community sports offers basketball programs for children aged 9-12 and volleyball for youths aged 10-15, starting in January. Visit www.maccabicanada.com.

BEBY'S BUBALEHS
Beth Emeth Synagogue offers a 8-week program with songs, stories and crafts for children ages 1 to 2-1/2, and a caregiver, 11 a.m.-noon. $72. Free trial, Jan. 15. RSVP by Jan. 13, 416-633-3838. Program runs Jan. 29-March 18. RSVP by Jan. 27.

FAMILY NIGHT OUT
Hypnotist **Jeff West** performs at Beth Emeth Synagogue, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. Movie night for younger children. $18 for adults, $10 for children under 18. RSVP by Jan. 21. 416-633-3838.

BOOK CLUB
Adath Israel Synagogue's book club discusses *The Gods of Love and Murder* by **Risa Klarman**, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. $10/$15. **Beverley**, 416-499-6920.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Musical theatre at Baycrest

Musical Theatre of the Terraces of Baycrest presented a moving and educational intergenerational Chanukah program last month, with a script written by Yankle Gladstone, seen at left. Young people from the Hashomer Hatzair and Young Judaea youth movements also took part.

MORASHA CLASSES

Seymour Epstein teaches "How a Jew prays, when a Jew prays," Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.; **Jerry Fink** continues teaching "Western art music and the Jews," including opera, Jewish film composers and piano concerti composed by Jews at 11:15 a.m. Both classes at Beth Emeth Synagogue. To register, call **Loretta**, 416-789-7400.

CAMP RAMAH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

New and returning campers in grades 1-4 are invited to a skating party at RINX, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. RSVP www.campramah.com. $5.

YIDDISH READING CIRCLE

Yiddish readers are invited to join a *Leyenkrayz*, the third Tuesday of the month, starting Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m., Lipa Green Centre. 416-635-2883, ext. 5189. www.committeeforyiddish.com.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Author **Joe Kertes** discusses the novel *The History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss**, Jan. 19, 11:45 a.m., Beth David Synagogue. $15/$18.

JF&CS

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS

Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155

Comedian **Jack Newman** looks at the history of Jewish comedians, Jan. 14 and Jan. 21. Doors open at 1 p.m., program starts at 1:30 p.m.

Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Play board games in a friendly atmosphere, Jan. 21, 11 a.m. RSVP.

Tu b'Shvat seder, enjoy Hebrew songs, readings and ceremonial foods, Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112.

Jan. 7, wellness lecture on "Your eyes, your health," 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 10, concert with **Helen** and **Peter Ness**; Jan. 12, **Myriam Shechter** discusses "Great operatic tearjerkers: Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*," 10 a.m.; Jan. 14, wellness lecture on Toronto Parks and Recreation, 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, Thursdays, noon.

◗ **National Council of Jewish Women-Aviva chapter** is looking for senior women who would like to join, 416-633-5100.

◗ **Circle of Care** offers free exercise and fall prevention classes. Call 416-635-2860.

◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club open three times a week. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.

◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. Call **Judi**, 416-785-0941.

◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.

◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong at 1 p.m. Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com.

◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue.** Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.

◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ Adapted dance for individuals with special needs meets Jan. 12-March 15, 6:15 p.m.

◗ Yoga for teens and adults with an intellectual disability, facilitated by **Caroline Zevy**, Jan. 12-March 15, 7 p.m.

◗ Film appreciation program, "As time goes by," Wednesdays, Jan. 6-27, 1 p.m.

◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, Jan. 11-March 14, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Beginner mah-jong, Wednesdays, Jan. 13-Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Bridge level 1, Thursdays, Jan. 21-March 10, 10 a.m.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ Subscribe now to the Toronto Jewish Film Society's 38th season, ext. 139.

◗ Register now for the Hebrew Institute for adults, Hebrew beginners to advanced conversation and Yiddish, starts the week of Jan. 11. Ext. 386.

◗ Register now for winter Shabbat family party (children to age 4 with an adult), Fridays mornings, Jan. 8-March 11. Email anniem@mnjcc.org.

◗ Register now for PJ Plus (children 18 mos-3 years with an adult), Thursdays Jan. 14-March 31, 10 a.m. 905-303-2353, ext. 3258.

◗ **Shlomo Schwartzberg** presents a 5-week lecture series on "Jewish sensibility in Hollywood films," Mondays, Jan. 11-Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Every body dance with **DJ Layah Jane** – all ages, all bodies welcome. Jan. 17, 2:30 p.m.

◗ Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. No partner needed. Jan. 10-Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Body positive storytelling: storytelling and accessible theatre for youth aged 16-24 of all abilities. Free. Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.

◗ From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Ext. 567.

◗ Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 12 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.

◗ *Resilience*, textiles by **Sheila Thompson,** is on display at the gallery until Jan.27. Artist's reception, Jan. 21, 4-6 p.m.

◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org.

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org.

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ A glass fusion workshop to make a pedestal stand for cakes will be offered Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

◗ JStixx Baby will be offered Wednesdays, Jan. 6-March 9, 9:30 a.m.

◗ Acro will be offered Wednesdays, Jan. 6-March 9, 5 p.m.

◗ Daytime and evening ceramics courses offered for all abilities. Classes start Jan. 6, noon or 7 p.m.

◗ J Singles klezmer concert, Jan. 16.

◗ "Are there drug-free options for many of our afflictions?" will be the topic discussed Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

◗ Beginner mah-jong Tuesdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Bridge starts Tuesdays, Jan. 26-March 29, 10 a.m. ■

MARRIED WITH KIDS

Reflections on the final journey

Lauren Kramer

It was the golf balls that did it.

I was interviewing a man who sold coffins for a living when he delivered the news that the bases of the simple wood coffins used to inter the Jewish dead are perforated with holes the size of golf balls. The purpose of the holes, I'm guessing, is to accelerate the 'dust to dust' procedure by allowing liquids to drain quickly and easily from the body. Given that 55-to-60 per cent of the human body is water, that's a fair quantity of liquid. But it doesn't make for a pretty visual, does it?

Like most of us, I've long been fearful of death. As a child I'd scare myself witless late at night about that final journey, lying in bed and trying over and over to imagine where I'd be going. As years have passed I like to think I've grown into a more comfortable acceptance of the inevitability of death. I comfort myself that if there is a final journey, there's a good chance I'll run into less-newly-deceased people I very much want to see again. That's the silver lining I'm hoping for.

But if there isn't, I worry: will I have any awareness of the pitch blackness of that simple casket? Will I feel the thud of soil on wood as my friends and family say goodbye? Will I feel those fluids drain out of the golf-ball-sized holes in the bottom of my casket, and will I know it as a series of bugs invades my limbs and gnaws on my tissues? That's the part that torments me. Maybe the dead have an element of consciousness we living just don't know about. Maybe the pitch black and the bugs *are* the final journey to dust.

In a CBC radio documentary, I learned recently that forensic entomologists can tell exactly how long a body has been decomposing by which bug species inhabit it. It starts with flies – they begin the process of consuming the body and laying larvae inside it. After the blow-flies, flesh flies and black soldier flies are done, beetles come in and feed on the body and the fly larvae, and do the last cleanup.

Since I'm not a bug-friendly person – I'm the one squishing them with a large book – I don't relish the thought of being bug food. When I consider the possibilities, cremation sounds a whole lot more appealing – a whoosh of flames, an instant evaporation and a few minutes later, a new me: compacted ashes in a small jar. No lengthy decomposition, no pitch blackness. Just a gentle scattering of what's left of me so the breeze can drift it away. Cremation seems a whole lot cleaner, really, and I like clean. But being Jewish, of course, it's not an option.

In western society today we're superb when it comes to pushing death to the sidelines. It's considered morbid to discuss one's fears until just before the end arrives, at which point there's really little time left to go into much detail. Maybe that's why death hits us so hard when it takes people we love, whether it's suddenly or gradually. It's so final, so unknown and so taboo that we never get comfortable with what it represents. We attend a funeral, help fill a grave and then turn our thoughts to those suffering the deepest bereavement as the role of comforters. We don't like to think about the final journey and what happens next to the newly departed.

But of course, it's coming, for each one of us. We're just passing through, and time will fly by, and sooner or later we will all be forgotten because those left alive won't know or remember us. All that's left will be faded tombstones in large cemeteries that will likely someday be carved up for residential or commercial development, because so much land just for bones will seem like a waste of space when it could be better used for the living.

That's the way it goes. So I remind myself, each day is a gift. Treasure the moment. Live each day to the fullest. When I start to worry about death and golf-ball holes, I recite epigrams like these and remind myself to celebrate life in the time I have left. After all, we have no control over what's to come. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
82 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-8457

Kelly & Aaron are engaged! Parents and grandparents - Honey & Jeff Rubenstein, Tami & Yossi Zimner, Eve & Max Rubenstein, Bronia & Avraham Zimner, Ruth & Newman Kurtz!

Happy 50th anniversary to a golden couple Carol Coplevitch & Harvey Spiegel Jan. 9, 1966

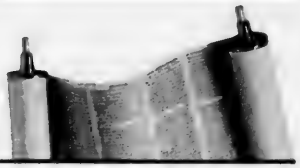
Alliyah Meghan, Oct. 7, to Danielle & Michael Plax. Sister to Ethan & Matty. Granddaughter to Bonny (late Allen Halberstadt), Lilia & Alex Plax.

Mazel tov to Ariane & Saul Singer on their 60th wedding anniversary. With admiration, gratitude and much love from your children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to chimes@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Parshah

Va'era | Exodus 6:2-9:35



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier explains why the process of change is neither quick nor easy
Rabbi Denise Handlarski reflects on some contemporary lessons of the Exodus narrative
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen says when Jews cry out from the bottom of their hearts, God listens

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

For a brief while, Moses and Aaron enjoy a "honeymoon period" as the leaders of a downtrodden people. They deliver exciting promises, and the people respond with enthusiasm. After Moses and Aaron gather the people – and Aaron performs the requisite signs – the people "believed… bowed their heads and worshipped." (Exodus 4:31) A short while later, however, cynicism and disbelief set in. After Moses reiterates the promise of redemption, the people "hearken not unto Moses for impatience of spirit…" (Exodus 6:9)

What happens in this short period that changes the attitude of Israel from a population eager for redemption to a people unable to embrace the message of hope?

According to the Talmud Yerushalmi (cited in Torah Temimah 6:6), the shift in attitude was due to the realization that the process would be neither quick nor easy. Whereas the first promise was conveyed through divine signs – indicating miraculous and immediate deliverance – the repetition of the promise omitted these signs. The people then understood that change would only come after a long, difficult process.

The prospect of improving our lives is something we all embrace. What is more challenging, however, is to sustain our efforts to change and grow over a long period of time. As I write these words, we prepare to celebrate the secular New Year, and we contemplate our resolutions for the coming year. Frustratingly, experience teaches that resolutions are difficult to uphold: one study found that while 45 per cent of Americans make such resolutions, only eight per cent are successful in achieving their goals.

The Israelites experienced a similar decline in their resolve. The sustained effort required to achieve redemption was difficult for them to rally behind. The change they did achieve, then, emerges from the leadership of Moses and Aaron – the indefatigable championing of vision and values that ultimately led an impatient people to embrace, and ultimately experience, their long-awaited freedom. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

This parshah contains the repeated plea by Moses to Pharaoh to "Let my people go." To me, this is the pivotal moment of the entire Exodus narrative. We need to ask for our freedom, and we need to ask many times. The focus of the parshah is the plagues, the magic that Moses and Aaron perform in order to convince the Pharaoh. But in my view, the real magic is having the tenacity to ask and ask again for what is right.

"The wandering Jews" is an expression we hear all the time. We are the people of the Exodus. We are also wanderers because we are the people who had to leave nation after nation, facing expulsions, persecution, violence and more. Our history of wandering has led our people to occupy every corner of the globe. Many of our own families immigrated to Canada in search of their own "promised land," a place where opportunity and the freedom to be Jewish in safety and security would exist. We have asked and demanded, fought and sacrificed, for our freedom again and again.

We wanderers sympathize with others seeking safe passage and refuge. My congregation, like many, is sponsoring a family from Syria. We are now in a position not to ask for freedom, for what is right, but to act. In order to promote justice, we work together as Jews, as a community. And this is the meaning of the Exodus story.

Michael Walzer's book *Exodus and Revolution* describes three lessons we learn from Exodus. 1) Wherever you are it is probably Egypt. 2) There is hope for redemption/a Promised Land. 3) The only way to get there is by holding hands and marching. Together, we search for justice – for ourselves and for others. Together, we ensure hearts are never hardened against those seeking freedom. Together, we march on. ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

As I booked my recent flight to Israel, I learned of a stabbing attack at the Jaffa Gate at the entrance to the Old City of Jerusalem. I swallowed hard. I have been at that very spot many times.

The victim was a beloved teacher at Aish HaTorah and is survived by a wife and seven children. When will this ever end? A similar narrative goes on in our Torah portion, as the Jews are bitterly enslaved in Egypt, and Moses turns to God and says, "Why have you treated this nation badly?"

God replies to him that the forefathers had many tests, but they never questioned God. There must be some lesson here for us.

Even though Moses believed in God's ways, he still cried out to God, "Why have you dealt badly with this nation?" On the one hand, God's answer stands, that even during such troubles, one should not question God. On the other hand, the complaint of Moses still remains, with a lesson: a Jew in this current exile, when it's so dark, needs to be strong in faith that all is for the good and that this darkness leads to redemption. On the other hand, we should cry out and ask, "Why? How much longer?" Or in the words of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, "We want Mashiach now!"

A Jew lives with these two different approaches. I will never forget the Rebbe's reaction after tragic events. He would cry out to God, "Why? For what benefit?" Yet in the same talk, he would ask us to redouble our efforts, to do more. Action. One more mitzvah. In our parshah, there seems to be no end to the bitter exile. Moses brought new hope to a depressed and dreamless nation. When Jews cry out from the bottom of their hearts, God listens. May we never lose our resolve and spirit. May we merit the coming of the Mashiach now. ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto. yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875 •	Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987 •	Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343 •	Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800 •	Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

RIDELLE AVE – UPPER FOREST HILL $1,975,000
Superb reno'd residence. Fabulous flow for entertaining. Main floor addition. Many built-ins, hardwood, halogens, skylights, 2 fireplaces, granite, heated floors & more. Professionally landscaped. Demand location. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BEDFORD PARK GEM! MUST SEE GRACIOUS FAMILY HOME
Gorgeously decorated, impeccably maintained. Large eat-in kitchen, large master with newly renovated master bath. $1,949,000 Margaret Lindzon* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

LUXURIOUS STARTER CONDO AT YONGE & EGLINTON!
$425K. Fabulous 1 Bedroom Condo At "Republic By Tridel" With All Top End Finishes, Luxury Amenities & quick Walk To Subway. Locker / Parking Included! Daniel Mistein* 416-226-1987

TOTAL RENOVATION HAPPENING NOW! SPACIOUS 2 BR CORNER SUITE. STEPS TO FOREST HILL VILLAGE $529,000
Buy now to have input on remodelling & choose finishes! Quiet cul-de-sac. SS appliances, great room with centre dining island for four! Plank flooring. Valerie Lennox*416-488-2875

NEW LISTING! 7 TOWNSGATE
Desirable corner 2 bdrm split plan. Approx. 1546 sq.ft. Southern exposure. Ensuite laundry. 2 parking. Susan Dick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

4 BEDROOM, 5 BATH, 50X120 LOT CUL DE SAC LUXURY HOME!!
Features Huge Master Bdrm With Walkout. Sep Bsmt Apt. Mint Condition. Alarm Sys., Huge Rooms, Fireplace, Kit. Reno'd Recently! D.C. Weisswasser* 416-226-1987

1ST ADS! 310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE + 320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Just Completed! Condo Style Living W/Incredible Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br, 2+1Br! From $1,710 - $4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FABULOUS CEDARVALE RENOVATED RENTAL!
3 bdrms. 2 baths. W/O to deck & garden from dining room. Steps to all! Available Feb 1st. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

TOWER HILL WEST - $2100/MO
Luxury 1 bedroom/balcony. Demand building. Concierge. Valet. Steps to TTC & shopping. Saul & Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

1ST AD! 3028 BATHURST ST! JUST S/LAWRENCE!
$4,000/Mo! Incredible Opportunity! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2 Car Prkg! Currently Used As Restaurant! Don't Miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

ESSIE SHER
Steeles/Dufferin Semi
$699,900
Ridgevale Community on a quiet court!! 3 bdr A1 condition. Huge Combo LR/DR. Great Kit + pantry +S/S appliances, 4 washrooms. fin. bas. close to TTC shopping.
Call **Essie Sher 416-464-5261**
WITTON GROUP, ADMIRAL REALTY BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

WYNMOOR, Coconut Creek – Beautiful, amazing, remodeled 2/2 condo apt. New kitchen cabinets w/ granite countertop, high end SS appliances. Tiles throughout & wood floor in bdrms. It's a must see, won't last long. Come enjoy living in country club style, in Wynmoor, with all the amenities. As per association, one occupant must be 55+ & also 20% down is required. Call Tova 954-914-5522

Bradenton, Florida – Beautiful, amazingly remodeled house. New kitchen w/ granite countertop, SS appliances, tiles throughout & wood floor in bdrms. Close to schools, IMG ACADEMY, 10 min. from the beach. Won't last long. Call Tova 954-914-5522 for showing or Keren 941-444-5484

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Sunny Isles, Miami - 2 bed/2 bath ocean view apt. available Feb. 23. Totally upgraded & fully furnished. Rent 5k/mth. Call: 516-810-2213/raisa@kartash.com

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

Hallandale Beach, Fla. Luxury 2 bath./2 bath, convertible on the ocean,w/ocean view. 1st bldg north of Golden Beach. $12000. U.S. for the season with option to purchase. Call: 416-252-2521

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Cleaning services for homes, apts., offices, etc. Call Glenna 647-303-5372

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

A nurse from Israel assisting elderly, adults, children & infants w/regular or special needs. Liza-647-208-9947

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Good looking Jewish man interested in meeting a good looking Jewish woman. Pls. call 905-737-2352

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
COR
UMAMI SUSHI
Fresh to Order
NOW AT BISTRO
1000 Eglinton Ave W. Toronto
416-782-3302
www.bistrogrande.com

575 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

582 COUNSELLING

Experienced counsellor (personal, family, group). 416- 921-7887

595 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

604 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

605 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Regluing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

615 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the **Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000**

645 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

55 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Thornhill – Conservatory – rental avail. Feb. 1st. 2 bdrms/2 baths, hardwod floor, new appliances, kosher preferred. One below ground parking. $2100. Call: 416-455-8443

STUNNING LUXURY RENTAL
Bathurst & Glencairn. Exclusive spacious condo, approx 2,500 SF, quiet building, newly renovated 3 bdrm + den, 3 bath, hardwood/ marble floors, laundry, gourmet eat-in kitchen, 2 indoor parking spots. $6000/mo. Immed. Call 416-864-0213 for private tour.

www.cjnews.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

ANALYSIS

Israel may be vulnerable to a new kind of terror-ISIS style

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

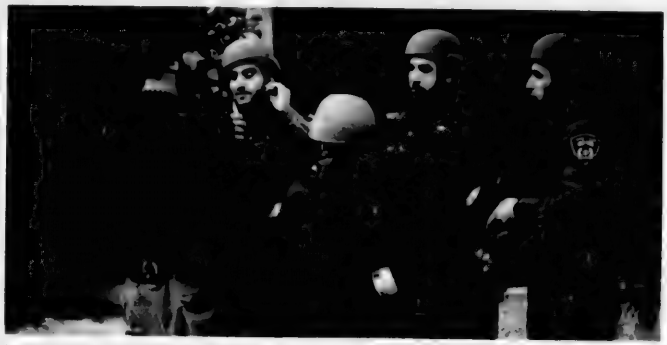
If the fatal Jan. 1 attack was indeed carried out by Nashat Milhem, a 29-year-old Israeli citizen from Arara, a village in northern Israel – as police suspect – then it is not part of the "third intifadah," or an attempt to identify with the Palestinians.

It's different in style, in method, in the attacker's flight from the scene. It wasn't a suicide attack, or the sort of self-sacrificial attacks that took place in 2001, when armed Palestinians would charge restaurants or other entertainment venues and shoot indiscriminately until they were shot dead.

No one has taken responsibility (at least thus far); nor has any organization gloried in the murder of innocents. It is not inconceivable that this latest terror attack is another "lone wolf" act – only this time, it may have been inspired by terror attacks carried out abroad under the ideological influence of ISIS (Islamic State).

The similarities to the Nov. 13 attacks that killed 130 in Paris are obvious: the perpetrator's flight, as well as his chosen target – young people sipping coffee on a bustling city street. It is clear that the terrorist intended to survive, and continues (at least thus far) to flee for his life.

Was Nashat Milhem inspired by ISIS?



Israeli security forces search for the gunman after a shooting attack at a pub in central Tel Aviv, on Jan. 1. Two people were killed in the shooting and several were injured. Police suspect a terror attack. PHOTO BY TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90

Possibly. The Shin Bet busts cells or individuals planning to launch ISIS-inspired attacks on an almost weekly basis. ISIS succeeded in inspiring more than a few Arab Israelis to go fight in Syria and Iraq. It is possible others prefer to remain in Israel and murder apostates here, rather than make the long journey to the lands of ISIS. It is possible that, ultimately, someone from the Israeli Arab community will be able to evade and penetrate Israel's imperfect intelligence coverage in order to carry out an attack of this sort.

ISIS's own leader, Abu Bakr Baghdadi, emphasized the importance of the Palestinian theatre in his last public address, even vowing to attack the Jews, so it is not unreasonable to conclude that the speech may have inspired a few bad seeds in the Arab Israeli community, or even a single bad seed who reportedly already suffered from other problems, including a drug habit.

Milhem's family claimed he suffered from severe mental illness. Yet the method of the attack testifies to cool-headed planning far beyond what might be expected from someone purportedly suffering from severe mental illness: the choice of target, the theft of the firearm from his father, the shooting, the flight, the possible killing spree that followed (with the possible killing of cab driver Amin Shaaban about an hour after the attack), and his survival until now.

To be sure, the motive for the attack may have been more complex than straightforward ideological inspiration. The intersection of mental illness, religious radicalization and a troubled past (including a prison term for attempting to steal a soldier's firearm, a cousin killed by cops, drug use) may have created an especially dangerous mix. But the totality of his actions cannot be explained simply as mental illness or a psychotic break.

It is possible that Milhem's case exposes the extent to which the State of Israel may be vulnerable to a new kind of homebrew terror of the ISIS model. This is no longer just Europe's problem, or the Arab world's. Just as the jihadist group succeeded in "inspiring" Muslims in Paris, Germany and Belgium, it is certainly possible that it is succeeding in instilling hatred and inspiring violence among Muslims in Israel, and pushing these "lone wolves" to take up arms and murder Israelis – Jews and Muslims alike. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Three more people arrested for incitement at wedding

JTA
JERUSALEM

Three more people have been arrested in connection with a wedding where Jewish revellers were captured on video celebrating the deaths of members of a Palestinian family in a firebombing.

The three people, including one minor, reportedly were arrested by Israel police on Jan. 4, three weeks after the wedding video was broadcast on Israel's Channel 10. The minor reportedly was seen in the video dancing with a pistol. The three reportedly are being investigated for incitement and illegally handling firearms.

Five other suspects, including the groom Yakir Ashbal, were arrested last week and released.

Ashbal told Israel's Channel 10 last week after the release of the video that he did not see the activity captured on camera at his Jerusalem wedding, which had 600 guests.

The video shows friends of the suspected assailants in the July attack on a home in the Palestinian village of Duma that killed three members of the Dawabshe family – a toddler and his parents – stabbing a photo of the family and waving knives, rifles, pistols and Molotov cocktails. The revellers also chant the words to a song that includes a verse from Judges 16:28, in which Samson says, "Let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." The crowd substitutes "Palestinians" for Philistines.

Those shown in the video celebrating the deaths have been condemned from across Israel's political and religious spectrum.

An investigation was launched into the incident, even before the broadcast of the video on Dec. 23, by the Nationalistically Motivated Crimes Unit of the West Bank police. ■

Female Canadian rabbi hired by U.S. Orthodox synagogue

JTA
NEW YORK

The first graduate of Yeshivat Maharat to take the title "rabbi," a Canadian, said she has been hired by an unnamed American Orthodox synagogue.

Rabbi Lila Kagedan, who was ordained this summer by the seminary created by open Orthodox Rabbi Avi Weiss to train Orthodox female clergy, told the London-based *Jewish Chronicle* this week that she was recruited to join the staff of a congregation she declined to name.

Graduates of the New York seminary have so far eschewed taking the title rabbi, though the school is explicit that its mission is to train female Orthodox "clergy." Most have taken on the title maharat, an acronym that translates roughly to female spiritual leader.

Rabbi Lila Kagedan

Kagedan reportedly is the first graduate to call herself a rabbi.

In the interview with the *Jewish Chronicle*, Kagedan, who grew up in Ottawa, acknowledged that "change is difficult and frightening. We are very much used to a certain aesthetic when we say 'rabbi.'"

This fall, the Rabbinical Council of America, the main modern Orthodox rabbinical group, formally adopted a policy prohibiting the ordination or hiring of women rabbis. ■

Hillel Neuer: Jewish eyes on the United Nations

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Montreal-born Hillel Neuer walks softly, but carries a big microphone. Words are his currency, and as executive director of Geneva-based UN Watch, he brings them to bear against the dictatorships who wrap themselves in the protective cloaks of the United Nation's Human Rights Council. In 2013, he called those delegates, to their face, "the despots who run this council." Possessing four degrees, including one in comparative constitutional law from Hebrew University, he is a strong advocate for fair and equal treatment for the State of Israel.

Hillel Neuer

Has the number of UN resolutions critical of Israel changed over the years?

The General Assembly and Human Rights Council are mostly on autopilot, as are other UN agencies like UNESCO, when it comes to many votes, and particularly anti-Israel resolutions. Typically it's the same resolutions every year. They are sponsored by the Arab and Islamic states, with the Palestinians playing a key role. And they typically try to ratchet up the language to make it more inflammatory. November marked 40 years since the adoption of the infamous "Zionism is racism" resolution, which thankfully was repealed in 1991. But that really ushered in the era of the automatic condemnations of Israel. And we've been steady in recent years at 20 resolutions in New York and about five at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

How did Canada's voting record under former prime minister Stephen Harper compare to those of the Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin governments?

The Martin government improved the balance from the Chrétien government. Canada had a more balanced record, opposing the most egregious, one-sided and inflammatory resolutions, where previously they might have abstained. They moved on a couple of things to a "No."

And then when Harper came in, we trended in a positive direction, even more so, most famously in Geneva at the Human Rights Council when Canada was a member from 2006 to 2009. Canada was the only country in the world that was voting "no" on a number of votes. That was something that stood out.

What do you expect from the Trudeau government?

Clearly this is a government that has a different approach to the United Nations. The Harper government was skeptical of the UN, and the Trudeau government has a more positive attitude. That's fine, provided that the Trudeau government will speak truth to power and stand up on principle.

We believe in the mission of the UN, but when the UN falls short of that mission, when the UN Human Rights Council chooses Saudi Arabia to chair a panel that selects human rights experts on issues like women's rights and judicial independence, that's a mockery of what the UN is meant to be and a mockery of Canadian values of a free and democratic society.

I hope and trust the Trudeau government will strengthen the UN by opposing those who seek to hijack that body and distort its founding mission and values.

Has the UN responded to the crises in Syria, Iraq and Crimea with the same level of resolutions directed at Israel?

Absolutely not. The case of Israel remains unique, and it continues to draw focus that is disproportionate to an extreme degree from what happens on the ground.

Syria was ignored for decades when President Bashar Assad's father, Hafez Assad, was murdering tens of thousands in Hama in the 1980s. Syria was re-elected repeatedly to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations. Libya was made the chair of the HRC in 2003. Arab dictatorships were given a free pass. They were rewarded.

In 2011, Syria alienated the Sunni world, and you had an Alawite regime, which is part of the Shiite world, backed by Iran and Hezbollah, at war with the Sunnis. The Sunni regimes at the UN – Egypt, the Saudis, Jordan, the other Gulf countries – turned against Syria. That enabled the UN to criticize Syria on a number of occasions. But compared to how they criticize Israel and to what is happening on the ground, it's marginal. There is one resolution at the General Assembly on Syria. There's 20 on Israel. So that says it all.

The Palestinian flag was first raised at the UN around the same time PA President Mahmoud Abbas told the General Assembly the Palestinians were no longer bound by Oslo. What's the significance of those two events?

Well, you had that statement by Abbas showing contempt for signed international deals. But beyond that, in the past weeks, PA media are openly inciting to kill Jews, and the Palestinian media is glorifying the killers of Jews as martyrs and saying they are carrying out a sacred Islamic duty.

The response of the UN, besides a few passing, fleeting criticisms that were outweighed by far stronger condemnations of Israel, was to elevate and reward Abbas by raising the flag at the United Nations. It is outrageous that the UN, instead of holding the Palestinians to account, are treating them like children, not treating them as agents who can be held responsible for their actions. This only guarantees we'll have further bad acts by the PA government.

UN Watch revealed recently that 22 UNRWA teachers were inciting anti-Semitism. At first UNRWA denied it and later said there was some legitimacy to what you said, and disciplined those teachers. Is that response satisfactory?

We're gratified there was some acknowledgment by UNRWA of the basic facts. Anybody who goes on the Internet sees individuals who openly identify as UNRWA teachers posting photos of themselves in the classroom, and at the same time posting things in those same accounts showing pictures of Israelis being stabbed and encouraging murderous attacks against Jews. Saying for example, "stab Zionist dogs."

It's not a question of slapping them on the wrist. The best we have from UNRWA is acknowledging that some teachers had been suspended. What does that mean? Suspended for a day, a week, two weeks?

The response of UNRWA is unsatisfactory, to say the least. It's far worse than that. UNRWA's spokesman, Chris Gunness, has attacked UN Watch. He published a number of tweets urging journalists to ignore us, that we have no credibility. It's insufficient, and generally their attitude is one of contempt toward those of us trying to hold them accountable, and it's unacceptable. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity. A longer version can be read at cjnews.com.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?
Our Best Wishes for the New Year: Good Health, Peace and Prosperity!
Is it time to review your Financial and Estate Planning needs?
Will your family still have enough when they need it most?
Are your favourite charities provided for when you are no longer here?
There are many new and *Creative Ideas in Financial Planning* which can enhance the funds available for your loved ones and for the worthy causes depending on you after you are gone.
We have been providing Peace of Mind through Financial Planning for over 49 years.
For a complete and complimentary review of your estate and financial plans, call us.
For a free consultation with no obligation, call (416) 221-0060
MUTUAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY GOLDSTEIN FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INC
Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaldin
Executive Vice President

Jews have faced BDS movement before

Backstory

EROL ARAF

"Judea Declares War on Germany" was the banner headline splashed across the front page of the *British Daily Express* on Friday, March 24, 1933. This is how the paper characterized the response of sensible Jews who decided to act against the Nazi movement singling out Jews for economic annihilation.

But other Jews took a different track: The Central Jewish Association of Germany rejected the notion that the Reich government was deliberately provoking anti-Jewish sentiments and even issued a statement of support on the grounds that the Hitler regime was "unaware" of the threatening situation emerging in Germany. The Board of Deputies of British Jews also opposed any attempt to boycott German goods on the basis that such policies were, quaintly stated, "unhelpful."

The idea behind the reticence of certain Jewish quarters over confronting Nazism also constituted the main platform of governments' minimalist approach to dealing with the gathering storms in Europe.

While Judea's war on German goods fizzled out in Europe, the Nazi anti-Jewish movement forged ahead: the SA (Nazi storm troopers) paraded in front of Jewish-owned stores lambasting shoppers; the yellow and black Star of David was painted on the windows, walls and doors of Jewish establishments and institutions; placards were placed and leaflets distributed urging shoppers not to "buy from Jews," as they were Germany's "misfortune," "occupying" the professions, "controlling the media and capital" and "enslaving" the German working class.

The Hitler regime also forced both private and public financial institutions to disinvest from Jewish-owned enterprises, withdrew research grants from Jewish university professors, prohibited scientists and academics from attending conferences, annulled their licences to practice their vocations and eventually removed them from German society, first professionally and later physically. In short, the Third Reich gave us the prototype of the current boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Josef Goebbels made no secret of what was behind the Nazi BDS movement. It was nothing less than the economic dismemberment of German Jewry as prelude to "cleansing" the new Reich from the venomous Juden.

Given this history of boycott, divestment and sanctions directed at Jews in fascist or fascist-occupied Europe, one would think that singling out Israeli products made in contested territories for special labelling would resonate as an odious reminder of BDS's past. What makes the lamentable recent decision of the European Parliament and Commission to specially label products made in disputed lands particularly racist and discriminatory is the fact that Brussels does not impose similar restrictions on products from other occupied and disputed territories.

There are 189 territorial disputes worldwide where the occupation-liberation conundrum plays out with devastating consequences, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, rape, slavery and torture. From the smallest inhabited territorial dispute, the autonomous city of Ceuta between Spain and Morocco, to the largest, Tibet's occupation by China, we have many global jurisdictional disputes that have not been resolved.

Certain geographic conflicts have the potential for going nuclear, as in the case of Kashmir, where Pakistan and India face each other in an uneasy stalemate. On the genteel side of territorial disagreements, we have the dispute over Hans Island, an uninhabited barren knoll between Denmark and Canada, which remains unresolved today. Betwixt these two, the global breakdown of territorial disputes is as follows: in Africa there are 47; in Asia and Pacific, 58; in Europe, 23; in North America, 9; in South America and the Caribbean, 22; and 30 between UN-recognized member states and non-state actors.

The only territorial conflict among these 189 where ceding of territory, resulting in the restoration of the *status quo ante*, might pose a serious threat to the very existence of the relinquishing party is the case of Israel and the West Bank. That the distance from Qualqilla to the Mediterranean Sea is nine miles says everything that can be said as to why the UN Security Council did not consider the Armistice Lines of 1949 "defensible and recognized."

And that leaves one to wonder whether the day when Europe will place small yellow stars on Israeli avocados produced in Rosh Hanikra is not so far away. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Rachel Rubinoff	Dec 11/15	4 Lowther Ave.
Nina Budman	Dec 12/15	#1501-561 Ave. Rd
Beatrice Glass	Dec 14/15	120 Promenade Cir.
Anita Davidson	Dec 13/15	3560 Bathurst St.
Irene Sorffer	Dec 12/15	278 Bloor Street E.
Marlene Bernard	Dec 14/15	7825 Bayview Ave.
Dr. Herbert Basian	Dec 14/15	155 St. Clair Ave. W.
Vladimir Steiman	Dec 4/15	60 Yarden Dr.
Adele Handelman	Dec 14/15	3181 Bayview Ave.
Selma Florence Hanson	Dec 15/15	660 Wodburn Ave.
Joedi Abrahams	Dec 15/15	23 Sheppard Ave. W.
Leslie Maibaum	Dec 18/15	131 Torresdale Ave.
Susan Abrahams	Dec 17/15	225 Davenprot Rd.
Don Rafelman	Dec 18/15	111 Avenue Rd.
Berel Blum	Dec 20/15	88 Promenade Circle
Leo Weksler	Dec 20/15	55 Prince Arthur Ave
Helen Bass	Dec 20/15	77 Dunfield Ave
Jay Marin	Dec 22/15	2121 Bathurst St.
Rosalie Levine	Dec 21/15	1010-10 Shallmar Blvd.
Dr. Henry Gallay	Dec 20/15	35 Tullamore Drive
Susanna Bartfai	Dec 18/15	546 Steeles Ave.W.
Florence Wilder	Dec 23/15	54 Tefley Road
Lori Tanzer	Dec 21/15	255 Dunvegan Road
Murray Sherr	Dec 22/15	484 Steeles Ave. W.
Howard Hacker	Dec 24/15	413 Glengrove Ave.
Andrea Gabor	Dec 24/15	10 Glen Edyth Drive
Michael Goldstein	Dec 24/15	274 Forest Hill Road
Myron Elliot Katz	Dec 24/15	318-49 Lebovic Campus Dr.
Queenie Leibel	Dec 25/15	500 Avenue Road
Charlotte World	Dec 25/15	154 Linsmore Crescent
Bechel Winter	Dec 20/15	81 Townsgate Drive

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Daniels, Eve	Nov. 27, 2015	5935 Bathurst St
Barsky, Gaby	Dec. 2, 2015	51 Burbank Dr
Nulman, Levy	Dec. 4, 2015	345 Driftwood Ave
Buchin, Bernard	Dec. 4, 2015	2075 Bayview Ave
Chervinsky, Fraina	Dec. 5, 2015	Private
Klait, Philip	Dec. 6, 2015	118 Overbrook Place
Malc, Michael	Dec. 6, 2015	343 Clark Ave W
Danishevsky, Artur	Dec. 6, 2015	222 Baker Ave
Heller, Joseph	Dec. 7, 2015	373 Spadina Ave
Rosensweig, Gertrude	Dec. 8, 2015	100 Canyon Ave
Mandel, Muriel	Dec. 8, 2015	3705 Bathurst St
Banack, Sylvia	Dec. 8, 2015	55 Ameer Ave
Smith, Sonia Pearl	Dec. 8, 2015	Private
Lebov, Yunona	Dec. 8, 2015	Private
Burger, Joe	Dec. 9, 2015	1500 Steeles Ave W
Miller, Larry	Dec. 9, 2015	640 Sheppard Ave E
Zeitser, Frida	Dec. 9, 2015	625 Finch Ave W
Sobol, Reva	Dec. 11, 2015	3560 Bathurst St
Shron, Phillip	Dec. 14, 2015	350 Brenyon Way
Makalski, Lev	Dec. 14, 2015	Private
Bass, Joseph Richard	Dec. 15, 2015	89 Skymark Dr
Futoryansky, Yakiv	Dec. 16, 2015	Private
Abehsera, Albert	Dec. 17, 2015	850 Steeles Ave

HEBREW BASIC Mickey Rosin Dec 13/15 7 Tarlton Road

Louis Whitehouse (born October 5, 1924 in Rozsály, Hungary; died December 22, 2015 in Toronto, Canada). He is survived by his best friend and companion, Susan Stevens; his daughter, Dot Whitehouse; his sister, Magda Berger (the late Harvey Berger); his many nieces and nephews and their families; and the newest light of his life, Sawyer Stevens. Louis was predeceased by his brother, Eugene Whitehouse (Agi Whitehouse), and his sister, Edith Weiss (the late Ernie Weiss). Louis was a Holocaust survivor who never failed to express his gratitude for the life he was able to create after coming to Canada. His chosen career in real estate and land development afforded him the opportunity to use his capacity for future-thinking, dreaming, and connecting people to help others realize their own visions and successes, as farms became communities and older areas were renewed. A devout man, he found both a spiritual and intellectual home at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto where he engaged with a welcoming community in the study and practice of his faith, as well as his passion for ancient history. A modest and humble man, Louis was known for quietly helping others without seeking attention for himself. To the end, he was surprised at how many people genuinely cared about him, at how many lives he had touched. Our family would like to thank the staff of both the Assess and Restore program and the Palliative Care Unit of Bridgepoint Health for their tender care. Memorial donations in Louis' honour may be made to the Beth Tzedec Synagogue (Toronto) Adult Education Program. Shiva private.

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE please call or email at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.
416-922-3605
or email
ssokolsky@thecjnsales.com

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL IS THE KEY TO THE JEWISH FUTURE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO TALK WITH **YOUR** KIDS ABOUT **THEIR** KIDS' EDUCATION.

LEO BAECK STARTS THAT CONVERSATION WITH TWO REMARKABLE TODDLER PROGRAMS (PLUS ADULT):

LIL' BAECKERS

Exploring their world through play, story time, crafts, music and movement.
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, OR BOTH:
9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
at Leo Baeck - North Campus

SHABBATOT TOGETHER

Instilling the spirit of Shabbat through music, movement, crafts and ritual.
SELECTED FRIDAY MORNINGS:
10:45 a.m. at Leo Baeck - North Campus;
9:00 a.m. at Leo Baeck - South Campus

LB
Canada's only Jewish International Baccalaureate World School

leo baeck

Library

UJA Federation

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT
CAYLA SOLOMON 905.709.3636 ext 247 csolomon@leobaeck.ca leobaeck.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

JANUARY 14, 2016 • 4 SHVAT, 5776

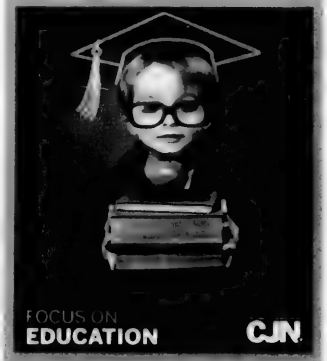
$2.00 • 56 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Canadians weigh in on Israel's 'NGO bill'

Does financial disclosure law unfairly target government opponents? **PAGE 12**



Explore the options available for students

SPECIAL SECTION

Do

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	4:41 p.m.	5:49 p.m.
Montreal	4:18 p.m.	5:27 p.m.
Ottawa	4:27 p.m.	5:36 p.m.
Toronto	4:47 p.m.	5:54 p.m.
Winnipeg	4:37 p.m.	5:51 p.m.
Calgary	4:40 p.m.	5:56 p.m.
Vancouver	4:23 p.m.	[illegible]

What's next for Jewish Tories?

The Conservatives worked hard to court the community. Can they hold on to that support? **PAGE 8**

Remembering Adam Fuerstenberg

OBITUARY: Canadian Jewish Book Awards founder was a pioneering scholar. **PAGE 26**

The Canadian in the Knesset

Sharren Haskel wants to eliminate red tape and protect the environment. **Q&A PAGE 46**

A brief history of artistic legacy

Howard Podeswa deconstructs famous works and then recreates them. **PAGE 31**

6 27843 39403 7

GASLIGHT
BEGINS JAN 17
irvish.com

Writer's book inspired Spielberg, and video responds to high school book ban

Journalist George Jonas dead at 80

Hungarian-born conservative Jewish author and columnist George Jonas died Jan. 10 at age 80 after an extended illness. Jonas came to Canada in 1956 after the Hungarian Uprising and was a producer for more than three decades at the CBC, where he was best known for working with lawyer Eddie Greenspan on the TV crime series *Scales of Justice*. Jonas' 18 books included *Vengeance*, about the Israeli hit team that assassinated the planners of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, which Steven Spielberg adapted for his 2005 film *Munich*. Jonas, who in recent years was a *National Post* columnist, was married three times, including from 1974 to 1979 to journalist Barbara Amiel. He was named to the Order of Canada 2014.

When a kiss isn't just a kiss

In response to a controversial decision by Israel's Education Ministry to exclude a book about a Jewish-Palestinian romance from the high school reading list, an Israeli magazine posted a video of Israelis and Palestinians kissing, echoing a provocative 2014 viral video of strangers kissing. *Time Out Tel Aviv*'s video features six couples who'd never kissed before. Some were friends, some had never met. The novel, *Borderlife* by Israeli Dorit Rabinyan, was left off the literature curriculum last month despite an advisory panel's recommendation. The story made headlines worldwide, and the book has since become a best-seller in Israel. The video was also removed from Facebook, presumably due to user complaints, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Apparently, this is controversial.

Journalist stabbed in vest test

An Israeli TV reporter was wounded Jan. 6 while testing a vest that its maker said would protect IDF soldiers from knife attacks. Manufacturer FMS Enterprises Migun asked Channel 1's Eitam Lachover to test the vest, which is made of semi-hard plastic and is supposed to protect the neck and soldier blades, areas not covered by soldiers' bulletproof vests. Lachover received stitches after a knife penetrated the vest. The news item aired that evening, and the company's shares plummeted after the incident, though the vest proved its worth in a similar test on Israel's Channel 10. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 31	Parshah 43
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 40	Q&A 46
Cover Story 8	International 27	Social Scene 42	Backstory 47

Gematria

1.72 Million

The number of visitors to the Auschwitz memorial museum in 2015, breaking the 2014 record. Amsterdam's Anne Frank House also broke its visitor record last year.

3,400 years

The age of a fortress found in Nahariya, Israel archeologists said last week.

Quotable

We are so used to Jews being killed because they are Jewish... On that day, the executioner showed us that he had decided we were all Jewish.

— *Charlie Hebdo* editor Gerard Biard on the anniversary of the attack on the French paper.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz gets nostalgic about chicken soup, a.k.a. "Jewish penicillin."

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Saving Danish Jews

I very much enjoy reading *The Canadian Jewish News*, as there are so many interesting and informative articles.

I need to point out to you, however, that an error crept into a book review of *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* ("Books serve as enlightening gifts for Festival of Lights," Dec. 3). The reviewer stated that "ultimately tiny Denmark helped save 700,000 Jews from being delivered to German death camps." The number of Danish Jews saved by their Danish rescuers is actually slightly over 7,000.

Elly Bollegraaf
Ottawa

Vetting Syrian refugees

Bert Raphael writes of his concerns about Syrians arriving in Canada bringing with them their anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiments, which are taught in the Syrian Muslim school system ("Welcoming Syrian refugees," Dec. 24).

I, too, am worried! I worry about how intensive the precautions are that our government is taking to investigate the backgrounds of these asylum seekers, their real names at birth, the past involvement in any of the myriad branches of the secret police, the army intelligence services, and the facilities available to obtain false passports in the areas in which they are temporarily housed.

In the 28 years of my involvement in the "secret rescue" of the Jewish community from Syria, I, as chairman of the national committee for Jews in Arab lands of the former Canadian Jewish Congress, was refused by the then-Liberal governments, to bring in even one Jew from Syria into Canada.

Obviously, the present Liberal government's attitude has changed considerably and will hopefully allow the suffering and beleaguered members of the Yazidi and the Syrian Christian communities entrance and citizenship in this country.

Judy Feld Carr
Toronto

The message from campus

As a member of the board of directors of StandWithUs Canada, the Canadian affiliate of the international Israel education and advocacy organization, we have some facts to include in the discussion about "How bad is it on campus? Depends on who you ask," (Dec. 17).

Unfortunately, the vicious boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, presented at times as a mere fringe group in the article, actually has far-reaching and very concerning results.

When Israeli academics and professionals are being disinvited to international conferences, and worse, when fallacies about Israel are being spread around campuses without anybody countering them with facts, generations of students (Jewish and non-Jewish) are becoming dangerously misinformed.

And although as stated, many Jewish students are not impacted by the tension that surrounds a motion by their student union to condemn Israel, as a community, we have a responsibility to ensure that not one Jewish student is feeling harassed on campus because of his or her religion. Too often, Jewish students are now the target of anti-Israel bullying and intimidation, and in some cases, grade reprisals.

How much more difficult will our lives as Canadian Jews be in a few years if even a fraction of our future policy-makers graduate with misinformed, negative views of Israel?

The "fringe group of people" mentioned at McMaster University are the BDS proponents of the student union who humiliated pro-Israel students when they overwhelmingly passed a BDS motion against Israel. The fact is, 12 BDS motions had been passed by student unions by 2014.

Since StandWithUs Canada launched three years ago, five motions have been defeated. We believe that providing student leaders with the intensive training and professional strategies to stand up confidently and effectively in support of Israel makes a difference.

Nancy Croitoru
Toronto

Question of the week

How should the Jewish community deal with extremists in our midst?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

WINTER IS ON THE WAY, DON'T DELAY

Reserve Your Suite At Four Elms today!

FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve

STUNNING ONE BEDROOM SUITES
Limited Supply, Reserve Yours Today!

BINGO BONANZA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20TH FROM 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Have Fun for Charity! It's B-I-N-G-O Bonanza at Four Elms! Fabulous prize giveaways for all! Admission is $5.00 and all proceeds go to the DANI Charitable Organization. Please RSVP

905-738-0905 | 1500 STEELES AVE. WEST, THORNHILL ON | www.verseniorliving.com

RABBI·2·RABBI

Crossing denominational lines

Jews are part of one people above and beyond our differences, and we become a greater whole when we stop seeing our brothers and sisters as 'the other'

RABBI N. DANIEL KOROBKIN
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI LISA GRUSHCOW
TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Grushcow: I'm leaving soon for the annual Wexner Alumni Conference, which gathers rabbis, cantors, educators, and Jewish community professionals from across North America and beyond.

One of the aspects of the fellowship that I value most is that it brings together Jews of all different denominations (and none). It's an opportunity for collegiality in the deepest sense and a chance to ask the big questions of Jewish life across the lines that often divide us.

Here in Montreal, I am grateful for my colleagues across denominations as well, and our ability to come together on the Montreal Board of Rabbis. What's your experience of cross-denominational relationships in Toronto?

Rabbi Korobkin: I'm also grateful for the opportunity to liaise with colleagues from the different movements. I find that while we may often disagree on how to approach religious issues, there is so much that we can work on together for the sake of the larger Jewish community.

Here in Toronto, there is a rich history of Orthodox rabbis having real and meaningful friendships with their non-Orthodox counterparts. In more recent years, however, this open corridor seems to have been sealed. Some in my community have even been critical of me for having this ongoing written dialogue with you, in their perception that by doing so, I'm "elevating" you and granting you "legitimacy."

Clearly, I disagree with their perceptions. Your legitimacy cannot be granted or rescinded by any person.

Rabbi Grushcow: It saddens me to hear of these attacks, and I'm glad you continue our dialogue regardless.

From the other end of the spectrum, I sometimes find that in Reform communities there can be over-generalizations about Orthodoxy. Most of all, I've encountered the assumption that all Orthodox Jews think all Reform Jews are bad Jews, or not even Jewish.

I try to teach that we are part of one people above and beyond our differences, and that it is better to encounter than assume. I wonder what, beyond our dialogue, we can do to encourage these connections.

Rabbi Korobkin: Misperceptions abound. It's not just Orthodox versus Reform. It's Sephardi versus Ashkenazi, modern Orthodox versus haredi, Hungarian Jew versus Polish Jew, politically liberal versus conservative, etc. When we stop seeing our brother or sister as "the other," we are all enriched and become a greater whole.

Is there more we can do? Of course. One project some BAYT members do in December is to feed the homeless in collaboration with Temple Har Zion, a Reform congregation. But we can, and should, be doing more. The more points of access we can create between our various communities, the stronger we will all be.

Rabbi Grushcow: Co-operation on social justice issues is a good starting point. I would also love to see ways for us to visit each other's synagogues, learn from each other's rabbis, study Torah together, and even share Shabbat, without falling back on the belief that there is only one right way. It's not easy, but neither is it impossible.

I'll be honest: growing up as a Conservative Jew in Toronto, we called Holy Blossom "the church on the hill." Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, where I now have the privilege of serving as rabbi, was sometimes called "the church on Sherbrooke Street" by other Montreal Jews. From the other side, "black hats" can be a term used in a derogatory way, which distances us from each other.

One more easy step could be following the mitzvah of *shmirat halashon*, speaking of one another with respect and care.

Rabbi Korobkin: How right you are! It's often been said that we paint the median line of the religion road exactly where we find ourselves – everyone to my left is inauthentic, everyone to my right is a fanatic.

I don't agree with your way in Judaism. But you are my sister, and that's what really counts. Changing the way we speak about our fellow Jew sounds so simple. Yet the temptation to disparage the other is a weakness to which so many of us succumb, even among the most observant.

I find that the people who speak the least amount of lashon hara are also the most secure in their own identity, religious or otherwise. Perhaps we, together with our readership, can be part of that small revolution for change. ■

Every winter, we like to go down south. Who needs the cold at our age? Last year, we signed up for the Benjamin's Funeral Service Listings email. It gives us peace of mind to know that if someone in our community dies, we won't miss the chance to send our condolences. Benjamin's updates us every day – a free service that helps us stay in touch.

"They thought of everything."

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel
Through the generations ...a sacred trust

Sign up at
www.benjamins.ca
We're here to help.

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 2 (2,228)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

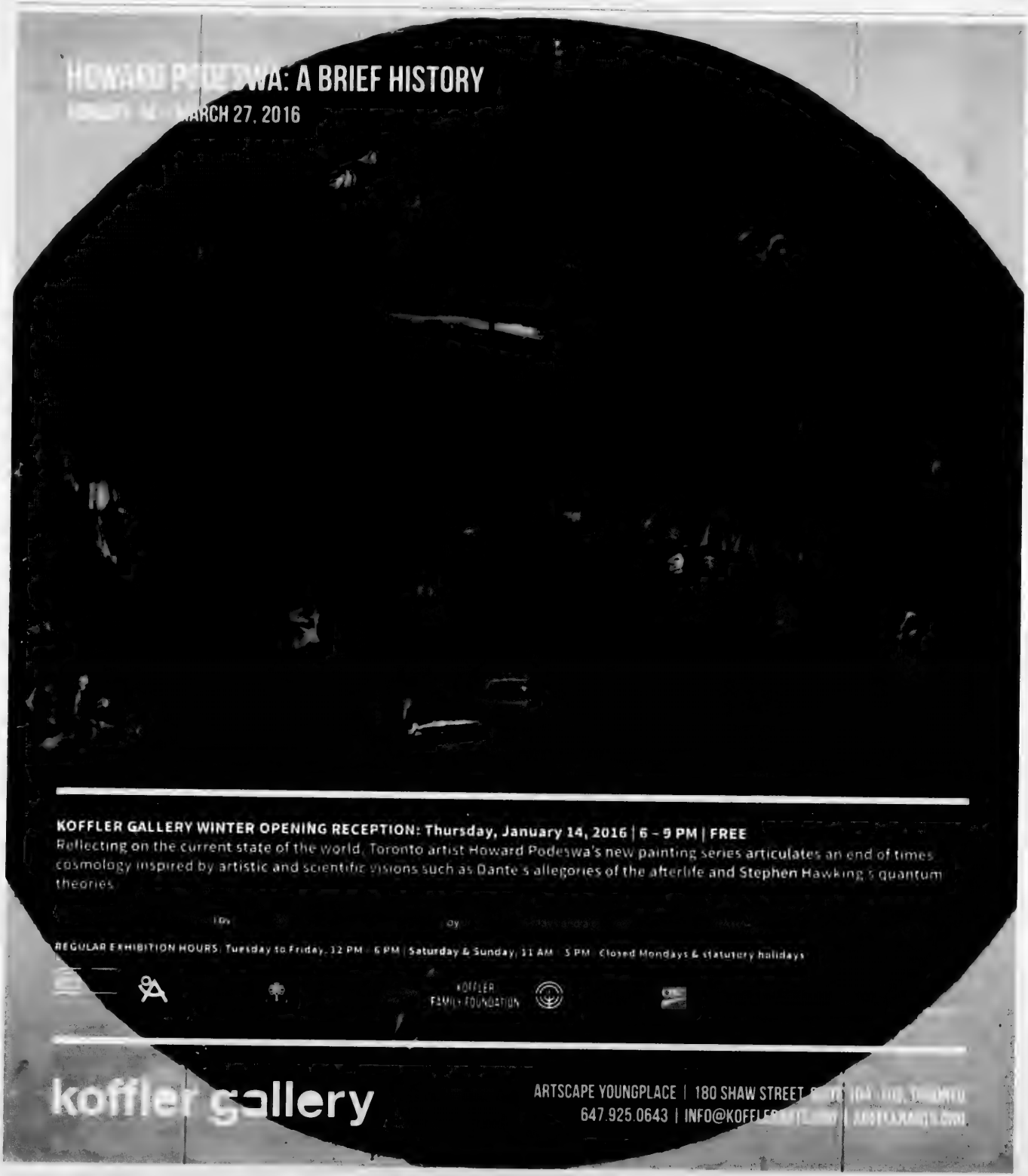
Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.


HOWARD PODESWA: A BRIEF HISTORY
MARCH 27, 2016
KOFFLER GALLERY WINTER OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, January 14, 2016 | 6 – 9 PM | FREE
Reflecting on the current state of the world, Toronto artist Howard Podeswa's new painting series articulates an end of times cosmology inspired by artistic and scientific visions such as Dante's allegories of the afterlife and Stephen Hawking's quantum theories.
REGULAR EXHIBITION HOURS: Tuesday to Friday, 12 PM – 6 PM | Saturday & Sunday, 11 AM – 5 PM. Closed Mondays & statutory holidays
KOFFLER FAMILY FOUNDATION
koffler gallery
ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE | 180 SHAW STREET
647.925.0643 | INFO@KOFFLER

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Editor Yoni Goldstein **General Manager** Tara Fainstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Hadassah gathering

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Members of Toronto's Hadassah-WIZO Ilana Chapter, circa 1950s.

SeeJN | Did you forget something?

NATI SHOHAT/FLASH90 PHOTO

Israelis participate in the No Pants Subway Ride event, on Jan. 11, an annual tradition that started in New York in 2002, and is now a global event. Dozens of people boarded the Jerusalem Light Train wearing no trousers. The pantless ride was according to the organizers, a bit of fun in a city that "really needs it."

From Yoni's Desk

There's a limit to everything

By Nehemia Gershuni-Aylho's count, there were more than 100 incidents of terror and violence directed against Israel's Jewish citizens and the country's security forces in the first five days of 2016 alone.

A data analyst gaining recognition for his statistical studies of Israel's politics and security environment, Gershuni-Aylho is meticulous in his analyses – he graphed, for example, an analysis of 3,672 individual terror attacks in 2015 with such detail that viewers can see what sort of attacks were most prevalent (stone throwings, by a wide margin), the age of the attackers (most were in the 18-21 range) and even which days of the week were more likely to see terror incidents (Friday, followed by Sunday).

Gershuni-Aylho's work paints a numerical portrait of a country battling terrorism, unable, as yet, to quell the violence. But while Israelis are understandably on edge, and even as security across the country is necessarily being tightened to stop these attacks, some are nonetheless reacting in concerning ways, as two recent examples suggest.

On Jan. 6 in Athens, an Aegean Airlines flight to Tel Aviv was delayed after Jewish Israeli passengers alleged that two Arabs aboard the plane were terrorists. When security personnel re-checked their documents, they found no cause for concern, but even so, as many as 60 or 70 passengers reportedly refused to take their seats. Eventually, the Arab men agreed to leave the plane. One of the Jewish passengers said the Arabs appeared "scary." "We're entitled to express our concerns," he added.

Two days earlier, Israel's Channel 10 aired footage of a Jewish resident of Afula threatening "consequences" if Arabs moved to the northern city. When asked whether Arabs should fear for their lives, he answered "Yes." "We don't have any problem with the Arabs," a woman added. "But everyone should just watch over their own territory, and everyone will have a good life." The man, addressing an Arab interviewee, put it differently. "I don't want you here," he said.

These incidents are not the norm in Israel, where in spite of everything, people rarely descend into blatant xenophobia. And on those few occasions when they do, you can always count on Jewish voices to be among the first to denounce those sorts of reactions as antithetical to Judaism and unrepresentative of Israelis and Jews around the world. Still, these events are a stark reminder that in order to be a light unto the nations, we must be a light unto ourselves.

Ruti Tehrani, a 54-year-old bus driver in Tel Aviv, clearly understands that. Last week, she was driving the Tel Aviv-to-Petach Tikvah route when Jewish passengers demanded an Arab man on the bus be removed. Tehrani investigated the situation and discovered that the man was ill, not, as some passengers claimed, acting suspiciously. She refused to move him and told the complainants that they could exit the bus if they were still concerned. According to reports, more than a few did.

"Here… everyone's equal – Jews and Arabs," Tehrani later told Israel's Channel 2. "My upbringing was to respect everyone and not discriminate against anyone."

"I'm aware of the current security situation, but there's a limit to everything." ■ — YONI

ESSAY

In Israel, Jewish parliamentarians learn from each other

Anthony Housefather

In late December, I attended my first international conference as a member of Parliament. The International Conference of Jewish Parliamentarians, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress, met in Jerusalem over a three-day period.

Irwin Cotler and I represented Canada, and we were joined by members of the U.S. Congress, members of the Knesset and parliamentarians from countries such as France, Belgium, Chile, Brazil, Ukraine, Romania and Hungary. As a group, we were able to meet with representatives from across the spectrum of Israeli politics, including those from different parties within the governing coalition and those in the opposition. We also met with members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's team and the leaders in the Foreign Ministry.

Engaging with both governing and opposition politicians and senior civil servants allowed us to look past partisanship and foster an open dialogue that allowed for substantive discussion on such issues as the peace process, Islamic State (ISIS), Iran, the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement and labelling requirements, and the relationship between Jewish communities in Israel and the Diaspora. We also had the chance to meet with some Israeli entrepreneurs and appreciate the genius of a tiny country that had more venture capital investment than any of its European neighbours in the last year.

During the course of the meetings, we had the opportunity as Jewish parliamentarians to discuss and learn from one another as to how we individually and our political parties and countries were handling such issues as BDS and the Iranian nuclear agreement from both a legislative and an advocacy framework.

Jewish parliamentarians and ambassadors to Israel gathered at the Knesset on Dec. 20. SHAHAR AZRAN PHOTO

A particularly noteworthy portion of the discussions related to the strong belief amongst Israelis that there is a true opportunity to improve relationships between Israel and several Arab and Muslim states. While there was very little enthusiasm for discussion with the Palestinian Authority, and almost no feeling that such discussions would lead to a lasting peace, the twin threats of ISIS and Iran have given Israel and many Arab and Muslim states a common enemy.

As such, the prospects for improved relations with Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, and the creation of relationships with the Gulf States are opportunities that cannot be missed. These improved ties within the region could ease security concerns and foster greater security interdependence while strengthening the front against regional threats such as ISIS and Iran. Canada can and should be at the forefront of facilitating this dialogue.

Another thought-provoking thread of discussion revolved around the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jews. I came away from the meeting noting that Israel has now revised its view of the Diaspora. At one time, Diaspora Jews were seen almost purely as a source of money and immigrants for Israel. But the Israelis we met took great pains to tell us this attitude has now shifted to the recognition of the importance of a strong Jewish Diaspora. There is an understanding amongst many Israelis that Israel, which is so conscious of national security, needs the message of pluralism and social conscience that comes from Jews in the Diaspora. Both of these are quintessential parts of the Jewish experience in countries like Canada.

But we in the Diaspora also need to be reminded of Israelis' fears about national security. Given what Israelis live through on a daily basis and their knowledge of the military and counter-terrorism, the constant suspicion of threat is understandable. As the West faces new dangers from organizations such as ISIS, there are lessons we can also learn from the Israelis who manage to live normally in one of the most dangerous regions of the world.

As a Canadian Jew, I was keen to learn from other Jewish parliamentarians in the Diaspora about the challenges they faced in their own countries, both as members of a religious minority and on advocacy issues. Their challenges reminded me how fortunate we are to live in Canada.

I look forward to briefing my colleagues on these meetings and working with my colleagues from all parties to ensure Canada continues to take a leadership role against BDS and labelling requirements which single out Israel, continuing with Iran Accountability Week in May, and working to make sure that, where possible, we undertake concerted efforts to help Israel improve relations with other states. ■

Anthony Housefather is member of Parliament for Mount Royal.

AN INVESTMENT THAT KNOWS HOW HARD YOU WORKED FOR IT

6.7%*
LAST 12 MONTHS

FIRST MORTGAGE FUND • GTA FOCUS MINIMIZES DOWNSIDE RISK • RRSP TFSA RIF ELIGIBLE

TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN FOREMOST MORTGAGE TRUST PLEASE CALL:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

FOREMOST FINANCIAL

*This material is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell a security. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Foremost Mortgage Trust (the "Trust") is available only to qualified investors in Ontario. The return represents the net compounded (geometric) return for investors who reinvested their distributions from December 1, 14 to November 30, 15. Foremost Financial Corporation is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer in Ontario. This information is inherently limited in scope and potential qualified investors should read the Trust's offering memorandum carefully prior to investing. Lic. #10342-#11634

Can Tories hold on to Jewish voters?

After an election loss, many say the Conservatives can still count on strong support in the community

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Two or three elections ago, Bonnie Bereskin was canvassing door to door in Toronto's York Centre riding for then-Conservative candidate Michael Mostyn. York Centre was a longtime Liberal stronghold, represented at the time by high profile MP Ken Dryden. She knew she was in for a tough sell, but she was shocked when she heard, on more than one occasion, Conservative leader Stephen Harper and his Alberta cohorts described as Nazis.

The soon-to-be prime minister was called other names of less disrepute, but the mistrust, if not outright contempt, for the Tory leader surprised her. She was originally from Alberta, where Conservatives had governed the province for many years, during which the Jewish community was treated well – unlike Ontario, Alberta provided funding to religious schools – and Israel was held in high regard.

So she couldn't quite make sense of the level of animosity to the Tory brand. Of course, that was after Liberal cabinet minister Elinor Caplan had accused the Canadian Alliance, one of the forerunners of the Conservative party, of having supporters who "are Holocaust deniers, prominent bigots and racists."

Despite the negative messaging, Bereskin believes she and other Tory workers laid the groundwork at the time for a swing in the riding. In 2011, York Centre turned Tory blue as Mark Adler unseated Dryden to bring the riding into the Conservative fold for the first time since 1962.

In 2015, the riding swung back to Liberal red, as did Eglinton-Lawrence, immediately to the south, where finance minister Joe Oliver was defeated. Both are home to substantial Jewish populations. In a pre-election online poll conducted by *The CJN*, 44 per cent of respondents said they favoured Harper and the Tories – a total greater than the 32 per cent of the national vote they received in 2015.

Just north of Toronto, Thornhill, the riding with the largest concentration of Jews in Canada, returned Tory Peter Kent in 2015, as it did in 2011.

Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu with Stephen Harper in Ottawa in 2010. Harper's support for Israel has been cited as one reason Jews have voted for the Conservative party. FILE PHOTO

It's a truism that for decades, if not generations, Jews had supported parties of the left, mostly Liberals, and to a lesser extent, New Democrats. That seems to have changed in the last few years. Harper's vigorous support for Israel during the 2006 war with Hezbollah and two conflicts in Gaza, as well as a pro-Israel voting record at the United Nations and its lead in walking out of the second UN anti-racism conference in 2009 (which was shaping up to be like its anti-Israel predecessor), solidified Jewish support for the Conservatives. Tory candidates and senior ministers often repeated the phrase that the government supported Israel through fire and water.

In 2015, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau fought hard for those Jewish votes, repeatedly emphasizing that there was no daylight between Liberals and Conservatives in their support for Israel.

But Jewish Conservatives believe the last 10 years have marked a major change in the kind of support the Tories can expect from Jewish voters going forward. Voting for the Conservatives has been normalized, and not just because of the party's support for Israel, they say.

"I'm a Conservative for the party's economic principles," Bereskin said, pointing to a belief in smaller government, individual responsibility and personal freedom. "Support for Israel is helpful, but it wasn't the reason I support the Conservatives."

Bereskin, a member of the egalitarian Reconstructionist Darchei Noam Synagogue in Toronto, described herself as being on the libertarian end of the political spectrum. Jews have in the past voted overwhelmingly for the Liberals, but "you can be Jewish and adopt Conservative values and ensure support for Israel," she said.

Steven Slimovitch is a criminal defence lawyer in Montreal. In the past election, he supported Conservative candidate Robert Libman's bid to win longtime Liberal stronghold Mount Royal, which Anthony Housefather retained for the party. "I have been a lifelong Liberal supporter, and I began to lose favour with the Liberal government because of their policy toward Israel and Jewish questions in general," he said.

Slimovitch referred to the failure to prosecute Nazi war criminals and to Canada's voting record at the UN as factors in his decision.

He pointed to "Mr. Harper's overwhelming and strong backing of Israel."

Slimovitch, who is national counsel to B'nai Brith Canada, said Jews don't vote as a bloc – for some, domestic issues trump concerns over support for Israel; for others, it's the other way around.

But there's been a change over the years in the way Jews see the two major parties, he continued. Support for the Conservatives has grown among Jews "as people became more well off and comfortable in society.

"The Tories were always perceived as the party of another place," he said.

"As time goes on and as people began to see the policy that the Conservatives put into place for Israel, things changed."

Gary Shapiro also supported Libman in the last election. In fact, he serves on the executive of the local Conservative riding association. But his family were strong Liberal supporters going back a couple of generations. His grandparents voted Liberal, as did his parents. He began to move away from the Liberals, whom he saw as trying to be all things to all people, and moved to the Tories, because of Harper's "backbone, strength of character" and principled support of Israel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

aufgang travel
Happy 2016!
These are the moments your loved ones will always remember, start creating your memorable moment today.
Specializing in:
Faith Based Programs
Jewish Heritage Tours
Special Needs Arrangements
Special Interest Tours
Family Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
World Tours
For more information contact Janice Snider
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729 - Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON, L4J 3M4
Ontario Reg. # 50012754

An Open Letter from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto

Morris Perlis
Chair of the Board

Bruce Leboff
Senior Vice-Chair

Morris Zbar
President & CEO

As UJA Federation of Greater Toronto readies to celebrate its Centennial next year, the organization continues to do what it has done since its inception in 1917, look to the future on behalf of the citizens of Jewish Toronto.

Together, with your help, we have built a community characterized by vibrancy, diversity, creativity, tolerance and success, but in a world with ever-evolving challenges, we simply can't afford to rest on our laurels.

It is time for a period of renewal. To that end, UJA Federation recently developed a strategic plan to chart the course of our Jewish community for years to come.

Over the fall of 2014 and the winter of 2015, we started a conversation with Jewish Torontonians about the role that they want UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to play in strengthening this community - their community. A steering committee that reflects the diversity of our community spearheaded a process that saw us reach out to as large and diverse an audience as possible – with over 400 in-person interviews and over 1,300 online submissions.

Each consultation and submission provided valuable insights which will help us in shaping the future direction of UJA Federation, and, by extension, the future of Jewish Toronto. During this process, six essential priorities were identified by members of the community, each of which will be our focus for change over the next five years. Those priorities are:

- Caring for the vulnerable
- Forging strong connections with Israel
- Advocating on behalf of Israel, the Jewish People and Canadian values
- Galvanizing the community whether in times of crisis or celebration
- Inspiring our younger generations to embrace Jewish life and to ensure a Jewish future
- Maintaining Toronto's position as a leader in Jewish education

As our community continues to evolve and grow, so too must UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and we have proven over the years that there is no more powerful way to make positive changes than when we act together.

We are blessed to have generous donors, talented community leaders and a network of more than 100 effective partner agencies. Nonetheless, there is strength in numbers and this ambitious plan will only work if you accept our invitation to join in renewing UJA Federation and the community it serves.

We hope you will visit JewishToronto.com/strategicplan.

To learn more about our plan and if you have any feedback, please contact us at stratplan@ujafed.org.

We look forward to hearing from you as we take the next steps together on this journey.

Appreciatively,

Morris Perlis
Chair of the Board

Bruce Leboff
Senior Vice-Chair

Morris Zbar
President and CEO

Sherman Campus
4600 Bathurst Street
Toronto, ON M2R 3V2

Phone: 416.635.2883
Toll free: 1.888.635.2424
Fax: 416.631.5701

E-mail: info@jewishtoronto.com
jewishtoronto.com

When your mom dies

Avrum Rosensweig

In memory of Gitel Rosensweig, 1930-2015

When your mom dies, you are an orphan.

When your mom dies, there is nobody to yell down the block (in earshot of your friends) at 7 p.m., "Time to come home and go to bed."

When your mom dies, who will pick you up from school?

When your mom dies, your clothes always seem to be wrinkled and full of stains.

When your mom dies, you don't know who will take on all the bullies on your block.

When your mom dies, it's difficult to find someone who will convince your school principal you really are the best kid ever.

When your mom dies, the first *eshet chayil* – woman of valour – you ever knew is gone.

When your mom dies, it's hard to find that kind of love that is silky and follows you into every foxhole of life.

When your mom dies, you miss the type of compliments only she can pay.

When your mom dies, there is nobody around to spot you a twenty when your cash is low.

When your mom dies, you need to find a babysitter who gets paid.

When your mom dies, nobody sends over brisket for supper anymore.

When your mom dies, nobody knows you are perfect anymore.

When your mom dies, there is nobody to watch old movies with.

When your mom dies, the hecklers in the crowd when you speak go unchecked.

When your mom dies, *Kaddish* brings tears to your eyes.

When your mom dies, it becomes nearly impossible to close that huge gaping hole in your soul. And that firm ground you used to walk on is no longer there.

> *Losing your mom is somehow a kick in the gut unlike any other*

When your mom dies, so does a big piece of you. When your mom dies…

Gitel Rosensweig left our earth early in the morning on Dec. 8. She left behind a village of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and community kids who loved her dearly and called her Bubbie.

Many years ago, after my father died, we flew to Israel to bury him in a cemetery in the beautiful Jerusalem hills. When our El Al plane landed, my mother, a young widow, hurried to her feet and asked an old Russian Jewish woman who had arrived in Israel to make it her home (during Operation Exodus, the campaign to rescue former Soviet Jews) if she could help her down the stairs. The woman thanked her and took her arm. I watched them walk hand-in-hand down the aisle and then descend the stairs onto the tarmac, shmoozing in Yiddish as they went.

I thought at the time how magnificent it was that my mom who had just lost the apple of her eye, my father, had the wherewithal to help an elderly woman in need. I have often told this story in public as a way to express thanks for my tikkun olam (repairing the world) roots, naches in my mom and appreciation for being her boy.

We all experience loss, and it is sometimes tragic, but losing your mom is somehow a kick in the gut unlike any other, and you're left feeling so alone, like a kid waiting and waiting as the sun goes down, in the cold of winter, to be picked up and snuggled and loved.

Rest in peace, Mom. Thank you. Job well done! ■

avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

A tale of two menorah lightings

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

It turned out to be a farce. Our community menorah was vandalized on the first night of Chanukah, hours after the annual menorah lighting. In the course of an afternoon, a special menorah lighting for the second night was organized. Hundreds arrived in solidarity, and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and other political leaders attended. The message on the second night was clear: New York City will not tolerate intolerance. This evening of solidarity was wonderful, except for one problem: the vandalism had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. A few days later, a 14-year-old was arrested. He said he'd vandalized the menorah because he was "bored." In retrospect, it was much ado about nothing, a rally against an anti-Semitic act that never was.

This phantom hate crime raises a complicated subject: anti-Semitism. It's hard for many to recognize that anti-Semitism is no longer an existential threat for North American Jews. (The situation is very different for European Jews). To be clear, anti-Semitism is a serious issue for all Canadians and Americans, just like any act of racism. Democracies must react forcefully to prevent prejudice from spreading. But anti-Semitism is no longer the primary challenge facing North American Jews. George Washington hoped that "the children of the stock of Abraham" would "merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants." That is certainly the case in 2015. Jews in North America are established, admired and affluent. Yet despite all the good news, our community is shrinking rapidly.

Today, the greatest threat to Jewish life is assimilation. The people who show the least enthusiasm for Judaism are the ones who matter most: young Jews. The 2013 Pew report on U.S. Jews reported that 32 per cent of Jews 35 and younger identify themselves as Jews "with no religion." Exactly at the moment when we've overcome historic struggles with discrimination and hatred, we find ourselves facing an even greater test: acceptance.

Acceptance is the Achilles heel of the Jewish community. In medieval Europe, Jews in northern countries experienced greater persecution than their peers in Spain, yet Spanish Jews were more likely to convert out of Judaism. Paradoxically, Jews have found it easier to keep their Jewish identity when it was difficult to be a Jew. To paraphrase Rabbi Ovadiah Sforno, success is also a test. And for American Jews, success is turning out to be a greater challenge to Jewish identity than persecution.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks jokes that the best way to fill up synagogues would be by putting up large signs outside declaring "no Jews allowed," because contemporary Jews would be certain to join any institution that would refuse them membership. He's absolutely correct. We have made our way into restricted country clubs and now thrive in once-restricted neighbourhoods. But what are we going to do about assimilation?

While there are no quick fixes for assimilation, the annual menorah lighting is part of the solution. This program, sponsored by Chabad and the KJ Beginner's program, has one simple assumption: that even one Chanukah candle can open the door to a meaningful Jewish identity. And engagement initiatives like this have had a wide-ranging effect on American Jews.

American Jewish history is the tale of these two menorah lightings. One story is the 350-year battle against anti-Semitic prejudices, a heartwarming story of refugees from other countries finding full acceptance in the United States and Canada. That was on full display when de Blasio attended the second menorah lighting. But the story of the 21st-century Jewish community, one that remains to be written, is whether Judaism can continue to compete for the hearts and minds of young Jews. While it's wonderful that the mayor lit the menorah on the second night of Chanukah, our future depends on whether we will be able to inspire the next generation of Jews to light the menorah all eight nights of Chanukah. ■

Canada has no chief rabbi, thank God

Rabbi Dow Marmur

The vocation of a rabbi is to teach Torah and live by its precepts. To be a chief rabbi is to dabble in politics. That's why the office often diminishes the person who holds it. Jewish tradition doesn't know of chief rabbis. It respects rabbis not by the office they hold but by the people they are, their level of learning and the humanity that informs their relationships.

Even Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, arguably the most articulate and impressive exponent of contemporary Judaism in general and modern Orthodoxy in particular, didn't exactly shine as Britain's chief rabbi. Mercifully, he retired in time to recover his deserved stature and reputation.

Rabbi David Lau is neither a Rabbi Sacks nor a Rabbi Benny Lau, his first cousin and one of the most persuasive rabbis, teachers and scholars in Israel today. Before Rabbi David Lau assumed his present office, he was rabbi of Modi'in, a growing town halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and was appreciated for his moderation and his humanity. I'd watch him often on Friday afternoons on Israeli TV, when he answered halachic questions. I was impressed by his understanding of human beings and his gentle way of exposing them to Jewish law.

On a visit to the United States not long before he was elevated to what some regard as high office, Rabbi Lau met with lay and rabbinic federation leaders from all streams of Judaism. He described himself as "your brother in Israel." In the course of that visit, he also went to a pluralistic Jewish day school in Washington D.C., where he told the students, "You are Jewish life in this city."

All that goodwill seems to have evaporated when he was appointed Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, following, like his current Sephardi counterpart, in the footsteps of his father.

A recent example of the younger Rabbi Lau's change of attitude is reflected in his attack on Israel's education minister, Naftali Bennett, who is also the minister of Diaspora affairs. Rabbi Lau strongly criticized Bennett for recently visiting the Solomon Schechter (Conservative) Day School in New York City, which, by all accounts, isn't very different from the one Rabbi Lau visited in Washington.

Critical reactions to his attack on Bennett came from many quarters. The most cogent was in the *Jerusalem Post* by Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, another significant and open Orthodox rabbi in the country. Rabbi Riskin reminded readers that "Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, the greatest halachic decisor in 20th-century America, ruled that Orthodox rabbis may teach in Conservative day schools and Hebrew schools."

What's good for Orthodox rabbis in America is, according to Rabbi Lau, not good enough for Israel's minister of education and Diaspora affairs.

Rabbi Riskin lamented: "How far the present chief rabbis of Israel have wandered from the inclusive vision of our first chief rabbi, Rabbi Yitzchak Hacohen Kook" (1865-1935). A self-confident strong individual can overcome the limitations of petty politics imposed by the office. Rabbi Kook's biography testifies to it.

That was also my experience in Britain, where I had the privilege to get to know and collaborate with the late Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits (1921-1999), Rabbi Sacks' predecessor in office. The pressures on Rabbi Jakobovits were enormous. His colleagues who claimed the franchise on Jewish law saw non-Orthodox exponents of Judaism as sworn enemies. Yet he withstood the pull to the far right during much of his tenure and remained determined to represent the entire community.

If, contrary to tradition but in compliance with the institution created by the British during their mandate in Palestine, Orthodoxy in Israel wants to appoint a figure to fulfil the role of an archbishop, it should at least choose someone who can match the vision, the humanity and the independence of spirit of Pope Francis.

Since that's unlikely to happen anywhere, alas, Jewish communities that aren't burdened by chief rabbis are fortunate. Canada is one of them, thank God. ■

Focus on ISIS is obscuring Iranian threat to Israel

Sheryl Saperia

Palestinians are stabbing, shooting and ramming cars into Israelis on a daily basis. According to a recent survey by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, two-thirds of Palestinians back the current wave of terror stabbings against Israelis, while the same percentage support a larger armed uprising.

Amid these daily assaults in Israel, as well as the Paris attacks, reports that ISIS is "preparing the largest religious cleansing in history," as well as about mass slaughter of civilians in Syria and Iran's testing of ballistic missiles in contravention of multiple UN resolutions, the UN General Assembly saw fit on a single day last fall to adopt six non-binding resolutions criticizing Israel.

This singling out of Israel is an example of what former justice minister Irwin Cotler describes as a "new, sophisticated, virulent" strain of anti-Semitism involving "the discrimination against, denial of, or assault upon the right of the Jewish People to live as an equal member of the international community, with the state of Israel as the targeted collective Jew among the nations."

A small country comprising 0.11 per cent of the world's population, Israel attracts a disproportionate amount of the world's attention and animosity. Through terror plots both thwarted and successful, the Jewish state is relentlessly reminded of the existential pressure it faces to be stronger and smarter than its adversaries.

It must, therefore, be gratifying for the Israel Defence Forces to learn that while the world galvanizes against ISIS, the terrorist group is apparently scared of only one country: Israel.

Jürgen Todenhöfer, a former member of the German Parliament, is the first western journalist to be granted significant access to ISIS territory and come home safely. After his 2014 trip, he published a book titled *My 10 Days in the Islamic State*. He recently said in a media interview that the "only country ISIS fears is Israel." He elaborated: "They think they can defeat U.S. and U.K. ground troops, who they say they have no experience in city guerrilla or terrorist strategies. But they know the Israelis are very tough as far as fighting against guerrillas and terrorists."

> *An Iranian nuclear bomb is the most significant threat to Israel.*

What, then, to make of the message from ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, released at the close of 2015? "Jews," he warned, "you will not enjoy in Palestine. God has gathered you in Palestine so that the mujahedeen can reach you soon, and you will hide by the rock and the tree. Palestine will be your graveyard." The going wisdom is the recording was intended to boost ISIS' popularity in the Arab world, after criticism the group is fighting Muslims rather than Jews and neglecting the Palestinian struggle. Israel is still perceived to be a low priority for an ISIS attack.

The Islamic State's caution in this regard is consistent with Israel's confidence in defending itself against the notorious terrorist organization. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon has said that despite sharing borders with areas where the group is active, such as Sinai and the Golan Heights, his country is not significantly threatened by ISIS. "The Islamic State hasn't opened a front against us, because they would simply get hurt," Ya'alon declared.

Iran, on the other hand, is a major source of concern for Israel. Former head of IDF intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amos Yadlin admitted that an Iranian nuclear bomb is the most significant threat to Israel. Ya'alon expressed worry about Iran's presence in Syria: "Iran's Quds Force is currently the only source actively working in Syria to attack us, trying to smuggle weapons and run messengers."

Indeed, the world's current focus on ISIS may be obscuring the true long-term threats presented by state sponsors of terror such as Iran, which has the land, resources and newfound legitimacy to pursue its agenda. If the West is truly committed to countering terrorist groups in the Middle East, advice should be heeded from the sole democracy in the region with unsurpassed counterterrorism expertise: Israel. ■

News

Left-wing Zionist groups decry Israeli 'NGO bill'

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Left-wing Canadian Zionist groups are adding their voices to the outcry against controversial proposed Israeli legislation that would force NGOs to disclose if more than half their funding comes from foreign sources.

The so-called "NGO bill" was proposed by Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked of the nationalist Jewish Home party and was unanimously approved at the end of December by the Knesset's ministerial committee for legislation. It would require any Israeli non-governmental organization that receives more than half of its funding from foreign governments to disclose this fact in written communications with elected officials, declare it when meeting in places public officials gather, and indicate it – in the form of badges worn by its representatives – when attending sessions in the Knesset.

Groups such as JSpace Canada, the New Israel Fund of Canada and Canadian Friends of Peace Now have expressed deep concern over the cabinet-endorsed bill, which critics in Israel and abroad say is an attempt by the Israeli government to target left-wing NGOs.

"The bill appears to be so blatantly discriminatory in terms of singling out only NGOs that are critical of [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's policies that it flies in the face of equality and social justice," said Karen Mock, a founder of JSpace, as well as a human rights consultant and former national director of the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

Opposition politicians and activists argue that left-wing NGOs in the country such as Peace Now, the New Israel Fund and Breaking the Silence – a group comprising former Israeli soldiers that documents alleged IDF abuses in the West Bank – would be unfairly isolated by the bill, since almost all that would be affected identify with the political left. These groups often receive funding from European governments or the European Union, while right-wing NGOs in the country are often funded by private donors. The bill would demand disclosure from groups funded by foreign governments, but not those funded by individuals living abroad.

"It looks like they're trying to not be so obviously discriminatory by wording [the bill] so that it appears to apply to all NGOs. But if only one category of NGOs fits that description, then it's systematically biased, and it means they've figured out a loophole to try to cut off some legitimate organizations and lobbyists at the knees," Mock said.

Supporters of the bill say NGOs funded by European governments use human rights as a screen to interfere in internal Israeli matters.

The bill was lauded in an email bulletin sent out by Avi Benlolo, CEO of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center in Toronto.

"Israel's democratic nature has been taken advantage of over many years by numerous internal and external NGOs undermining Israel's security interests," Benlolo said.

Ayelet Shaked

He added: "In no way does [the bill] prevent the activities of those NGOs, nor does it impose any restriction on their activities or forms of expression... [It] will provide a duty of disclosure to anyone working to lobby or influence Israeli parliamentarians on behalf of a foreign entity."

Benlolo did not respond to several attempts by *The CJN* for further comment.

Issie Lyon, head of the Toronto chapter of Canadian Friends of Peace Now, said the bill would set a "bad precedent."

He argued that a number of pro-settler projects in Israel get significant funding from private Jewish donors in the United States, and the bill would "stigmatize a good proportion of the Israeli population that's working for social justice and conveniently allows funds coming from U.S. evangelical groups and wealthy, right-wing U.S. groups and people like [U.S. casino magnate and philanthropist] Sheldon Adelson to support their groups in Israel without having to wear this badge...

"The government is saying that certain thoughts aren't acceptable and is creating a chill in Israel in terms of what is acceptable discourse around what Israel should do regarding social justice, security and peace."

A spokesperson for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) said his group is reluctant to comment on the bill, given that it has not yet passed in the Knesset.

"We're not going to speak about it publicly until we see where the legislation goes. CIJA prefers to take a wait-and-see approach. I know that it's a divisive issue within the community, and we hope that whatever comes out will be more unifying than divisive and consistent with Israeli democracy," he said.

Rex Brynen, a professor of political science at McGill University whose research areas include Middle East politics and security and development in conflict-affected states, said the proposed law is counterproductive for Israeli democracy.

"The legislation seems designed to make it more difficult for human rights groups and others to raise legitimate criticism of current government policy," he said.

"It's also telling that the legislation does not address the very much larger amounts of overseas donations that go to support settler causes, certain media outlets... and even politicians and political parties." ■

Wealth Building Question Of The Week

DO YOU OWN PREFERRED SHARES?

We have a strategy to help reverse your losses.

Contact us for a free information package.
Lorne Cohn, LLB, MBA, Vice-President, Investment Advisor
416 369-7707 • lorne.cohn@cibc.ca • www.lornecohn.com

CIBC Wood Gundy | The Cohn Wealth Management Group

CIBC Wood Gundy is a division of CIBC World Markets Inc., a subsidiary of CIBC and a Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your investment Advisor.

The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards
extends its condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of

Adam Fuerstenberg ז"ל

As a life-long advocate for Canadian Jewish writing and culture, the Yiddish language, and understanding our collective past, he created the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards. He was a leader and a mensch.

May his memory be a blessing.

Schools vet teachers very carefully, administrators say

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

In light of the recent news that former Eitz Chaim Schools teacher Stephen Joseph Schacter was charged with possession of child pornography, Jewish day school administrators in Toronto are assuring parents that they have strict policies in place to protect their students and properly address similar issues that may arise.

Schacter taught at Eitz Chaim between 1986 and 2004, worked as an office administrator and supply teacher at United Synagogue Day School (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) between 2005 and 2009, and was a private tutor from 2009 until 2011.

Speaking to *The CJN* about school policies to prevent and address incidents of abuse, administrators at Bialik Hebrew Day School, the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and Netivot HaTorah Day School confirmed that all teachers and staff must undergo a criminal background check before they're hired.

"We also thoroughly vet candidates by calling references," said Shana Harris, Bialik's head of school.

Rabbi Jeffrey Rothman, Netivot's head of school, said that "when it comes to new staff, we really do have a rigorous process where we screen them, we check their background formally with multiple references, we do a police check, the vulnerable sector screenings... Our bases are covered."

TanenbaumCHAT head of school Rabbi Lee Buckman said that in addition to requiring a vulnerable sector police check for his staff, the school also has a relationship with police in Toronto and York Region, as well as Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS) in the event a situation arises that would require their intervention.

"Anytime something is suspected – whether it is happening in the home or in the classroom – we would immediately contact protective services. Those things are taken very seriously," Rabbi Buckman said.

Rabbi Rothman said teachers at Netivot are trained to be "mandatory reporters."

"To my knowledge there haven't been any accusations here... without a doubt, any accusation would be taken seriously, and there is protocol to report to various

Jeffrey Rothman

administrators... The protocol would be that if the allegations were made and brought to an administrator, then it would be brought to the head of school... and then brought to JF&CS," Rabbi Rothman said.

"Everyone's challenge is finding the fine line. On one hand, you don't want to jump and make the call the first second, and on the other hand, you don't want to take too much time if, God forbid, something is going on. It would be a pretty quick process to figure out that we need to get JF&CS involved."

Rabbi Buckman said that despite a school's best efforts to prevent incidents from happening, it can't always be avoided.

"Even after you do a criminal background check of a new employee, people are people, and 10 years down the line, five years down the line, something bad can happen, and I believe we are not required and it's not feasible to do ongoing criminal background checks. We do it as part of the screening process," he said.

"It can happen in Reform schools, Conservative schools, Orthodox schools, public schools – people are people and they have been in good schools and they have been in bad schools... The most fundamental response is to create an environment at school where students feel they have someone to speak to. Thankfully, our guidance department, deans, principals, and teachers have created that type of environment.

"I think, whether it is with a teacher, a peer or a parent, we have to create an environment where victims feel they have a place to turn, and be heard, and taken seriously and that there is appropriate followup." ■

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

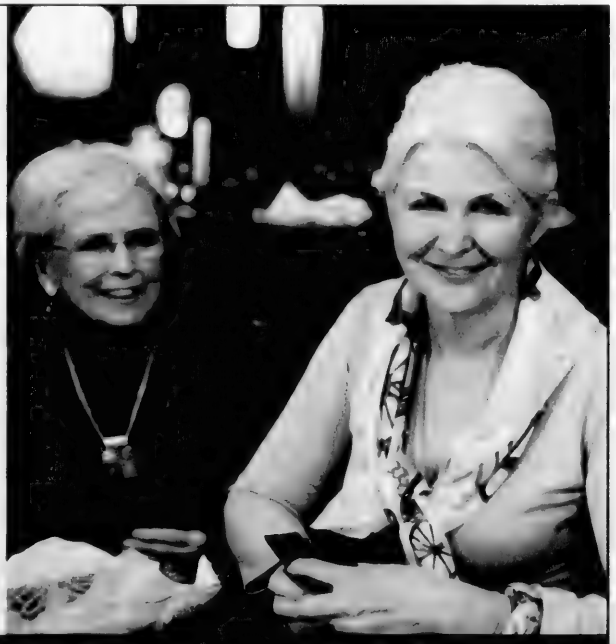
Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks FREE.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca



Amica at Bayview, North York
Amica at Bayview Gardens, North York
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill

1.855.738.7248

AMICA
Mature Lifestyles

Last-minute comeback gives Canada Maccabi hoops gold

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Just days after making history as the first Maccabi Canada open men's basketball team to beat the Americans, Canada beat them a second time to win the gold medal in a game Canada's head coach called "the craziest thing ever."

"We started off very slow. We were down about 20 points in the first quarter, but I told our guys, 'Just stay composed and just keep playing our game,'" said head coach Allon Bross, speaking to *The CJN* just hours after the Jan. 4 win at the Pan American Maccabi Games in Santiago, Chile, which ran from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5.

"We were down by 11 points at halftime. We went into the third quarter and we kept pecking away, and by the end of the third quarter, we were down by seven points," he said. "With 40 seconds to go, we found ourselves down by nine points."

He said that with less than one minute left in the game, the U.S. team was already celebrating their victory on the sidelines.

"And that is when the miracle began to happen," Bross said.

Ave Bross, 22, the coach's son and a Maccabi Games veteran who played four years as a point guard on McGill University's varsity team, put the Americans' premature celebration to a sudden stop.

"[He] hit three three-point shots within 40 seconds, the last one with just two seconds left on the clock to tie the game. That was the craziest thing ever," he said. Canada won 95-85 in overtime.

The Canadians beat the Americans twice in the tournament. MACCABI CANADA PHOTO

"They [the Americans] were shocked."

Tali Dubrovsky, Maccabi Canada's national executive director, said the U.S. basketball team traditionally dominates the competition, leaving the Canadians to compete for the silver or bronze, but with a win against the Americans early in the tournament, the Canadian team set its sights on the gold and did not disappoint.

"We had a lot of heroes. Ave was one – he scored 33 points in the game. Sage Usher, our other guard, was off the charts and he scored 27 points. We had our big guys rebound the ball. We had Adam Halpern, who must have had 18 to 20 rebounds, and all these things, all these battles that happened, resulted in us winning. Plus, we had a little bit of mazel. We needed some mazel to get this one," Bross said.

For the team's assistant coach Alex Brainis, this victory was especially sweet.

Brainis was a player on the 1997 Maccabi Canada open men's basketball team that won Canada's first and, until now, only gold medal in basketball, defeating Great Britain.

"And now he has won it as a coach, which will, for our sport in basketball, probably be a very unique statistic," Bross said.

In addition to the basketball team, Maccabi Canada was also represented by a masters tennis team, consisting of 44-year-old Anton Rabie and 40-year-old Lauren Liverman.

Rabie and Liverman each took home a bronze in the singles' tournament and another bronze in the mixed doubles game. ■

Crowe Soberman

Meet Crowe Soberman's newest partner

Jonathan Biderman, CPA, CA – Audit & Advisory

Crowe Soberman LLP is pleased to announce that Jonathan Biderman has been admitted to the partnership, effective January 1, 2016.

Jonathan advises clients from a range of industries including real estate and construction, food services, and manufacturing and distribution. He is a trusted resource that his clients rely on for innovative solutions to their challenges and dependable guidance in their day-to-day business matters.

Connect with Jonathan today:
Direct: 416.963.7170
jonathan.biderman@crowesoberman.com

Read Jonathan's full bio at
www.crowesoberman.com

ABOUT CROWE SOBERMAN LLP

Celebrating over 50 years in the Toronto community, Crowe Soberman is one of the largest accounting firms in Canada. Crowe Soberman has substantial practices in audit, tax and advisory services and offers a full complement of services to meet the personal and business needs of clients.

Learn how we can help you at www.crowesoberman.com.

Photo courtesy of Linda Charyk Rosenfeld Photography

Audit | Tax | Advisory

Member Crowe Horwath International
2 St. Clair Avenue East Suite 1100 Toronto ON M4T 2T5

Advocate pushes gas station aid for disabled people

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Edward Rice understands the limitations a disability can create, even when you are trying to perform a simple task like filling your car's tank with gasoline.

Rice had polio, but in the past, he was able to drive thanks to special modifications that were made to his minivan. A built-in winch helped get his scooter in and out of the vehicle, and he was able to drive using hand controls.

Gassing up at the neighbourhood self-serve was another matter, he said. It was difficult and time consuming to get out of the car, and even once the winch had lowered him onto his scooter, he'd find himself too far away for the pump hose to reach the tank.

People with other disabilities have different problems. Some find the touch screens too high, the gas caps too difficult to manoeuvre, the nozzles too hard to grasp, and credit cards too hard to handle. And full-service stations are few and far between, even in a city as big as Toronto.

So what to do?

Not a guy to put up his hands in defeat, Rice did some research and found a potential solution south of the border.

Former Ontario lieutenant-governor David Onley left, and Edward Rice

> *I found gas stations in Florida, and it worked like a charm.*

Thanks to an idea called FuelCall developed by Inclusion Solutions, an Illinois-based company, Rice believes there's an off-the-shelf solution to the problem faced by thousands of disabled drivers.

It's fairly simple, though it depends on the co-operation of larger service stations to implement, said Rice, who serves as chair of the Ontarians with disabilities sub-committee of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

All that's required is for the service stations to post prominently lit signage, such as the internationally recognized blue disability sticker on the gas station's logo, visible from the street, indicating there are people on site available for full-service gassing. Once a driver, equipped with the blue disability sign, pulls up to the dedicated gas island, a button is on hand that will summon staff when pushed.

Because it assumes the availability of service staff, the solution is appropriate for larger gas stations, the kinds that also include coffee shops and car washes, Rice said.

Once the button is pushed, staff can tend to the customer, allowing him to proceed with his day without the inconvenience of leaving and re-entering the vehicle or bringing a friend or family member along to help.

The solution can also help promote sales, as the customer can also order snacks, coffee and other merchandise, he added.

"I found gas stations in Florida, and it worked like a charm," said Rice, a retired snowbird.

What's more, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 requires businesses that provide goods and services to the public to make these services accessible. Regulations passed under the act specifically refer to service stations.

He noted that in the United States, Marathon, a large chain with hundreds of gas stations, has agreed to implement the FuelCall program.

Late last year, Rice met with David Onley, the former lieutenant-governor of Ontario, who also had polio. Onley now serves as special adviser on accessibility to Brad Duguid, the minister of economic development, employment and infrastructure.

The meeting went well, Rice said, and he's been told that Onley will present the proposed solution to the minister. ■

SciTech
Summer Science Camp

Join us at SciTech 2016 July 25th - August 18th

The summer camp for the talented students

Curious what scientists really do? Want to see for yourself?

Come work with real scientists in state-of-the-art labs at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

Who should be interested

If you are a science-oriented high-school student, in the 11th or 12th grade, with a proven record of academic excellence, then the SciTech International Summer Program may be for you.

The program is intended for all those with a keen interest in science and a commitment to high performance standards. Those who can benefit the most from the Technion's atmosphere of excellence will be selected.

The tuition fee of US$5,400 includes the program tuition, dormitory and cafeteria expenses, a copy of the SciTech 2016 proceedings, a complete health insurance plan, and all excursions during the program. Airfare is not included.

We are grateful that, through the generosity of the Ron and Maria Wolf Fund of the Bernard and Norton Wolf Family Foundation, we are able to offer a limited number of tuition scholarships.

Deadline for registration is February 21, 2016.
The application package can be found on the SciTech website, www.scitech.technion.ac.il
For more information contact Hershel Recht at 416-789-4545 or Anne Kalles at 514-735-5541.

Technion Canada

Jewish fertility group welcomes new Ontario funding

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

As of last month, Ontario expanded its in vitro fertilization (IVF) funding to help families struggling financially with infertility, and the executive director of a non-profit that serves infertile Jewish couples said she expects to be a lot busier because of this new development.

"We are thrilled with this new initiative. We think it's great," said Denise Levin executive director of Small Wonders, which helps couples financially, emotionally, medically and halachically.

The province will fund one IVF cycle per eligible patient through an annual $50-million investment. This includes one egg retrieval, which may yield multiple eggs and result in multiple embryos.

Until now, Ontario only provided funding to women with blocked fallopian tubes.

Levin explained that funding one complete round means that "if they retrieve 10 eggs and those 10 eggs turn into 10 embryos and you want to have one of those embryos implanted, you can come back 10 times each time transferring one embryo until you've exhausted them, and the government will cover that complete cycle."

The money will pay for one IVF treatment cycle per patient. SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

One cycle of IVF costs about $10,000, with drugs and other associated costs adding thousands of dollars more to the cost.

"The cost of medication for IVF can range from $4,000 to $8,000," Levin said.

"What is not funded is the storage of embryos, the pre-genetic screening, egg freezing fee, which is huge – it's $7,000. That is something for a person who wants to save their eggs because they are getting older and they're not in a relationship and don't expect to be pregnant soon."

Levin said some of the "wrinkles" the government still has to work through has to do with how they will address wait lists.

The government has allocated the IVF funding to about 50 clinics throughout the province, she said.

One of the things that's unclear about the waiting lists is what happens to a potential patient who's called by a clinic to undergo treatment, but declines "because I just took a new job and I can't afford to take off six months," Levin said.

"At some clinics, I'd go back to the bottom of the list… What happens to me? Do I have to wait for 200 people ahead of me? Those are wrinkles that need to be worked out. People have extenuating circumstances and can't drop their whole lives to do this," she said.

"Some clinics are using the lottery system… Some are going one by one down the waiting list and some are saying, 'We understand that you have issues, and life happens, so call us back in a few months when you're ready to do this, and in the meantime, we're going to take the next person.' Clinics are making their own rules, and people should be aware when picking a clinic and the clinic should be transparent about how the IVF funding works."

Levin said when it comes to the new government funding, her staff will continue to help Jewish couples grow their families and provide financial support.

"We expect to be busier in 2016. We will still provide additional services in terms of the emotional support, which is a huge component. We still will provide financial support to qualifying Jewish couples, and we will still continue to provide halachic support," Levin said.

"We are going to make sure everybody benefits, especially our couples, although we have no control over getting our couples to the top of any list. We just want to make sure that the people who want free IVF are seeing the right doctors, and we want to help them there."

She said Small Wonders receives daily updates on the new IVF initiative and will provide its clients with the most up-to-date information about how to navigate the often overwhelming world of infertility. ■

For more information about Small Wonders, visit www.smallwonders.ca.

A. H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

ANTIQUE ESTATE AUCTION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19TH AT 11AM
FEATURING ITEMS FROM THE ESTATE OF THE
GRAND DUCHESS OLGA KULIKOVSKY

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through our auction

www.ahwilkens.com • 416.360.7600 • info@ahwilkens.com
299 Queen St East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
WINTER DIRECT FLIGHTS
from $836 including all taxes.
Book by Jan. 31, 2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	March Break	Summer 2016
	Mar. 10-21, 2016	July 03-14
		July 24 - Aug. 04
Passover		Aug. 07-18
Apr. 19 - May 01, 2016		Aug. 21 - Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND • One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• *FREE* – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

Court hears copyright case about Holocaust story

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Judy Maltz

A Federal Court judge is being asked to adjudicate a case that asks, in effect, who owns the story of a Holocaust survivor.

Is it the daughter whose father and other family members were hidden from the Nazis in a Polish farmer's barn and whose story is recounted in a documentary film that she co-directed.

Or is that story, and the facts behind it, now in the public realm and therefore can properly be used as the basis of a novel, with fictionalized elements incorporated into it, without infringing the filmmakers' copyright protection?

Laymen and legal specialists are watching with interest as a Federal Court judge in Ottawa ponders the issue, after an attempt at mediation failed. Four days of court time were set aside, starting Jan. 11, for legal arguments and to consider testimony, which has already been recorded.

The case pits Judy Maltz, whose father, grandfather, aunts and uncle were hidden during the war, versus Jennifer Witterick and Penguin Books Canada. Maltz is suing Witterick for allegedly lifting whole segments from her copyrighted documentary film, *No. 4 Street of our Lady*. Witterick's book, *My Mother's Secret*, was published by Penguin Books about four years after the documentary was released. Maltz and her co-directors, Barbara Bird and Richie Sherman, are asking for $6 million in damages.

Witterick told *The CJN* in 2013 that she was inspired to write the book after viewing the film at Congregation Habonim during Holocaust Education Week in 2011.

"I've done nothing wrong and will be defending this case," said Witterick, founder and CEO of Sky Investment Counsel, a Toronto investment firm.

"All the characters in the book are fictional, because I created them," she added when first contacted by *The CJN* about the case in March 2014.

The filmmakers, however, say the book lifts entire passages from their 2009 film.

"With the exception of certain limited fictional aspects… the plot of the book is almost identical to that of the [film]," allege documents filed in court.

"The book tells the story of a Polish-Catholic mother and daughter, Franciszka and Helena Halamajowa, who save several Jewish families during the Holocaust, along with a German soldier who defects from the army. Some of the Jews are hidden in the pigsty above her hayloft and others in a hole dug under the kitchen floor. The Halamajowa house is located on Street of Our Lady in the small town of Sokal on the Bug River in Poland.

"The book tells a story that is almost identical to that told in the [film], and in a way that is substantially similar to and a colourable imitation of the [film]. Although some of the names of the characters and places have been changed, the names of the main protagonists and places are the same," Maltz's court documents allege.

They go on to say that hers is the authentic version of the story and that without the film, "the book would not exist."

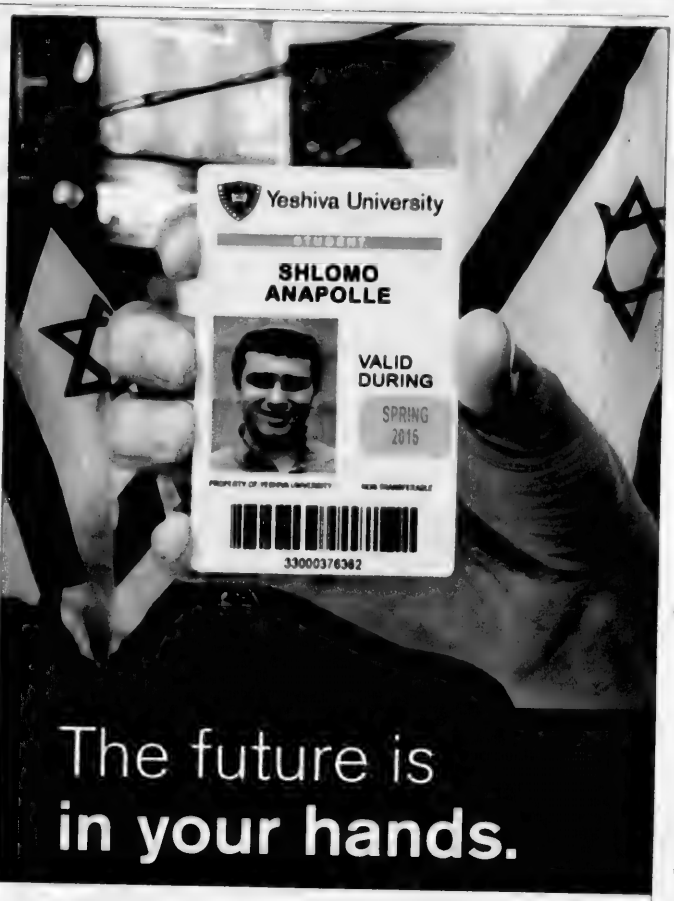
"The alteration of the [film] by adding fictionalized and sensationalized aspects does not change the fact that the book is substantially similar to and a colourable imitation of the [film]. Other than distorting the [film] and causing significant elements of the public to become aware of a fictionalized and sensationalized version of the [film], the book contains very little original expression of its own," the documents allege.

"Amongst those saved by Halamajowa were Maltz's grandparents and father, two aunts and an uncle. Prior to the release of the [film], this story was virtually unknown, recorded only in the posthumously published diary of the late Moshe Maltz, who was one of those rescued by Halamajowa."

The case attracted the attention of The 1709 Blog, about copyright issues. It said it raises the thorny issue of a fictional work based on historical facts, especially when the facts can be found in only one other source. Another British blog, The Drum, notes "the lawsuit raises the interesting question about when authors can take historical events, fictionalize them and create a new piece of work from an existing, yet factual event."

In March 2014, Witterick explained why she was motivated to write the book. As a Taiwanese-Chinese immigrant, she could "never understand why people didn't like Jewish people. I've always been really interested in the Holocaust. I myself am a child of immigrants and I understand what it's like to be on the outside and being and underdog. So this kind of Holocaust story really resonates with me."

Witterick said she donated her book advance to charity. "My objective was never to make money on this book. My objective was to write a book to help young people understand what happened in the Holocaust." ■



The future is
in your hands.

Meet Shlomo Anapolle of Edison, New Jersey. When it comes to a love of Israel, few college students can match the Sabra passion of this Yeshiva University junior. A pre-med, biology major with plans to attend an Israeli medical school, Shlomo balances his time between neo-natal diagnostic research, intensive shiurim and a commitment to Israel advocacy.

Whether it's planning lobbying missions to Washington, D.C. with YUPAC or teaching English to teens in the Negev through Counterpoint Israel, Shlomo brings to bear his leadership skills for the sake of the Jewish people and homeland. He is proud to invite Israeli diplomats to YU to help his peers contextualize current events. Shlomo chose YU because, to him, Torah Umadda isn't merely the convergence of science and our mesorah–at Yeshiva University, it is the formula for a values-driven preparation for life. This is the essence of Torah Umadda and what sets YU apart.

Picture yourself at YU. #NowhereButHere

Yeshiva University

www.yu.edu | 212.960.5277 | yuadmit@yu.edu

www.yu.edu/apply

In Memory Of
ADAM FUERSTENBERG, ז"ל
The Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre and the Committee for Yiddish UJA Federation of Greater Toronto extend our heartfelt condolences to the Fuerstenberg, Prelick and Lichky families on the passing of Adam Fuerstenberg, former director of the Holocaust Education Centre of Toronto and the Committee for Yiddish.
May his memory be a source of blessing and comfort to the family.
Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre
Committee for Yiddish

SHABBAT SHIRAH Weekend
with Sam Glaser
Friday, January 22 to Sunday, January 24
Celebrate these four exciting music events with Cantor Simon Spiro and our special musical guest, one of America's favourite Jewish recording artists, Sam Glaser—direct from California
Musical Friday Night Live Shabbat Service
Friday, January 22 at 6:00 PM
A lively and *frayleikh* Carlebach-style service led by Sam Glaser and a delicious Shabbat dinner with time to schmooze and sing along.
Cost for dinner: $25 adults; $18 youth (ages 5-14); $6 children (ages 1-4). Dinner by advance reservation only by Monday, January 18.
Shabbat Shirah Community Concert
Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 PM
Sam Glaser joins together with Cantor Simon Spiro and friends for a fabulous evening beginning with a musical Havdalah.
Tickets: $25 in advance; $36 at the door.
Special Shabbat Shirah Morning Service
Shabbat, January 23—Services at 8:45 AM
Sermon-in-song by Sam Glaser on *The Power of Music in Prayer: Preserving Nusah in a Folk-Song World* and an appearance by the *Voices of Tomorrow* Children's Choir.
"Rockin' with Sam Glaser" Youth Concert
Sunday, January 24 at 4:00 PM
Join hundreds of young people from around Toronto for an exciting rockin' event. Great music and fun for the whole family. Free admission but reservations required.
For reservations and tickets, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or info@beth-tzedec.org
Beth Tzedec Congregation
Beth Tzedec Congregation
www.beth-tzedec.org

New direction for U of T's Journal of Jewish Thought

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

From left, editors Liza Futerman Josh Tapper and Alexis Lerner EMILY SPRINGGAY PHOTO

To most, the distinction between Jewish thought and Jewish studies likely appears slight.

To Josh Tapper, a Toronto journalist and graduate student at the University of Toronto's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies (CJS), shifting the focus of U of T's *Journal of Jewish Thought* from the former to the latter constitutes a whole new direction for the publication.

Last spring, Tapper took over as executive editor of the journal, an online peer-reviewed scholarly periodical that CJS graduate students have produced annually since 2011, except for a hiatus in 2014.

Tapper stressed that despite the journal retaining – for now – its original name, he and associate editors Liza Futerman, a PhD student in comparative literature, and Alexis Lerner, a PhD student in political science, have been working toward a total rebrand, reflected in the 2015 issue, released Dec. 8.

"Jewish thought to me is… the philosophy of Jewish thinking or the study of Jewish religious texts… Jewish studies takes us beyond that… There are historians, literary scholars, Yiddishists, political scientists, anthropologists, ethnographers – people in all sorts of disciplines – who can call themselves scholars of Jewish studies," explained Tapper, whose graduate research looks at post-Soviet Jewish life and culture.

The journal will continue to provide a forum for CJS students and faculty, as well as for international scholars, to publish research, reviews, political and literary criticism and short fiction or poetry, but Tapper said it will focus less on philosophy and theology and be more interdisciplinary in scope.

"I saw an opportunity to tweak things and incorporate some of my own interests and those of people I work with… the past issues were lively, but I [wanted] to make this a… more inclusive journal of Jewish studies," he said.

The new issue's theme is "boundaries." It includes a conversation with Daniel Boyarin, a professor of talmudic culture at the University of California, who delivered the Pearl and Jack Mandel Lecture in Jewish Studies at U of T; a piece by Jason M. Schlude, an assistant professor of classics at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minnesota, which examines Herod the Great's crossing of personal, religious and political borders; a piece by U of T doctoral student and associate editor Alexis Lerner about Russian anti-Semitism in the era of President Vladimir Putin; and a piece by Noam Lemish, a pianist, composer and doctoral candidate in jazz performance at U of T, who fused an unrecorded Soviet Yiddish song from the 1940s with another Soviet song – the article includes reflections on his process, musical notations and an MP3 sample of the music.

"To have the piece on Herod at one end and the piece on Russian anti-Semitism on the other speaks to the breadth of possibility when it comes to content for this journal, showing that Jewish studies can trace from the Second Temple period all the way to 2015," Tapper said.

He said the versatility of the articles and the innovative presentation of works like Lemish's speak to the new editorial mandate as being more accessible – a growing trend in academic scholarship. "I want this to push the boundaries of digital scholarship… to find a middle ground between scholarship that's rooted in tradition… but also something that people who aren't scholars can read and appreciate."

Part of this push will involve revamping the website, something he hopes to do in the new year, and using social media to promote individual articles to a wider readership.

Tapper's journalistic background – he was a reporter at the *Toronto Star* and has written for publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and the *Forward* – has likely played a role in his re-imagining of the journal, but he stressed, "I'm not trying to make this more journalistic or dumb it down, but I want it to be accessible."

Anna Shternshis, acting director of CJS and an associate professor in Yiddish studies, said the journal provides an opportunity for students to present their work in less traditional, but no less rigorous, ways, and that the new direction allows for content to reach across diverse areas of Jewish studies.

"The beauty of this is it's a project that's fully run by graduate students. So they get to choose what's interesting, what disciplines should speak to each other and the format," Shternshis said.

"It's very rare for a centre of Jewish studies at a major university to provide such a forum for grad students to get their publications out, and in a way that's really not stuffy, that's interesting and speaks to academics and non-academics." ■

Engineer pays tribute to teacher who saved him

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Russian-born Vladimir Rott said that if not for his elementary school physics teacher, he might have never made the transition from a street kid with no academic ambition to a prize-winning engineer and author.

And last month, Rott and his wife, Iya, travelled back to his former home of Belarus to celebrate the 100th birthday of Nokolay Nikolayvich Vdovin, a man Rott calls a "miracle of HaShem."

Speaking in his Forest Hill home, Rott, 80, a Russian-born Jew of Hungarian descent told *The CJN* about his hard childhood and the man who took him under his wing.

"I was a street boy. I didn't have a father. My father was arrested, he was in prison," Rott said.

His father, an expert in the lumber mill industry, moved to Belarus to develop the local mill. His mother was a "madame" who spoke German, "because they were Hungarian elite," Rott said in his heavily accented Russian drawl.

Rott was three years old when Stalin arrested his father and sent him to a Siberian gulag, from which he never returned.

"We were thrown in the street. [My mother] had no language. We didn't have nothing, and we became enemies of the state."

His mother was forced to do manual labour to support her family. "We were so poor," he said.

During the war, his family hid their Jewishness and identified as Hungarian.

"My mother was working hard and I wasn't going to school. Two years in Grade 5. All of a sudden, a Russian officer who was injured in Hungary came. After spending a year in a Hungarian hospital, he returned to Bobruysk [now Belarus]," Rott recalled.

"He came to my mother in the street… told her to go back to Hungary where she would have a better life. She said, 'But my husband is in prison and I don't know when he's coming.' This was 1949. I was 13."

She told Vdovin she no longer had Hungarian citizenship, and working hard in Russia wasn't an issue for her.

"She said, 'My main problem is Vladimir. Last night he wasn't home… he doesn't go to school.'"

Rott said when he went to school the next September, Vdovin, who'd been hired as a new physics teacher, brought him to his class and made him class leader.

"I was so upset, because now I couldn't miss school, because every day I had to go and report who wasn't there today."

Rott said Vdovin, although a bit odd, was an excellent teacher.

Vladimir Rott, left, with Nokolay Nikolayavich Vdovin at Vdovin's 100th birthday celebration.

"He had a brain injury in the war, and he was a little bit coo-coo, but he was good for us," Rott said.

"He was very fair and he was not afraid to say, 'Good for you.' Because nobody said nothing like that to me. He was able to encourage me."

Vdovin was Rott's physics teacher until he graduated after Grade 10. Rott went to university, obtained an engineering degree, got married to his wife and lived in Bobruysk where they had three children.

He was in charge of installing machinery for a Lada car plant that employed 170,000 workers and produced three cars per minute.

Despite his success, in 1974, he left for Canada, looking for a better life outside the USSR, and as with most students and teachers, he lost touch with Vdovin.

About 30 years later, in 2004, Rott planned a family trip to Russia to show his children and grandchildren where and how he grew up.

Having kept in touch with one of his classmates in Belarus, Rott learned Vdovin was still alive and in a nursing home with his wife. Rott decided to visit him, and they spent a day together, reuniting for the first time in 50 years.

Last year, Rott checked in on his then 99-year-old former physics teacher to ask if he could visit him for his 100th birthday. At first, Vdovin tried to talk him out of it, worried that he and his wife were too frail to accommodate him.

"I said, 'What do I need from you? I just want to hug you. And you will sit between us like a general in a wedding.'"

On Dec. 21, Rott and his wife went to the nursing home to celebrate Vdovin's 100th birthday, along with Vdovin's wife, two daughters, and granddaughters.

Reflecting on Vdovin's role in his life, Rott said, "God brought him to me. In all my books, I always write about miracles. This was one of the miracles… It was a miracle of HaShem that I met him." ■

All the comforts of home without any of the work.

Whether you want to nosh or fress, VIVA Thornhill Woods has a variety of Jewish-inspired VIVA*licious* dining choices that will have you saying "Geshmak!" Plus, we offer Shabbat dinner every Friday evening, along with celebrations throughout the year for Passover, Sukkot, Chanukah and more. Call us today to discover how great all-inclusive rental retirement living can taste.

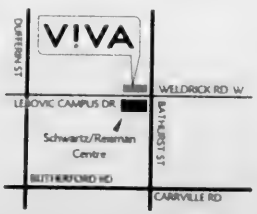
Jewish-style Cuisine • Three Meals Daily • Open Seating

Tradition with a Twist
Recipe Contest

Submit your favourite traditional family recipe by January 31st, 2016 and you could see it reinvented by our Executive Chef. Win great prizes! Plus, all entries will be printed in a cookbook to take home. Call Marteen or Wendy at 905-417-8585 for details!

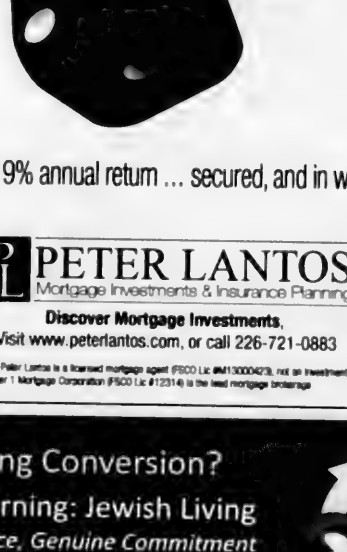
TWO BEDROOM SUITES
From **$4,470**
Only a few remaining!

VIVA Retirement Communities
THORNHILL WOODS
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

Why roll the dice with your investment returns?



Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.

PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

Discover Mortgage Investments,
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000473), not an investment dealer. Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

Considering Conversion?

Jewish Learning: Jewish Living

Genuine Choice, Genuine Commitment

A multi-denominational course, ideal for those exploring the possibility of conversion to Judaism

Each person's journey towards Judaism is organic and individual. We invite you to explore Judaism and your growing relationship with it through the lenses of different Jewish denominations. This course introduces the central Jewish ideas and practices, texts and experiences that form the foundation of a Jewish life.

If you decide to pursue conversion, this course will give you the tools to choose an informed, healthy and whole commitment to Jewish living and the Jewish people.

This year-long, biweekly course is solely an educational endeavour. Enrolling does not guarantee conversion. An individual who chooses to pursue conversion will choose a mentor and will continue the process based on specific denominational requirements.

Space is limited. Register at: livingjewishly.org

Orientation:
7:00 pm Thursday
January 21st 2016
Beth Torah Congregation
47 Wembrook Avenue

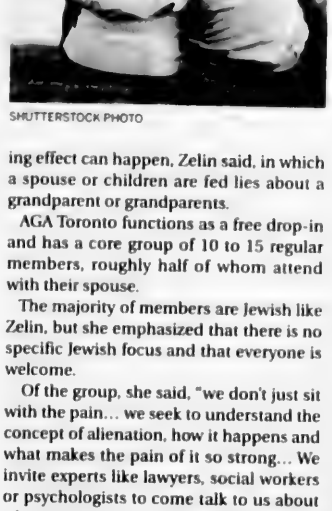
"This course is wonderful. The teachers are friendly and open. Anyone with an interest in religion is well advised to take the course and gain fascinating insight into Judaism."
2015 student

"As a Jew I felt both at home and challenged." 2015 student

"The strength of the class is making one comfortable to question and be critical of all the information presented. The instructors were sincerely committed to my learning without proselytizing."
2015 student

Group helps grandparents alienated from grandkids

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

"Unbearable" is the word Rivka Zelin uses to describe the pain of not being allowed to see one's grandchildren.

Rivka Zelin is the alias the 61-year-old Toronto resident uses to protect her family's identity in her role as leader of the group Alienated Grandparents Anonymous (AGA) Toronto, which had its first meeting last June.

AGA Toronto is a support group for grandparents who are estranged from their grandchildren, usually because of the demands of their adult children.

It's an offshoot of a group that was founded in Florida about four years ago and has since expanded to more than 40 U.S. states, as well as, last September, to Ottawa.

Zelin's own son disengaged from his family and friends after he got married and doesn't allow Zelin to spend time with his children. She saw the Ottawa chapter of AGA advertised in a newspaper there and, after speaking with the organizer, decided to start a group in Toronto.

The latter convenes twice a month at North York Civic Centre and provides a non-judgmental space where individuals can share their stories among those undergoing similar struggles, to draw comfort from, "see[ing] their own family's story happening in other families," Zelin said.

She explained that this sort of alienation typically involves an individual who bars his or her own parents from seeing their grandkids and doing things that grandparents "crave," Zelin said, such as cooking for their grandchildren, babysitting them or taking them to see a show.

This can happen for a variety of reasons, Zelin said, but it's often because the adult child has a personality disorder or mental health issue that causes them to cut themselves off from their parents, or the adult child has a partner who, due to a personality disorder or mental health issue, is extremely controlling and insists they sever ties with their parents.

She also cited instances where an adult child passes away and their spouse severs contact with the dead partner's mother and father, or where there is a "high-conflict divorce" and one grandparent is pushed away and prevented from seeing his or her grandkids.

The alienation can happen at various levels, she noted, with some grandparents having zero contact with grandchildren; some being permitted to see their grandchildren occasionally; some not knowing why they've been cut off; and others only knowing vague details about their grandchildren.

In many situations, a sort of brainwashing effect can happen, Zelin said, in which a spouse or children are fed lies about a grandparent or grandparents.

AGA Toronto functions as a free drop-in and has a core group of 10 to 15 regular members, roughly half of whom attend with their spouse.

The majority of members are Jewish like Zelin, but she emphasized that there is no specific Jewish focus and that everyone is welcome.

Of the group, she said, "we don't just sit with the pain... we seek to understand the concept of alienation, how it happens and what makes the pain of it so strong... We invite experts like lawyers, social workers or psychologists to come talk to us about what we can and can't do, and strategize ways to remain strong and happy... The idea is that if our grandchildren do one day come around, we want to be strong and happy people that open the door to them," she said.

The members also discuss the stages of grief that alienation can trigger and ways to transition from anger to acceptance.

"With anger, we may make the situation worse... So we learn how to remain serene and respond peacefully to difficult situations," Zelin said.

The group also helps to lessen the sense of stigma or shame surrounding the alienation, Zelin said, explaining that people often assume a grandparent has been cut off because he or she did something wrong to the child or grandchild.

She stressed that none of the AGA members are in this situation, but the fear of being judged harshly often prevents people from discussing the issue with others.

The group is important, Zelin said, because it both gives those suffering a sense of belonging and support, and because its existence lets society know that grandparent alienation is a phenomenon that's "very much alive." ■

Those interested in AGA Toronto can email Zelin at aga.toronto75@gmail.com or call 905 -771 7610.

Subway operator sings while she works

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Jessie Kushner

The next time you board the Yonge-University or Sheppard subway lines, there's a good chance Jessie Kushner will be in control.

The spunky 26-year-old is among a handful of women who's a driver (they prefer the term "operator") of a Toronto Transit Commission subway train.

It's not a traditional job for a young Jewish woman from Toronto, but Kushner wouldn't have it any other way.

"It wasn't like I dreamed of doing it growing up," she told *The CJN* in an interview.

But, she added, "this is actually a really good job in today's age. It pays well and benefits are good."

A subway operator since last summer, Kushner came to the job via a more conventional route.

She graduated from Dalhousie University with a degree in business management, followed that up with study in financial planning and earned a Canadian securities license.

She worked at a downtown bank branch for a few years as an adviser/teller.

"I wasn't making very good money and I was working a lot of hours," she recalled. Plus, "it was extremely stressful. I didn't feel it was worth it."

She applied for dozens of jobs and put in for one at the TTC two years ago "because I took the system every day and I knew what it was like to be on the subway, being crammed inside. I get it. I thought, 'I'd rather be driving the subway than going to my office every day.' "

Besides, the TTC paid better.

She found the 34 days of training "extremely hard." The training for a subway train, she explains, is much more rigorous than for a bus or streetcar.

"I didn't know that I would even make it through training, it was so challenging. But now that I'm actually driving the subway, it is super easy for me. I have it down."

The hardest part, she said, are odd hours that dent her personal life. Being underground for long periods makes her tired.

Kushner knows of one other Jewish woman who drives a subway train, and on the day *The CJN* interviewed her at the TTC's Wilson Yard, two other employees were conversing in Hebrew.

The daughter of Leon and Dorothy Kushner of Toronto, she "definitely" gets reactions when she tells people what she does.

"They want to ask me dozens of questions."

Chief among them is whether anyone has committed suicide by jumping in front of her train.

Happily, that hasn't happened on her watch but she's trained to be on the lookout for people who might jump or fall onto the tracks.

The trains are about 450 feet long and "don't stop like a car," Kushner explained. "When it comes right down to it, there's nothing you can do about it. I don't think anyone can really train you for how you react in that situation."

Neither has she encountered sick or violent passengers.

"I don't want any guns or knives on my train," Kushner said emphatically. "I know that's going to happen sooner or later."

People also tend to believe that the subway is fully automated.

"It's not automated," said Kushner, who took time to show a *CJN* reporter the surprisingly simple controls of her train. "It's all human. Someone's driving it and opening and closing the doors."

A driver must consider the train's speed, myriad signals that do not resemble those above ground, and look out the window to ensure that passengers board and exit safely.

"If something does go wrong, like someone pulling the passenger alarm and there are over 1,000 people crammed onto the train, that's a stressful situation."

For the most part, though, the job has been pretty unpressured. She's encountered a few passenger alarms "but nothing that put me over the edge."

As for those invariable rush hour delays, "I totally understand. But it's certainly not the operator's fault when there's a problem. I have to say we deal with them pretty quickly."

The job "is what you make of it," Kushner said. "Sometimes, when I'm driving, I sing to myself. I'm having a good time." ■

Meet Rachel Mirsky from White Plains, New York. A biology major on a pre-med track, and captain of the YU softball and basketball teams, Rachel chose YU to allow her to explore and develop her unique talents and interests.

Rachel loves YU because it enables her to engage in her extracurricular passions and prepare for her career while remaining true to her religious commitments. An exceptional athlete, Rachel was recently named to the Capital One Academic All-District team. Whether in an Israeli laboratory conducting research on the properties of red blood cells, or authoring a medical ethics paper on eating disorders and the Biblical matriarchs, Rachel can find the perfect balance at YU. This is the essence of Torah Umadda and what sets YU apart.

Picture yourself at YU. #NowhereButHere

Yeshiva University

www.yu.edu | 212.960.5277 | yuadmit@yu.edu

www.yu.edu/apply

Winnipeg CJA campaign ahead of last year's pace

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

This community's Combined Jewish Appeal campaign organizers and volunteers are all smiles after a down year last year.

For 16 years in a row, the Winnipeg campaign had annually reached or exceeded ever-higher fundraising targets. The 2014-2015 campaign ended the streak, but this year's campaign has once again been full steam ahead.

"To this point [as of Jan. 5], we have raised $5,646,537," said Elaine Goldstine, longtime CJA campaign director and newly appointed CEO of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg. "We are up over $200,000 from where we were at the same time last year. We are also up 6.1 per cent card for card and have enlisted 181 new donors."

The 2013-2014 campaign raised $5.8 million, an increase of about $150,000 over the year before. The goal for last year was $5,950,000. The final tally, however, was $5,647,806 – more than $300,000 short of the goal and almost $150,000 less than the year before.

Goldstine attributed the shortfall in part in large part to the loss of several major donors who died.

"We are hopeful that last year was just a blip in our upward trend," she said. "This year, our target is $5.8 million and, at the present rate, we should surpass that figure. [The campaign officially closes at the end of March.] We are cautiously optimistic. We are keeping our fingers crossed."

She attributes the rosier outlook this year to a number of factors, including many more telethons and much more help in fundraising from CJA beneficiary agencies, who saw their allocations from the federation cut last year because of the campaign shortfall.

"Our beneficiary agencies really stepped up this year in helping with our canvassing," she said.

The 2015-16 campaign was chaired by lawyer Bryan Klein, a longtime CJA canvasser, while the women's philanthropy campaign chair was Elana Schultz who, Goldstine said, has been a CJA canvasser since she was a teenager and has been very much involved in the women's campaign for the last few years. Both will be back for a second year.

"Bryan, Elana and their team of canvassers did a great job," Goldstine said. "They reached out to a lot of people. The personal phone calls and frequent meetings made a difference."

Jewish Federation of Winnipeg CEO Elaine Goldstine and president Adam Levene
MYRON LOVE PHOTO

As well as funds raised from the campaign, Goldstine said last fall's Words and Deeds Leadership Awards dinner in honour of the Asper family and the Asper Foundation was attended by 850 people and raised $450,000. Half of the total went to the community's endowment fund, with the remainder going to the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs – the dinner's co-sponsor – for a project of the Asper family's choosing.

"Our 'Leave More Than Memories' endowment fund is at $3.7 million," she added. "We are working closely with the Jewish Foundation to develop short- and long-term strategies to increase the endowment."

Goldstine said that about 20 per cent of the funds raised by CJA are earmarked for overseas initiatives such as Birthright Israel trips, March of the Living, Israel advocacy and support for programs in Israel and countries of the former Soviet Union. The campaign itself and the federation account for nine per cent each of funds raised, with the remainder designated for local beneficiary agencies.

"We have a very generous community," she said.

She said one of the first orders of business in the new year will be finding a new CJA campaign director. Goldstine had been the director for the past 11 years.

"I have been juggling both jobs [campaign director and federation CEO] for the past seven months," she said. "It has been challenging." ■

In 1893, brothers Samuel and Abraham Shifman started in the mattress business...

Today Shifman makes the Finest Handmade Mattresses in the world!

SAVE 35-50%
PLUS UP TO AN EXTRA $200.00*

Exceptional Comfort • Natural Materials • Two-Sided Mattresses • Handcrafted Quality

SALE NOW ON!
*Applies to Shifman Ultra-Premium Sets only

Available exclusively at

Manderley Fine Furniture – The Home of Stickley
545 & 567 Mount Pleasant Rd. Toronto, ON M4S 2M5
416-486-3045 & 647-435-4268
manderleyfinefurniture.com

L'chaim
retirement

Finding The Person Behind The Demntia

Specializing In Dementia Care

Saying YES! to Life

Our MONTESSORI Approach Helps:
- Reduces Anxiety
- Reduces Depression
- Eliminate Loneliness
- Increases Self Esteem
- Stimulates the Mind

Call Today We Can Help
416-398-7898

www.LchaimRetirement.ca

Chassidim vow court action if rezoning goes ahead

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Members of the chassidic community sent a *mise en demeure*, a legal demand letter, to Outremont councillors on Jan. 5 in an attempt to forestall the Montreal borough from proceeding with its plan to prohibit new places of worship in certain commercial districts.

The plaintiffs' lawyer, Julius Grey, says the proposed rezoning of the areas around Laurier and Bernard avenues will adversely affect the growing chassidic community by preventing it from opening needed additional synagogues. The council's proposal that places of worship be restricted in future to a zone in the northeast corner of the borough, near the train tracks, is not acceptable, because it is a 20- to 30-minute walk from where most Chassidim live, Grey said.

The letter warns that if the council goes ahead, the plaintiffs will contest the matter in court.

Outremont is expected to issue a public notice Jan. 14 on procedure now that the council has voted twice in favour of the proposed bylaw, at its November and December meetings.

In accordance with Quebec law, the proposed rezoning will be put to a referendum if a minimum number (to be announced) of Outremont residents sign a register indicating their opposition to the bylaw. If there are insufficient signatures, the council will vote for a third and final time on the proposed bylaw.

The vote tally was 4-1 at the two previous council meetings, with the only dissenter being Coun. Mindy Pollak, a member of the chassidic community.

Just before the second vote on Dec. 7, Grey sent a letter on behalf of members of the chassidic community to borough Mayor Marie Cinq-Mars expressing their objection to the changes.

"It is clear that the regulation directly targets [the Chassidim] not with the goal of satisfying their needs, but of bullying them. Moreover, Outremont has an unfortunate history and strained relations with this community," he wrote.

Grey, who specializes in civil rights, notes that at the public consultation meeting the borough convened on Dec. 1, the majority of the presenters spoke against the rezoning, and, therefore, the bylaw, if adopted as is, could be declared invalid. Most of the opponents were chassidic.

The local newspaper *L'Express d'Outremont* reported Jan. 5 that a petition in favour of the rezoning has collected nearly 900 signatures.

Julius Grey

Mayer Feig, who frequently speaks on behalf of the Chassidim, said the community is ready to mobilize its members for a register.

Jews are estimated to represent about 20 per cent of Outremont's population.

Feig maintains the council is acquiescing to a small group of residents who "do not like us" and who perennially accuse the Chassidim of flouting bylaws and otherwise not being good citizens.

He also says there is no solid evidence that banning more places of worship would revitalize Laurier and Bernard, which the council says is the intention. No independent study has been conducted to support that claim, Feig said.

Before the rezoning was proposed, a chassidic congregation had applied to the borough to open a religious centre, which would house a mikvah, on Bernard Avenue.

Michael Rosenberg, a prominent real estate developer and one of the plaintiffs, said a few weeks ago he convened a meeting of Bernard merchants. Some raised concerns about more religious establishments, but Rosenberg thinks that "most of them well understood that... such places of worship... do not constitute a threat to the local economy.

"What is certain, all acknowledge that other measures should be undertaken to improve the present commercial situation."

Rosenberg is skeptical about the council's defence that it's not singling out the chassidic community, as the bylaw would apply to all religions.

"There is no doubt that the measures envisioned directly target... almost exclusively the Jewish community... and undoubtedly strike at its fundamental rights, all for the claimed goal of promoting local commerce, without demonstrating the existence of any harmful impact." ■

Canadian Mortgages Inc.

INVEST INTO CANADIAN MORTGAGES WITH OUR
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Opportunities Available from $25K to $1M+ with ROI from 6-15%+

Fully Managed Loans With No Servicing Fees

OVER $40M+ in funded loans with very few defaults!

CASH OR REGISTERED(RSP) INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE IN GTA, GOLDEN HORSESHOE, ONTARIO, AND CANADA WIDE.

www.canadianlending.ca/investors

888-465-8564

FSCO #10601

WILLIAM ASHLEY
SINCE 1947

Register for What you Love!
Discover the World's Largest Selection of Tableware, Kitchenware and Home Décor

National BRIDAL SHOW
PROUD SPONSOR

55 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON • 416-964-2900 • Toll Free 800-268-1122
Shipping Available Across Canada 2 Hours Free Parking in the Manulife Centre with Purchase
START YOUR REGISTRY ONLINE! WWW.WILLIAMASHLEY.COM

JAIL FOR 'CONTROLLING' YOUR SPOUSE AND VERBAL ABUSE

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B. A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 33 years

The *Globe and Mail* reports that "people who use repeated threats, humiliation and intimidation to control their intimate partners or family members could face prosecution in England and Wales under a law which became effective on December 29 2015". "Coercive or controlling" behaviour can now be prosecuted as a crime punishable by a fine and up to **five years** in prison. It can be applied only when the behaviour has had a "serious effect" on the victim's life or causes them to fear violence if they don't comply.

One of the examples the British police authorities gave is telling your spouse that she is "worthless." Prison terms for repeated name-calling as opposed to physical abuse takes the law beyond a firm legal boundary. Needless to say such verbal abuse has always been sufficient to end a marriage without invoking criminal sanction. Britain's Parliament decided to make it a criminal offence when such conduct becomes so repetitive and ongoing as to cause major and demonstrable emotional problems for the victim.

In Ontario where zero tolerance rules, Police are required to arrest an alleged offender in a domestic dispute once a complaint is made, but only when violence or a threat of violence is cited. One has to wonder how the new British law would actually work if enacted in Ontario. "*Officer, he keeps telling me what to do 'cause he won't let me go to back to school. I'm stuck here taking care of the kids. About two years ago he kept telling me I was worthless. Arrest him.*" Now remember, in Britain the complainant only has to cite a "serious effect" on her life: there does not have to be any allegation of violence or a threat of violence. Today, a police officer would normally treat such complaints as a family law matter and refer this lady to the family courts. He/she might also suggest the complainant seek advice from a matrimonial lawyer. The lawyer might suggest (a) marriage counseling (b) mediation (c) alternatively, a court application for custody, child and spousal support (d) equalization of property. Secondly, if she truly feared *a **threat*** of violence then what most readers don't know is that this threat is what is legally known as "assault." If necessary, her spouse could be arrested and charged with assault for that reason immediately. Most confuse the concept of "assault" with "battery" Battery is the actual violence itself, not the threat of violence.

No one should ever compromise themselves in a relationship fraught with intimidation, bullying, and the fear of consequences. We all live on borrowed time and life is too short. However, if a victim requires the law to assist then both the criminal and family law should be applied like a *surgical tool*, not a blunt instrument to help such spouses successfully. Otherwise I fear we may be asking too much of our wonderful Police officers.

Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, with experience in family law for 33 years. Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit

www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.

Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.

Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.

Radio-Canada defends Mideast correspondent

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Luc Chartrand

Radio-Canada has defended one of its Middle East correspondents against charges by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) that his reporting is biased against Israel.

Ombudsman Pierre Tourangeau absolved Luc Chartrand from CIJA's accusation that he breached the network's stated journalistic norms with his "one-sided" coverage and has a history of allowing his alleged sympathy for the Palestinians to influence his reports.

CIJA says it is disappointed with the review by Tourangeau, who previously upheld some of its complaints about the public broadcaster's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and questions the independence of the ombudsman's office.

In the complaint, David Ouellette, CIJA's associate director of public affairs for Quebec, focused on Chartrand's piece, "*Guerre morale ou crime de guerre?*" (Moral war or war crime?), which aired Oct. 29 on the weekly TV newsmagazine *Enquête*.

"This report is emblematic of all that is wrong with Radio-Canada coverage of the Israeli-Palestininian conflict," Ouellette said.

He argued that Chartrand's examination of civilian deaths in the conflict between Hamas and Israel in Gaza in 2014 was unbalanced. In a point-by-point analysis, he said Chartrand paid scant attention to Israeli civilians targeted by Hamas and other militant Palestinian groups, leaving "the false impression that Israel was essentially conducting a war against defenceless civilians."

Ouellette suggested Chartrand was selective in his citing of data from the report of the UN Human Rights Council and gave too much weight to interviewees sympathetic to the Palestinians or self-critical Israelis, such as the dissident ex-soldiers' group Breaking the Silence.

Tourangeau not only clears Chartrand of wrongdoing in a 10,000-word report headed *Israel: une diversité de vues que ne traduit pas le discours officiel* (*Israel: A Diversity of Views that the Official Line does not Convey*), issued Dec. 18. He also scolds pro-Israel advocates for going too far and highlights the difficulties foreign journalists have covering the Middle East.

He upheld *Enquête*'s right to look solely into the Israeli military's actions during the conflict for this feature, but cites a number of instances where Chartrand sought input from the Israeli side, including making clear that Israel was reacting to rocket fire on its residential areas from Gaza.

Tourangeau comments that the close media scrutiny Israel faces is the price of democracy. It respects freedoms that its adversaries have the advantage of being able to disregard.

CIJA turned to the ombudsman after Radio-Canada news director Jean Pelletier, editor-in-chief of *Enquête*, disagreed with its objections to Chartrand's reporting.

Ouellette also argued that a novel Chartrand published last year, *L'Affaire Myosotis*, is evidence of what Chartrand really thinks about Israel and its "lobby" in Canada. This thriller revolves around a former Quebec journalist living in Israel who gets mixed up in the murder of a man associated with a Canadian agency promoting democracy. It turns out a Canadian pro-Israel organization is behind the death, an attempt to stymie an investigation into an alleged Israeli war crime.

Ouellette said Chartrand, who has said the book is based on his own research, "blurs the line between fact and fiction."

While Tourangeau and Pelletier dismissed the relevance of a work of fiction to the matter, Ouellette told *The CJN* that the fact Radio-Canada assigned a journalist who has written such a book to investigate alleged Israeli war crimes is troubling.

Ouellette said the Radio-Canada response to this file reflects negatively on its "credibility" and "shows there are limits to the independence of the ombudsman," after Tourangeau had "sent signals he took our complaints seriously."

Chartrand, a veteran journalist, joined Radio-Canada in 2000, and has worked in Afghanistan and Iraq. According to the network's website, he won the Prix Judith-Jasmin in 2010 for a report on the "pro-Israel lobby in Canada."

In an email to *The CJN* and others in the Jewish community, Chartrand called the matter a "very sad misstep" ("*un bien triste dérapage*)" and expressed a sense of vindication. "The pressures of the plaintiff and the organization he represents on media coverage are part of the scene for a long time. Never, however, has it gone this far… 'prosecution for one's opinions' – to use the term in the response of Radio-Canada's management – and 'guilt by association,' the ombudsman's term.

"I am personally saddened to see the debate brought down to this level." ■

Jewish vote could be up for grabs in the future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Other Jews did, too, he surmised. Although there is no data yet to show how Jews voted in Mount Royal in 2015, in earlier elections, Irwin Cotler would take the riding with 92 per cent of the vote. Housefather got only about 40 per cent, suggesting that Jews, like the rest of the population, have switched allegiances from where they were before, he said.

Shapiro believes the Jewish vote, particularly among young people, will be up for grabs in future elections. It will depend on particular issues, candidates and party leaders.

"My kids are all over the place," he said. "I don't think the young generation is locked into anything. I think it's, 'What are you going to do for me now?'" he said.

Torontonian Chani Aryeh-Bain says she's always been a Conservative. "I like their sound economic policies. That was the main attraction.

"When Harper came into office, I definitely liked his policies on the Middle East," she added.

Aryeh-Bain, who ran a business for 25 years, said "I liked the job [Oliver] did as finance minister. He's quiet, calm and steady. That's what I liked about him."

During the recent federal election campaign, Aryeh-Bain worked for Oliver and tried to recruit other supporters.

"I mobilized Jewish women in our riding," she said. "That's a segment that generally doesn't go out to vote."

She managed to persuade 100 Jewish women to volunteer on Oliver's campaign.

Although Aryeh-Bain said it's tough to recruit people in large numbers to work on a campaign, she believes Jewish support for the Liberals has waned somewhat, unlike support for the Tories.

"The Liberals have changed and Jews have drifted away from them," she said.

Under Harper, the government steered a moral course on the Middle East, even if it wasn't always popular, and she expects that to continue, regardless of who becomes the party's next leader.

As for Trudeau, she wishes him well. "If he fails, we all fail," she said. But she finds him too celebrity-oriented, too much flash compared to Harper's low-key reliability. As for his support for Israel, "I'm not convinced of it, but let's wait and see," she said.

In the meantime, she's not just waiting for the next election in four years. She's already arranged a get-together of dozens of women, the majority from the Orthodox community, to answer their questions about "what to do now."

"We'll discuss how to [stay] interested in politics and how to take on an active role," she said. "I want to see where their strengths lie and what they want to do."

> *I don't think the young generation is locked into anything.*
>
> **Gary Shapiro**

Guidy Mamann is one of those people who made the journey from left to right.

"Like many Jews, I voted Liberal ever since I could vote. I was very skeptical about Preston Manning and the conservatives from the West and I associated Stephen Harper with that movement," he said. But with Harper as the leader, he was persuaded to vote Tory, "for the first time in my life."

A Toronto immigration lawyer, Mamann said he has opposed Conservative policy on some issues related to his field, but backed them on others. He's done the same with the Liberals.

But, he continued, "it's not good to be a one-issue voter.

"I'm not a 'big C' Conservative or a 'big L' Liberal," he said. "If somebody has a good plan for the country, I'm going to follow him regardless of the party."

"I felt very comfortable with [Harper's] hand on the wheel of the economy," he said. In fact, that was what initially attracted him to the party. "It was only after the first [minority] term that I saw him as a defender of Israel and of a principled foreign policy, one that was not necessarily popular but was consistent with our Canadian values," he said.

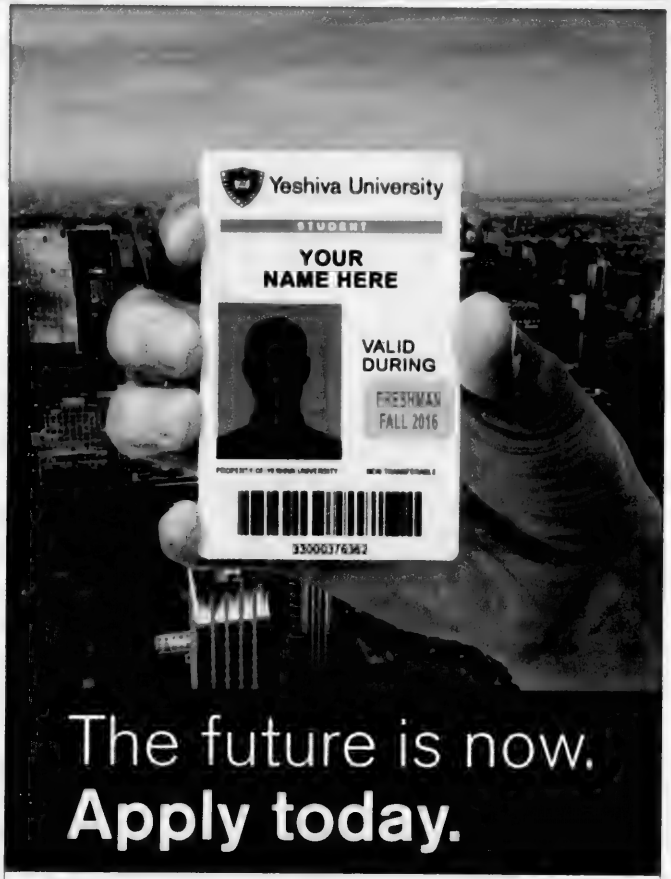
Mamann believes those positions were based on principles, not crude electoral calculations. "Even if you don't look at it from that position, the statements on the Middle East conflict must have cost him many more votes than it brought in," he said.

Mamann said Conservative policies are important to him. He likes the conservative agenda of low taxes, fiscal prudence and less red tape. He wants to see the economy remain vibrant and believes the Liberals will introduce expensive programs that "we don't need" and are "ill-conceived," which will require higher tax burdens into the future. "Kids will be paying for the luxuries their parents enjoyed," he said.

Mamann said he was a big supporter of Pierre Trudeau and admired the changes to the constitution he spearheaded.

As for the current prime minister, Pierre's son, "I don't have confidence that he's capable of running the country."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45



At Yeshiva University, growing your understanding of, and commitment to, Jewish values is not a club or an extracurricular activity, it is YU.

From Talmud to mathematics, and Tanakh to biology, combining Torah study and Jewish values with a rigorous academic curriculum is the hallmark of YU. With student programs across our campuses and around the world, YU takes a global approach to learning, education and values, creating a full college experience. This is the essence of Torah Umadda and what sets YU apart.

Picture yourself at YU. **#NowhereButHere**

Yeshiva University

www.yu.edu | 212.960.5277 | yuadmit@yu.edu

www.yu.edu/apply

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 14, 2016

Ryerson professor loved literacy, Yiddish and family

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Born in Radom, Poland, in 1939, Adam Gabriel Fuerstenberg survived the war as a child by escaping with his mother to Galicia, then to Soviet Asia, while most of their extended family were murdered by the Nazis. Residing in a displaced persons camp in Stuttgart, Germany, after the war, the small, malnourished child used to demonstrate his love of reading by walking across town to a small lending library in the American zone.

"One day, Eleanor Roosevelt came to look at the American library, and the librarian trotted out this solitary little guy – Adam – to show her how the library was being used by the local children," said Gloria Fuerstenberg of her late husband, who died in Toronto on Jan. 3, at age 76.

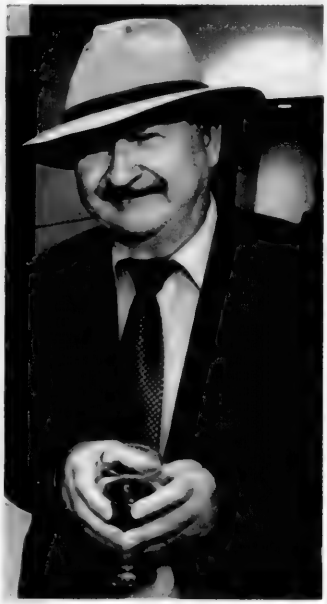
Fuerstenberg, who knew four or five languages, including being fluent in Yiddish, went on to become an esteemed professor of English literature at Ryerson University. A passionate teacher, he was the founder of the 27-year-old Canadian Jewish Book Awards and a long-serving editor of *Parchment*, the journal of Canadian Jewish literature.

> *He was my colossus. He was my comrade in arms, always ready to defend and protect.*

Books and literature were as central in his life as the many students, writers, teachers and others whom he encouraged and inspired.

"He was a person who understood darkness, and was an expert in every detail of the darkness of the Holocaust," Rabbi Yirmiya Milevsky said in a eulogy. "And yet he brought a tremendous amount of light into the world."

"He was my colossus," said his younger sister, Anna, who was born in the displaced persons camp in Stuttgart. "He was my comrade in arms, always ready to defend and protect. We were, in his words, the 'last of the Mohicans.'"



Adam Fuerstenberg

Arriving with his parents in Montreal in 1951, Fuerstenberg went to fabled Baron Byng High School while his father worked as a carpenter. When his father put some money from his first paycheque down on an encyclopedia, the barely teenaged Fuerstenberg started reading the multi-volumed set all the way through from front to back.

He went to Sir George Williams University (now Concordia) and then studied English literature as a graduate student at the State University of New York in Buffalo. Soon after he married the former Gloria Lidsky in Montreal in 1964, the couple moved to Toronto.

One day, on a whim, Fuerstenberg dropped by the English department of Ryerson Polytechnic Institute, as it was then known, and asked for a job. He was hired, and he remained on faculty for 41 years, also becoming a long-serving member of the Ryerson board of governors.

For a while, Fuerstenberg headed the community's committee for Yiddish and was the first literary critic to write appreciations of Canadian Yiddish writers.

"He was the pioneer scholar who wrote about Canadian-Jewish writing, both Yiddish and English," said his friend, Seymour Mayne, a professor of English at the University of Ottawa. "He was the first to take it seriously, and many others followed."

Fuerstenberg headed the Holocaust Education Centre in Toronto for a time and helped to bring important exhibits to Toronto, including one on Anne Frank. Several years ago, he escorted a group of teachers on an educational Holocaust trip to Europe. He was an enthusiastic champion of numerous projects, including a Toronto Jewish museum project about a decade ago.

"He felt passionately that there should be a Jewish museum" in Toronto's former ROM Planetarium, said his son, Zack. "He was probably in the early iterations of proposing the idea, but I believe the project is now in the process of being realized. Other people have obviously taken it forward."

A widely published scholar, Fuerstenberg wrote occasional pieces in *The Canadian Jewish News*, the *National Post* and the New York (English) *Forward*, including a story two years ago on the "significant Jewish backstory" to the popular television series, *Downton Abbey*. He also wrote an appreciation on Jewish writing in Canada for the website Historica Canada.

"He was the first to break ground connecting Yiddish literary culture in Canada to the work and writing life of the first generation of Jewish Canadian English-language writers, including A.M. Klein, Irving Layton and Mordecai Richler," asserted the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, which awarded him its Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award in 2014. "One need only check any bibliography of Jewish and Yiddish Canadian writing to note his trailblazing distinguished contributions."

"Boundless optimism, commitment to teaching, and utter devotion to family" were the three qualities that best defined his father, according to son Zack. Others cite his many enthusiasms and his eagerness to help others after having known suffering and deprivation in his early life.

"Adam gave the same level of respect to the person who washed the floors and to the person who was chairman of the university," Gloria said. "He was truly a democrat in his heart."

In addition to his wife, Gloria, and sister, Anna, he leaves children Glenda, Zack and Ariela and their spouses, and three grandchildren. ■

Beth Torah Congregation
קהילת בית תורה

A traditional Family Shul in existence for 50 years. Our approach to Judaism and Jewish education merges the traditional with the modern.

We are in search of a full-time Cantor to be an integral part of sustaining and growing our family Shul and the Congregation's Jewish identity.

At Beth Torah, the Cantor is a full time member of the Clergy and is directly responsible to the Rabbi. The Cantor works closely with other members of the professional and administrative staff and the lay leadership of the Congregation.

As an essential part of our Clergy, the ideal candidate will be warm, outgoing, and an effective communicator; an enthusiastic teacher of both children and adults, possessing a love of music; and a team player who brings creativity, innovation and a deep understanding of, and respect for traditional Judaism as it merges with the modern.

The role of Cantor includes responsibilities as Clergy, music and liturgy, educational and programmatic initiatives, Synagogue leadership, event and community responsibilities.

Interested candidates should send their CV by email to
rabbisoffice@bethtorah.ca

To be considered please attach an audio file (8mb max) representative of your style and vocal skills. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by return email.

47 Glenbrook Avenue, Toronto ON M6B 2L7

Your Morning Spiel is *The CJN*'s new daily roundup of trending online stories. Only at **www.cjnews.com**

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

Shooter's killing raises questions for police and Israeli Arabs

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

The killing of Nashat Milhem on Jan. 10, a week after he shot dead three people in Tel Aviv, won't be remembered as much of a success for the security establishment.

On the tactical level, more than a few problems came to light concerning the attack. The first has to do with intelligence. While it's certainly possible that the killer acted alone, using a submachine gun he stole from his father, it's hard to comprehend why the father would keep such a weapon in the house even after his son served a five-year sentence for trying to snatch a rifle from a soldier.

Furthermore, although security forces knew that Milhem was in the area of his hometown of Arara – there were clear indications that he was there hours after the shooting – it took a long time to get to him. The fact that he was hiding out in a more-or-less obvious place – an unoccupied house belonging to a family member – compounds the sense of failure.

The episode is reminiscent of the 2014 abduction-killing of three Israeli teens. In that case, the victims were buried in a plot belonging to the family of one of the terrorists, who hid in a building belonging to an extended family member. The takeaway – that fugitives often seek shelter in places that they know well – makes the fact it took eight days to get to Milhem even puzzling.

Still, on a more strategic level, it is important to note that even if Milhem's shooting spree really was a "lone wolf" attack (at this point, it is not at all clear that that was the case), the excellent intelligence deployment of the Shin Bet security services in the Palestinian territories and among Israeli Arabs doesn't make it easy to deal with the problem.

Police forces raided the neighbourhood in Arara where terrorist Nashat Milhem hid before being shot by them. GIL ELIYAHU/JINIPIX/ISRAEL SUN PHOTO

There is a genuine difficulty among the intelligence community in countering the impossible challenge of "lone wolves" with access to weapons, who set out one fine day, without any prior warning, to carry out an attack.

The Shin Bet has had multiple successes in recent weeks thwarting organized terror cells sporting multiple members. The problem is that these days, there is an ever-growing mass of incidents – especially in the West Bank, where they are a daily occurrence – involving attackers who don't rely on what the security establishment terms "terror infrastructure."

And then there's the attitude of the Israel Police, which last week gave many citizens the sense that it was downplaying their genuine fears amid ongoing uncertainty and reports that Milhem could strike again.

But perhaps even more troubling than the security establishment's dubious ability to cope with the situation was support for the attack among Israel's Arab population. True, there were many condemnations, even among Milhem's own neighbours. And yet it is becoming increasingly clear that the killer may have received help not only from his own family, but also from other friends and acquaintances. For one thing, we still don't know who helped him get to Arara from Tel Aviv after carrying out the attack.

And of course, after he was killed by security forces, there was that – albeit small – demonstration during which young Arabs chanted, "With blood, with fire, we'll avenge the martyr." Milhem, we must recall, had murdered not only two Jews, Alon Bakal and Shimon Ruimi, but also an Arab resident of Lod, Ayman Shaaban.

Hamas, as expected, jumped on the bandwagon and embraced the murderer as a role model, while the Palestinian Authority equivocated, calling him a "martyr" but refusing to award him the status that would entitle his family to financial aid. Meanwhile, the ultra-radical Islamic State group appeared to scramble to declare that Milhem was one of its own, crowning Milhem an Islamic State martyr for Palestine in a statement whose authenticity has yet to be established.

Finally, the big question that everyone here – Jews and Arabs alike – should be losing sleep over is whether Milhem's action will sweep up and inspire others, sparking a trend among young Israeli Arabs. If, heaven forbid, a similar incident were to occur again, the already delicate relations between Jews and Arabs could sustain a heavy blow, and everyone will pay a price.

Almost as expected in times like these, the voice of the Israeli Arab leadership is not being heard very loudly. Members of Knesset known for their vehement condemnations when Palestinians are accidentally killed by IDF soldiers, go silent when an Arab is murdered by another Arab.

True, some of them condemned the Tel Aviv attacks. But since the slaying of Milhem, not one of them has stood in front of the cameras and called on his or her supporters to denounce the likes of Milhem. For them, to condemn the death of an Arab at the hands of another Arab would simply be bad politics. ■

Times of Israel
timesofisrael.com

Killer's relative arrested on suspicion of being accomplice

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

A relative of Tel Aviv gunman Nashat Milhem was remanded into custody on Jan. 10 on suspicion of playing "a central role" as an accomplice in the Jan. 1 killings, a TV report said.

The male suspect was first arrested on Jan. 5, and police have "strong evidence" connecting him to the killings, Channel 10 said.

Two days after Israeli Arab Milhem was cornered in his home village of Arara and shot dead when he opened fire on the forces that had come to arrest him, security forces continued to arrest suspects who may have helped him before and after he killed three Israelis in Tel Aviv, and continued to search several homes belonging to the wider Milhem family in Arara.

The killer's father Mohammed and his brother Ali were released from detention Sunday, with limitations placed on their movement.

"If I had been an accomplice, you wouldn't be seeing me here now," said Mohammed Milhem after his release.

He also said he was not angry with the Shin Bet for arresting him, and that he had fully co-operated with the Israeli law enforcement authorities.

Channel 10 said the father told one of its reporters that he wished Nashat had been captured alive, as the security forces had also intended. "Why did they have to kill him?" he reportedly asked.

Some relatives from the wider Milhem family protested that security personnel had destroyed property, and even stolen valuables, during searches last Sunday in Arara.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Fire at human rights group HQ not likely arson

SUE SURKES
JERUSALEM

The fire that gutted the Jerusalem offices of the human rights group B'Tselem on Jan. 10 was likely caused by an electrical fault, firefighters said, all but ruling out earlier assessments that the blaze was caused by an arson attack.

"In light of an initial investigation being carried out by the special investigations team of [the] Jerusalem fire and rescue [service], we're looking into a high probability option that the fire was started following a fault in the office's electrical systems," a spokesman for the fire brigade said.

The commander of the Jerusalem District Fire Brigade told Israel Radio that investigators were still awaiting the verdict of an electrical engineer, but that it was "reasonable to assume," from the fact that the fire started in an acoustic ceiling, that the cause was an electrical short circuit.

Security camera footage that emerged last Monday afternoon appeared to show the electrical short that caused the fire.

Moshe Lazari, a fire investigator, told the radio station that the possibility of an electrical short circuit was being looked at, although the investigation was ongoing and no definite conclusions had been reached by press time on Monday.

Firefighters stand at the entrance to a building where the offices of the left-wing B'Tselem is located on Jan. 10. YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90 PHOTO

> *We are breathing freely again after the announcement of the fire services that in all likelihood there was an electrical short circuit. We're going back to normal.*

Lazari said the investigative team had neither found graffiti nor smelled any inflammable material, clues that led police to the far-right perpetrators of an arson attack at the Hand in Hand Jewish-Arab school in Jerusalem in November 2014.

Police were waiting for the fire service's official report before announcing their conclusions, a spokesman said.

"We are breathing freely again after the announcement of the fire services that in all likelihood there was an electrical short circuit," B'Tselem said in a statement. "We're going back to normal."

Earlier reports said the speed with which the fire spread supported suspicions of arson.

B'Tselem's first-floor offices were empty at the time of the fire and there were no injuries there. However, a cantor at a synagogue on the building's fourth floor was taken to Hadassah Hospital in the Ein Kerem neighbourhood. He suffered from smoke inhalation and his injuries were described as "very light."

The fire began at 10 p.m. Sunday. Acting Jerusalem Fire Brigade commander Eyal Cohen said six fire-fighting teams arrived with a crane to battle the blaze.

Police instructed the offices to remain closed Monday until investigators had examined the premises, and a security officer was posted at the building's entrance. Over recent months, amid ongoing threats, the entrance to the office had been guarded from time to time.

Late Sunday, when assessments still pointed at an arson attack, B'Tselem said that despite the incident, it would not be deterred.

"Naturally, the damage to our offices will not stop our work of documenting and exposing the harm to human rights under the occupation," the group said in a statement.

B'Tselem director Hagai El-Ad said he didn't want to speculate. "We will not say anything until the facts are clear."

El-Ad told Army Radio that whether or not the fire turned out to have been caused by arson, there has been a "harsh and dangerous atmosphere of incitement against human rights activists and especially people and organizations working for human rights in the [West Bank]."

While criticism was legitimate, he continued, and his organization welcomed any opportunity to conduct a "substantive debate," organizations like B'Tselem were being persecuted as part of an "atmosphere" running from the Prime Minister's Office, through the Justice Ministry to right-wing groups such as Im Tirtzu.

Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked's bill requiring Israeli non-governmental organizations to publicly declare their foreign government funding is moving toward passage, after it was approved by a cabinet committee at the end of December. Shaked has said the legislation will uncover foreign meddling in Israeli affairs. ■

Times Of Israel
Timesofisrael.com
JTA contributed to this report.

LAND ROVER JAGUAR
THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI

FLORIDA, ARIZONA,
CALIFORNIA, CANADA
WE SEND YOUR CAR &
CONTENTS (and return)
CALL 416-225-7754
www.torontodriveaway.com
TORONTO DRIVEAWAY
AND TRUCK SERVICE
5803 Yonge St., #101
North York M2M 3V5
Since 1959

Israelis won't bow to terror, President Rivlin says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Adel Milhem, a relative whose home was searched, pointed to a family car that had been smashed, and said the forces had stolen gold, silver and jewelry when searching his home. "I had nothing to do with (the crime)," said Adel. "My car and home are destroyed. They should just kill me."

Another relative, Umeila, said the searchers had ripped the sink out of her wall, destroyed her TV set, and trashed her home.

Suspects were arrested in Arara and also in the nearby village of Bartaa, where one arrest was filmed.

Nashat Milhem was killed in a shootout with police and the Shin Bet on Jan. 8 a week after he killed three Israelis – Alon Bakal, Shimon Ruimi and Amin Shaaban – in Tel Aviv on Jan. 1 and then fled a massive police manhunt to hide in his hometown in the northern Israeli village of Arara. According to officials, he was not affiliated with any organized terror group, but is believed to have been motivated by a jihadist ideology.

Public defender Nechami Feinblatt, who represents the Milhem family, told Army Radio earlier on the day that he had secured the release of Mohammed and Ali Milhem after reaching an agreement with the Shin Bet.

"I think the Shin Bet understands that the family wanted to help capture him and not help him [escape]," he said.

In the days following the shooting, Milhem's father and brothers Juadat and Ali, together with five other relatives and friends, were arrested on suspicion of premeditated manslaughter, being an accessory to murder, illegal association and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Hours after the shootings, Mohammed went to local police and told them he had recognized his son as the gunman from TV broadcasts of security camera footage of the attack.

A few days later, he made a televised plea to his son to turn himself in, as Tel Aviv residents hunkered down amid ongoing searches for the gunman. "Contact me," Mohammed said, appealing directly to his son. "I will help you. Let's end this saga. These are difficult days for the family."

On Jan. 5, Juadat Milhem, the terrorist's brother, repeated that plea after he was freed from police custody.

Feinblatt told Israeli media that while Mohammed had been in touch with his son after the murders, he had "certainly not" helped him escape. He said that security officials were made aware of the phone call between the two.

Nasham Milhem
POLICE PHOTO

On Jan. 3, police found DNA evidence indicating Milhem was in his hometown of Arara, and he was eventually tracked to an abandoned house in the town.

The structure was surrounded last Friday afternoon, and according to police, Milhem spotted the forces converging upon him. He fired on them from the window of the apartment, fled the building, and ran some 200 meters before he was gunned down by security forces. The forces had been ordered to take him alive if possible.

The next day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned would-be attackers that anyone who targets Israelis would suffer a similar fate.

"Let all who wish to murder Israelis know that sooner or later we will reach them, inside the borders of the nation and outside of them," Netanyahu said in a statement. "No one is immune. We will get to the killers and to all those who aided them."

President Reuven Rivlin said Israelis "will not bow our heads in the face of the depraved terror we are facing in this difficult period."

He praised the actions of security forces over the past week to locate Milhem.

"We will continue to choose life, even when in pain, even when the price we pay is heavy and so very difficult," Rivlin said.

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog meanwhile blasted the erection of a mourning tent in Milhem's honour in East Jerusalem over the weekend, calling those behind it "enemies of Israel."

Herzog called Milhem "a despicable murderer" and said Israel would not rest until it had eradicated the "pockets of hate and incitement" which lead to terror attacks against innocents. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

The CJN Prize (FOR YOUNG WRITERS) Awards Ceremony

Come support and celebrate great writing!

Honouring the literary achievements of young Jewish writers from across Canada. Enjoy the stories read by their authors.

Special Guest Speakers:
Barbara Kay (Renowned Journalist)
Sara R. Horowitz (Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies)

February 10, 2016
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m.

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
York University Keele Campus
Accolade East Building, Main Floor
(Parking available at the student services parking garage at James Gillies Blvd. and Fine Arts Rd.)

Free tickets available at CJNews.com
Register by February 5

Sponsored by
Presenting Sponsor
Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

Encore

CJN

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 14, 2016

Mein Kampf sale in Germany touches off heated debate

MIRIAM DAGAN
BERLIN

Adolf Hitler's last official residence, the German state of Bavaria has kept the copyright of the genocidal dictator's *Mein Kampf* under lock and key since the end of World War II. Forced into the role of a taboo's reluctant guardian and although most historians see it as an important source on the Nazi period, for 70 years the state has prohibited publication of Hitler's monstrous autobiographic manifesto of anti-Semitic ideology. That copyright expired on Dec. 31, 2015.

Hitting the shelves in Germany on Jan. 8, the Munich-based Institute for Contemporary History's (ICH) re-published *Mein Kampf* is a heavily annotated edition with commentary almost as long as the 800-page original text. Work on the annotated version took three years and for the research community, this new two-volume edition is an opportunity to finally fill a major gap.

While both sides of the controversial public debate wonder about the efficacy – and need – of republishing Hitler's lengthy screed, many don't realize that, alongside other excerpted texts of Nazi propaganda, *Mein Kampf* is already included in standard German history textbooks.

When the ICH presented the project to an international commission of researchers, it garnered approval from historians including Dan Michman, head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The new edition retails for 60 euros ($90) and its initial print run of 4,000 sold out on the first day. But as the first print publication of *Mein Kampf* in Germany since 1944, it has set off heated discussion in both domestic and international forums.

Upon the book's publication last week, World Jewish Congress president Ronald S. Lauder released a statement condemning the scholarly endeavour. "It would be best to leave *Mein Kampf* where it belongs: the poison cabinet of history… This project may be well-intended, but the Bavarian government was right not to allow its republication until the expiry of the copyright, or to support a new edition financially," says Lauder.

Head of the Institute for Contemporary History Andreas Wirsching says, however, publishing the scholarly edition promotes responsible research and counters unannotated versions that Germans can easily buy online through international booksellers. The annotated edition "contributes to the urgently needed demystification of this crucial Nazi-era text," says Wirsching.

Indeed, most scholars agree it's high time *Mein Kampf* be stripped of its mystical aura, and that continued censorship is counterproductive to that goal.

"What can't be examined, can't be discussed – is mystified instead," writes Christoph Schwennicke, the editor-in-chief of the German political monthly *Cicero* in a recent article. He calls for an open examination of its content, and wonders whether its publication is not long overdue.

"Isn't it relevant to know the train of thought that fed the German catastrophe?" he writes.

Even the leader of Germany's Jewish community, Joseph Schuster, has agreed that the book can contribute to a greater understanding of the Nazi era and the Holocaust and is in favour of an annotated edition.

But now that it can theoretically be published freely, Schuster emphatically warns against uncontrolled circulation of unannotated *Mein Kampf* editions. He has called on the German state's institutions to do all they can to prevent its sale and distribution.

This public call against unannotated distribution does not go far enough for Charlotte Knobloch, head of Munich's Jewish community and commissioner for Holocaust memory at the World Jewish Congress.

In a recent conversation, Knobloch told the *Times of Israel* that selling *Mein Kampf* in Germany in any form is a slap in the face to Holocaust survivors' associations worldwide that, she says, can't grasp that the book will be again legally available in Germany.

"The fact is, just dealing with the book raises interest in it – and that interest, for many, is not in the commentary but in the original text," says Knobloch, who fears the annotated editions won't hit their mark.

At the moment, it looks as though the annotated edition of *Mein Kampf* is still likely to be the only one on sale in German bookstores. German justice officials have announced that anyone who publishes the book without proper commentary will be prosecuted for inciting racial hatred, under the unique law which allows Germany's democracy to defend itself against anti-democratic forces.

> *No one voluntarily tortures himself through Hitler's Mein Kampf. It's too badly written for that.*
>
> **Volker Beck, German politician**

However, taking a clear stance on the question of how the book should be handled in schools, Knobloch also vehemently opposes covering *Mein Kampf* in the classroom.

"There's generally too little time in class to deal with National-Socialism, the Holocaust and the Second World War in a substantial way. It doesn't make sense to spend the little time there is reading hate speech," she says.

Orthodox Berlin-based Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal echoes those fears, saying that the risk of introducing it into schools is greater than the "doubtful benefit of teaching it as a vaccine against extremism."

But German education representatives disagree and those supporting discussion of excerpts of *Mein Kampf* in schools include German Education Minister Johanna Wanka. Now that it's such a hot topic in the media, Wanka says, students will have questions concerning the book. It needs to be talked about in classrooms, she told a Bavarian newspaper.

The longtime president of Germany's teacher's association Josef Kraus agrees, saying rather than students secretly buying the book online, it is better to turn it into a topic of classroom discussion, where history or politics teachers have a chance of influencing them.

"Professional treatment of excerpts in class can make an important contribution to inoculating young people against political extremism," Kraus argues, adding that its "dangerous" ideology would only be suitable only for older students from the ages of 16 or 17.

However critics of the education system point out that in some German states, history lessons are down to only one hour a week for certain age groups. With teachers rushing to expose students to the basics, is there enough class time to properly discuss the text?

And the other less publicized component of Germany's internal debate is that many think *Mein Kampf* is simply a bad book. It is too boring and cumbersome to give to students, they say.

"No one voluntarily tortures himself through Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. It's too badly written for that," prominent Green party politician Volker Beck, head of the important German-Israeli parliamentary group, told the German daily *Handelsblatt*.

And perhaps there are better texts to address anti-Semitism and Nazi ideology. "The book is confusing and bulky, and therefore hard to apply in class," says Ulrich Bongertmann of the Association of German History Teachers. He names the 1920 Nazi party platform or the Nazis' own school propaganda texts as more suitable alternatives.

Interestingly, Nazi era texts are already used in other school subjects, such as German language studies. Since it is part of the state curriculum for German high school majors to identify "rhetorical strategies that are used to influence readers or listeners," Joseph Goebbels's Sportpalace speech and other Nazi diatribe are used to discuss oratorical devices and look at differences between news and propaganda, and demagogical and charismatic leadership.

This use of Nazi texts, including *Mein Kampf*, has already caused pushback from students. In a recent newspaper op-ed, 16-year-old high school student Noah Gottschalk harshly criticized the idea of using *Mein Kampf* in German lessons.

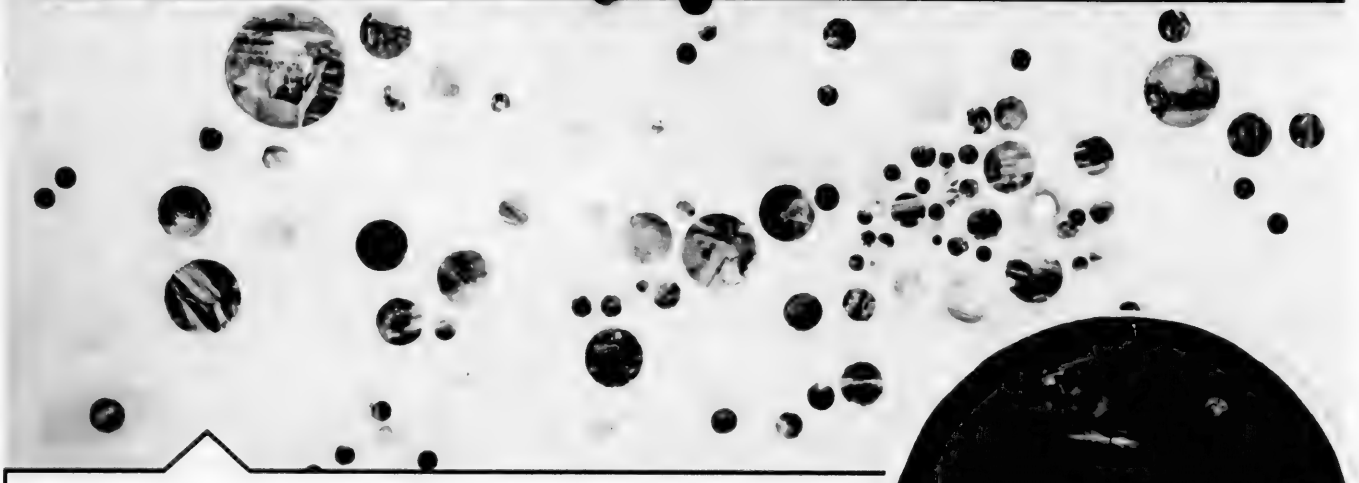
In his article "Hitler instead of Schiller?" he opines that from a literary and stylistic perspective, Hitler's hate manifesto belongs in the trash and does not deserve to be taught next to the great names of German literature.

And as a writer for the conservative German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* pointed out, it would actually be an ironic twist of history to make *Mein Kampf* required reading at schools. It would be giving it merit it did not even receive in Hitler's own time. Although the book was widely read in schools during the Nazi period, it was never a mandatory part of the curriculum.

Mein Kampf has been available in Canadian retailers for decades and many editions are currently available on Amazon.ca. In 2014, a 99-cent version was the top-selling book on iTunes Canada's politics and current events list. ■

Times of Israel
timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life



Howard Podeswa's *Heaven*, below, and *Hell* inset.

Koffler exhibit re-imagines historic paintings

KATHRYN KATES
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Toronto artist Howard Podeswa's family roots run deep in the world of art. He is the son of the late artist Yidel Podeswa, and his grandfather, the late Chaim Pinchas Podeszwa (with a "z"), was an artist as well.

Podeswa's latest installation, *A Brief History*, was influenced by physicist and author Stephen Hawking's book, *A Brief History of Time*. Opening Jan. 14, it explores artistic legacies by re-imagining historic paintings.

"It doesn't say what it is a brief history of, so it can allude to many things, which is very important to me and all the work that I do. I want people coming to the show to bring their own associations," explains Podeswa, who this year marks 30 years as a professional artist with 13 collections to his credit.

One of the inspirations for this show is a painting of a church dome made famous by Francisco Goya's *Cupola of San Antonio de la Florida*. One of the Podeswa paintings in the show is a large black circle with things going on inside called *Hell*, and the other, more hopeful large painting, is *Heaven* set against a largely white background of floating circles, and within these circles are miniature worlds that fill up the entire canvas.

"The viewer is in the middle between those two," Podeswa explains. "In a way, *A Brief History* is the life you live between those two end points."

In this show, he also examines the issue of mortality. The concept of hell for him was all the fears we have around mortality and the end of civilization that bring you around to the beginning and the end of the universe itself.

"My mind took me all the way to historical endings that people like Goya were interested in and to the ending of everything and the beginning of everything, which is what Hawking is interested in."

Podeswa primarily works in oils. "The work I do is theme-based," he explains. "Something will grab my attention, and I marshal all my resources around it, and then I produce a body of work related to that, although I may have to change the style and the way I work in order to realize that particular vision."

His past shows included delving into the old masters and looking at how iconic paintings of theirs have influenced other artists over the years and how this has been passed down to generations of artists.

Podeswa started with Spanish painter, Diego Velazquez' 1656 painting called *Las Meninas*, at the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid. Upon seeing the painting, Podeswa felt he should put down his brushes and walk away because Velazquez had mastered everything in this painting that anyone had ever wanted to do, and in a way that Podeswa never thought anyone else could do.

"I became obsessed with the painting," he admits. "I just thought I would have to recreate it and pick it apart. As an artist, whatever I am going through becomes the work. The whole process of doing it became the basis of my next many shows. I did a show based on my reactions to Velazquez, then another two shows based on my reactions to Rembrandt and Goya."

In simplest terms, Podeswa deconstructs a piece and then recreates it. Take his Rembrandt's *Night Watch* for example: Podeswa measured all the significant compositional points and graphed them all out so as to understand how Rembrandt created so well the illusion of a three-dimensional space on a flat surface. Using these points without taking away Rembrandt's narrative, Podeswa created a life-size painting.

Podeswa, who is also film and television director Jeremy (*Game of Thrones*) Podeswa's brother, says being Jewish affects his makeup. "It affects everything, but it is very subtle," he reflects. "I'm concerned with existential questions, which is not by any means just a Jewish trait but something we have quite strongly in our culture." ■

A Brief History runs until March 20 at the Koffler Gallery, Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw St., Toronto.

New Steinsaltz book offer homilies on weekly parshahs

MARTIN LOCKSHIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

One of the most prolific contemporary Jewish authors is Israel's Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (Even-Yisrael). Author of some 60 books and many articles, on subjects ranging from zoology to theology, he was once described aptly by *Time* magazine as a "once-in-a-millennium scholar."

Rabbi Steinsaltz is famous for his monumental project of making the central text of rabbinic Judaism, the Babylonian Talmud, accessible to a wider readership than in any previous era of history. Diving into the so-called "sea of the Talmud" is a daunting task for most novices. Most of the text is written in a dialect of ancient Aramaic that no one speaks today. In standard editions the Talmud (with its 10 to 30 volumes, depending on the edition) has no punctuation, no vowels and no notes meant for the beginning reader. Teachers of Talmud know how difficult it is to start off a new student, since every volume seems to assume that readers know all the other volumes.

Rabbi Steinsaltz rose to the challenge, publishing a new, handsome edition of the Talmud that translated the text into modern Hebrew and provided readers with useful maps, illustrations, linguistic notes, summaries, introductions and footnotes. Recently Rabbi Steinsaltz and the team that he directs undertook the even more challenging task of making this edition available in English translation. (In 2012, I wrote a favourable review of the first volume of this project in these pages.)

Although in many senses Rabbi Steinsaltz looks like and strives to be a haredi (fervently Orthodox) Jew, his Talmud is considered controversial and overly innovative in most haredi circles. Hard as it may be to believe, one of the biggest issues is the layout of the pages. Some conservative students of the Talmud see the "traditional" pagination and shape of each page as sacrosanct. Some felt that his reorganizing the page to find room for his new commentary made the project unkosher. But the biggest controversies about Rabbi Steinsaltz relate to the few books he published decades ago about the personalities of biblical characters. While they contain nothing that would be labelled biblical criticism, the picture that Rabbi Steinsaltz painted of our forefathers and foremothers was not sufficiently reverential in the eyes of some haredi critics. On the web today, you can still find broadsides against Rabbi Steinsaltz, lambasting him for describing our forefather Isaac as being "hesitant," for saying that his wife Rebecca knew "his weaknesses," or for describing Moses as having "limitations." While for most Jews (and others) who read the Bible such human descriptions of biblical characters enrich our reading of the text, in haredi circles, they are incompatible with the veneration required. Rabbi Steinsaltz, understanding that challenges to his Orthodoxy were not in his best interest, apologized and rewrote various allegedly controversial passages.

The recent publication of *Talks on the Parasha*, a new book by Rabbi Steinsaltz on the biblical portions read in synagogue every Shabbat, made me wonder whether he was treading again on dangerous ground. He isn't.

The book is not really a commentary on the biblical text, but a series of sermons or homilies that take off from a point in the weekly Torah portion. But instead of returning to the text itself, Rabbi Steinsaltz finds an uplifting lesson to teach. For example, this week's Torah portion, Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16), deals frequently with the theme of "first borns": the Egyptians' first borns die, the Israelites' first borns are consecrated to God, and their first-born animals also require special treatment. In later sections of the Torah, special status is assigned to first fruits, the first harvest and the first shearing of the fleece of sheep and goats.

Talks on the Parasha, *by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (Even-Yisrael).*

Maggid Books

> *It shows... his desire to inspire, to teach and to challenge us to be better people.*

Rabbi Steinsaltz explains this phenomenon psychologically. The explanation, he writes, "lies not in the first born's own essential worth, but in the special feeling and affection that we have for things that are first. The first fruit is not necessarily the choicest, but our connection to it is deepest."

Rabbi Steinsaltz points out that the Bible teaches us that the first-born child, special status notwithstanding, is not always the ideal person to carry on the traditions of the family or people. (The oldest child of neither Abraham nor Isaac nor Jacob becomes the leader of the clan, and this pattern repeats itself often in later biblical books.) In the animal world, "scientific literature has shown... that the first born in many animal species have a much lower survival rate than offspring born to their mothers thereafter."

According to Rabbi Steinsaltz, the Torah acknowledges the strength of human feelings toward things that are "first" not because they are in any sense better but in order to teach us to acknowledge the potential of "firsts" in our lives and take advantage of them. Based on the biblical verse "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of youth" (Psalms 127:4), Rabbi Steinsaltz teaches "the arrows that we shoot when we are still 'children of youth' are like 'arrows in the hands of a warrior,' in that they cannot be repeated. To be sure... even in old age, it is still possible to continue growing... But new experiences no longer come with the same regularity."

Rabbi Steinsaltz established his reputation on his ability to read texts closely and to teach others how to do so. While this latest book does not do that, it shows another side of his personality, his desire to inspire, to teach and to challenge us to be better people, as rabbis have done from time immemorial. ■

TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
CHAI TEA & A MOVIE SERIES

WEDDING DOLL

Nominated for 9 Israeli Academy Awards, *Wedding Doll* comes direct from its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival!! Hagit is a young, romantic woman who lives with her protective mother and spends her evenings making delicate wedding dolls out of leftover materials from the factory where she works. Unable to separate her romantic fantasies from real life, Hagit falls in love with the factory owner's son, leading her to an emotional struggle for independence. In her unforgettable award-winning lead performance, actress Moran Rosenblatt instills in her character a strength and radiant charm that transcends the reality of her situation. This impressive feature film debut of director Nitzan Gilady offers a new, original voice which has been gaining the attention of film festivals around the world!

Date: Sunday, January 17th
Screening Times: 1:00pm & 4:00pm
Location: Cineplex Cinemas Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St. (North York Centre subway station)

Tickets: $15 Available at TJFF.COM or 416-324-9121 (Cash only at door, subject to availability)

Coffee and tea will be available in-theatre prior to screening.

Hebrew, English with English subtitles.

TJFF.COM

The best Jewish comedy of our generation

Michael Fraiman

Imagine joining your girlfriend on a cabin trip with her closest high school friends. You don't know any of them, and you quickly feel left out: they make jokes you don't get, they ignore you when you try to fit in. They mention a summer when "everything changed, and we were forever linked."

You ask what that means, and your girlfriend casually explains: "There was this one time after prom when we were all driving to this very cabin, and things got a little out of hand and we accidentally ran over a lumberjack. We buried him in the woods, but then he was resurrected by the devil. I guess you kinda had to be there."

That's what played out last Wednesday night at 10:30 p.m., when the FXX network quietly debuted the second season of a show called *Man Seeking Woman*, a dark indie comedy starring Jay Baruchel – the jittery Ottawa-born, Montreal-raised Jewish actor probably best known for voicing Hiccup in the *How to Train Your Dragon* series.

The show is easily the most creative thing on television today. It's a world where minuscule fears are blown into surreal proportions: when that zombie lumberjack breaks down a door to find Baruchel struggling over a puzzle alone, the horror music cuts and the creature asks, confused, "Who're you?"

Not to beat around the bush or anything, but if you like early Woody Allen (and you're reading *The CJN*, so don't pretend you don't), you should honestly watch this show. It expertly blends the modern surrealist esthetic touted by *Louie* or *Last Man on Earth* with absurd, bite-sized sketch concepts from late-night TV. (Plus it's shot in Toronto, and who doesn't love watching the Queen streetcar roll across what's meant to be a downtown Chicago avenue?)

It's a shame last year's debut season garnered only 200,000 viewers per episode – despite the series' critical acclaim, this season may only be hanging on by a thread. Some audiences might be turned off by the show's flippancy – it's really just a hodgepodge of high-concept gags with no real consequence. (While the zombie-jack murders some of those cabin kids – including, fun fact, *CJN* profile subject Jonathan Keltz – all we hear are background screams: "There's so much blood!")

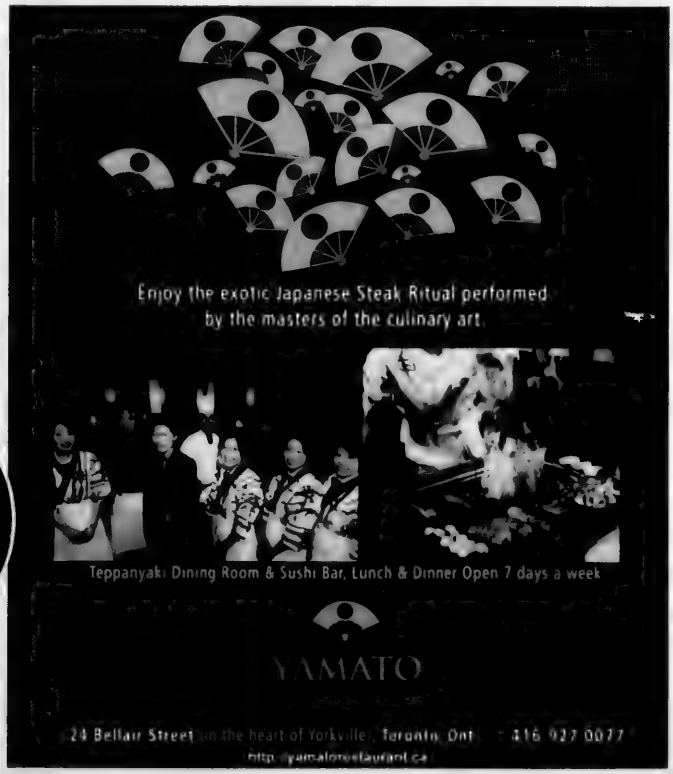
The show's basic plot follows Baruchel's character, a mopey guy named Josh Greenberg, trying to get over a nasty breakup he suffered in the series premiere. But everything that can go wrong does: after his first post-breakup blind date is with an actual troll in an ill-fitting hot-pink tube dress, he later discovers his ex's next boyfriend is literally Adolf Hitler, 124 years old and stuck in a wheelchair.

The show's brainchild is Simon Rich, a 30-year-old comedic wunderkind who graduated from Harvard into a job as the youngest-ever writer for *Saturday Night Live*. "Being Jewish influences me a lot when I'm writing comedy," Rich told the *Jewish Chronicle* in 2010. "The God of the Old Testament is the original comic character. He's irrational, he's reckless, he has unlimited power. The stakes are so high and he can just do whatever he wants. People are powerless."

A lot of Rich's comedy apparently comes from this feeling of hopelessness, this sense of abject desperation in the face of a world you cannot control. In that way, *Man Seeking Woman* is strikingly biblical – it's the Book of Job, if Job had to go on a blind date with an actual troll.

The show's brilliance comes from unlocking our deepest fears – being left out, breaking up, rejection – and showing how big they feel, despite how small we know we are. That contradiction is the key, and it's in this proud tradition of helpless Jewish comedians – not just the universal pessimism of Allen, but the high-concept weirdness of Charlie Kaufman, the comic absurdity of Mel Brooks and the everyday observations of Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David – that *Man Seeking Woman* places Rich firmly in the canon of fine Jewish comedy. ■

FUNÉ
100 Simcoe Street
Toronto, Ont. M5H 3L2
416.599.3868
www.funerestaurant.com
"Where" Magazine reader's choice
Where to Dine
2010
WTD Best
Japanese Restaurant
Toronto's largest floating Sushi Bar in the heart of the Theatre District. The distinctive bar has a moat with bamboo boats carrying cargoes of sushi.
Menu offers finest teriyaki steak & seafood, charcoal-broiled chicken, salmon, noodles, sushi sashimi and much more.


Enjoy the exotic Japanese Steak Ritual performed by the masters of the culinary art.
Teppanyaki Dining Room & Sushi Bar, Lunch & Dinner Open 7 days a week
YAMATO
24 Bellair Street in the heart of Yorkville, Toronto, Ont. 416 927 0077

Remembering the Alamo, and a few ghosts

MICHAEL STAVSKY
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Even during the day, San Antonio, Texas can be a spooky place.

This southern Texas city of nearly two million people was the site of numerous battles during the 19th-century Texas revolution against Mexico. Founded along the quaint San Antonio River, the city is home to several Spanish missions recently designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. The history of San Antonio goes back hundreds of years, with nearly as many ghost stories.

The most famous landmark is the Alamo. Founded in the early 1700s as Mission San Antonio De Valero, the outpost preached Catholicism to local Native American tribes. The site remained in Mexican hands until 1835 when it was lost to the Texan army in the Battle of Bexar. The Mexican army regained control in March 1836 following the infamous Battle of the Alamo. This resounding defeat galvanized the Texan army who rallied around Sam Houston and forced the Mexican army back across the Rio Grande River.

Today, the Alamo Plaza, the area surrounding the original building, encompasses numerous family tourist attractions within several blocks. The street immediately in front of the building is zoned for pedestrian traffic only. With hundreds of lives lost at this spot, it's considered hallowed ground. It was here that our walk began with the Sisters Grimm Ghost Tour.

Shortly after sunset on a hot and steamy night, we were told of the ferocious hand-to-hand fighting that took place in the Alamo barracks in front of us. Most historians place the number of dead at around 500. Apparently, several weeks following the battle, Mexican Gen. Santa Anna sent his soldiers back to the Alamo to destroy the building, in order to prevent it from becoming a rallying point for the Texan rebels. The soldiers were greeted by several ghostly figures, brandishing flaming swords, warning the soldiers not to touch the Alamo. Santa Anna's men fled in fear.

San Antonio's famous landmark was founded in the early 1700s. MICHAEL STAVSKY PHOTO

Adjacent to the Alamo sits one of the oldest continuously operating hotels west of the Mississippi River. The Menger Hotel first opened in 1859. The staff claims some 38 different spirits haunt the hotel. With an admittedly spooky vibe, one can easily imagine the Menger as the setting for a horror film.

The hotel has several well-known ghosts. There's chambermaid Sallie White, murdered by her husband in 1876, and buried at the hotel's expense. Rancher Capt. Richard King, founder of King's Ranch in south Texas, who spent his final months in the hotel in 1885. Most famous of all is the ghost of former U.S. president Teddy Roosevelt, who has been seen drinking in the hotel bar.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

TAJ RUGS
SINCE 1978
CLASSIC - MODERN - TRANSITIONAL - CHOBI - SHAGS
30 TO 70% OFF
BLOWOUT!
Everything
Visit our RATAN FURNITURE
Gallery in Mississauga & Stoney Creek
Sizes 2'x3' to 12'x20' Bring your room dimensions
Choose from 15,000 rugs from Iran, Tibet, Afgan, Pakistan, India, Belgium & Turkey
8400 WOODBINE AVE
MARKHAM, ON
In the Furniture Mall
905-940-0088
2111 DUNWINE DR
Corner of Dundas St West & Dunwine Dr
Next to Tasco & Jameson pools
905-940-0088
395 LEWIS RD & QEW
STONEY CREEK, ON
In Stoney Creek Furniture
905-643-8008
MANAGEMENT COMMENT:
On January 11, 16 Dollar Depreciation and Duty Increase of 6.5% of 2015 must be passed on
BUY NOW & SAVE
Monday - Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 12pm-5pm
www.tajrugs.com

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

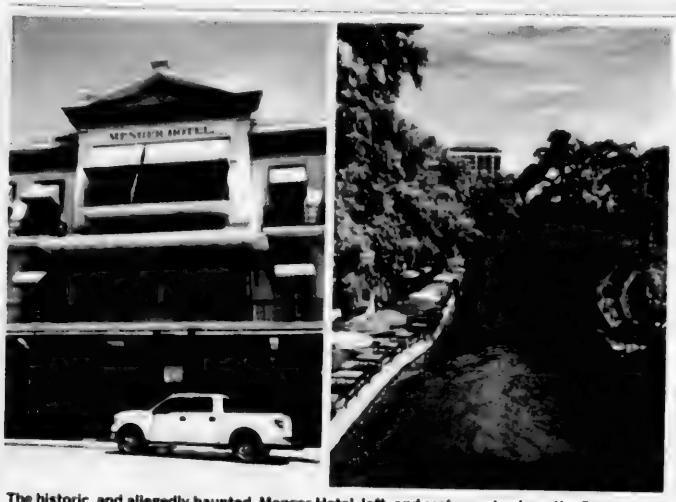
RETIRING at 95
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $150-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Retail $150-$250. Now 5 shirts for $150. HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

Wishing you a Healthy & Happy Chanukah
Cleaning Protection Restoration
MARBLE RESCUE
Insured and Bonded
Technicians with over 15 years experience.
We'll beat any written residential quote by 20%
416-782-BUFF(2833)
Don't replace your dull, damaged stone & marble. Turn to us!

ha ha!
An old Jew telling really old jokes!
416-505-9605
Jack Markle jack.markle@rogers.com

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

SHARE YOUR
HAPPY MOMENTS
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO TO
www.cjnews.com/mazeltov



The historic, and allegedly haunted, Menger Hotel, left, and restaurants along the San Antonio River. MICHAEL STAVSKY PHOTOS

A short walk from the Menger is the Spanish Governor's Palace, dating to 1722. Named by *National Geographic* as the "Most Beautiful Building in San Antonio," this small stucco compound is reportedly haunted by a maid who was brutally murdered within its walls.

Walking past numerous 18th and 19th century buildings, we were told stories of soldiers, in various military uniforms, appearing out of thin air. Other haunted buildings formerly housed hospitals or were the sites of gruesome murders.

Among the most vivid tales were those told of the building that's currently the Holiday Inn Express River Walk. Built during the late 19th century as the Bexar County Jail, the building has had numerous guests claiming to have seen unusual occurrences. The second and third floors of the hotel are particularly active, having been the location of the prison's gallows. A prisoner whose 1923 botched hanging led to his near decapitation, is among those who regularly appear as apparitions to guests and staff alike.

> *Other haunted buildings formerly housed hospitals or were the sites of gruesome murders.*

When not searching for ghosts, visitors enjoy many of San Antonio's other attractions. The River Walk is an eight-kilometre, tree-lined park that snakes along the banks of the San Antonio River downtown. Numerous shops, eateries and hotels surround the scenic path. With San Antonio's mild winter climate, the River Walk is a year-round attraction.

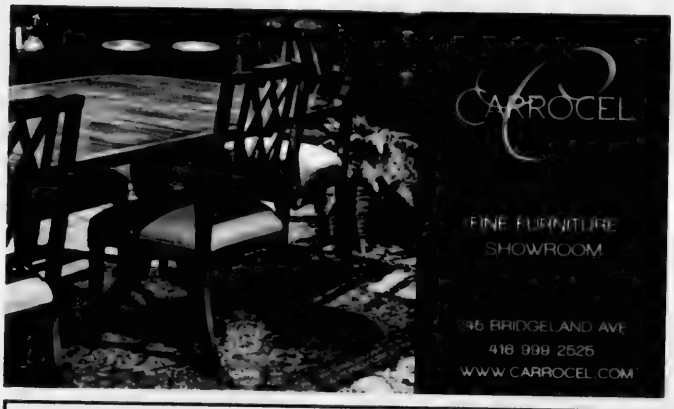
Not to be missed is the Tower of the Americas. Constructed in time for the 1968 San Antonio World's Fair, this 750-foot observation tower provides a stunning 360-degree view of the entire city.

San Antonio's Jewish community is a small, cohesive group that made national headlines this past summer due to a wave of anti-Semitic vandalism that struck the area around Congregation Rodfei Sholom, the city's lone Orthodox synagogue.

Following the incident, many segments of the city's population lent support to the Jewish community. Volunteers aided with the cleanup and increased neighbourhood watch activities in Jewish areas. Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, spiritual leader of Rodfei Sholom for nearly 50 years, said following the vandalism, "This is not the San Antonio community. The religious community, the civic community and law enforcement have all been terrific."

Rabbi Scheinberg's personal friend, famed Pastor John Hagee of the nearby Cornerstone Church, spent several hours following the attack visiting Rodfei Sholom. In an effort to illustrate the unity found in San Antonio, Pastor Hagee remarked "If a line has to be drawn, draw it around Christians and Jews. We are united." ■

Michael Stavsky acknowledges the assistance of the San Antonio Convention and Visitor's Bureau in arranging his family's trip to San Antonio.



BEBY ALEPH BAIS YEHUDA
Elementary School
Traditional Judaism | Non-traditional Learning

Still searching for the right Hebrew school?
Begin your child's educational journey in a traditional, caring and engaging Jewish environment. Now entering our sixth year!

REGISTER NOW
for Supplemental Jewish Learning beginning September 11th , 2016.
Now accepting applications for **grades 1 - 4** and for our **pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah** program for children entering **grades 5-7**.
Classes run Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. For more information or to register your child, please contact Rabbi Leslie Lipson, 416 633.3838 x 240 or rabbilipson@beby.org. Applications available online at **beby.org**

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue ~100 Elder Street, Toronto, Ontario M3H 5G7 | 416 633.3838 | www.beby.org

Filmmaker undergoes taharah in doc about Jewish burial

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Filmmaker Saul Henteleff went to unusual lengths to show authentic taharah practice in his newly released documentary on Jewish death and burial rites. He put himself on the table and underwent the ritual of washing and clothing his body.

"It was easy," Henteleff says of lying on the table undergoing the rituals for cleansing the body and preparing it for Jewish burial. "There was no trauma. And it was a central part of the story.

"It would have been inappropriate to have filmed a real taharah. But since there are no rules against filming the process of taharah on a live volunteer, the Chesed Shel Emes board agreed to go ahead with this," he said, referring to the community organization responsible for this process in Winnipeg.

More than 10 years in the making, Henteleff's documentary, *My Jewish Death* debuted last month at the Berney Theatre (in the Asper Jewish Community Campus), as part of the Chesed Shel Emes annual appreciation evening for staff and volunteers. The event attracted more than 100 supporters.

In introducing the documentary, the filmmaker and high school film studies teacher noted that his journey into Jewish death and dying began with the funeral of Sheldon Oberman in 2004. Oberman was a popular teacher at the Gray Academy (Winnipeg's Jewish day school), a nationally known storyteller and an author of children's books and novels.

Saul Henteleff

> *I had never before heard any discussion about a ... Jewish afterlife.*

"The day of Obie's funeral was a sad day [Oberman was only in his mid 50s] – but also a memorable one," Henteleff said. "That day changed my life.

"Rabbi Neal Rose, in his eulogy, spoke about Obie's soul still being with us in the sanctuary. I had never before heard any discussion about a Jewish spirit or Jewish afterlife."

Henteleff's quest to learn more about Jewish death and dying led him to the Chesed Shel Emes where, he said, he met a lot of wonderful people and became involved in the Chesed activities himself.

The half-hour documentary begins with Henteleff jogging while his voice-over introduces his spiritual quest. This is followed by scenes from a chevra kadisha cemetery conference in Portland, Ore., in 2007, which he attended.

The chevra kadisha are the men and women who perform the taharah rituals. In Winnipeg, taharahs are performed by a team of three volunteers for each body – with teams of women for female bodies and teams of men for male bodies. The process involves washing the body and clothing the body in simple white shrouds consisting of a top, bottoms, and a hood, prior to transferring the deceased into a coffin.

Most of the film shows Henteleff's taharah as he is pulled from an enclosure, transferred to the table, cleansed, clothed, had soil from Israel applied to his eyelids and transferred to a coffin. We also watch as the pallbearers carry the coffin to the hearse for transport to the cemetery and the lowering of the coffin into the grave, where the viewer is looking up from inside the grave itself as the pallbearers shovel the earth on top of the coffin.

Throughout, there are breaks for commentaries from rabbis Neal Rose, Allan Green of Winnipeg's Shaarey Zedek Congregation, and Ari Ellis, until a few months ago, the spiritual leader of the Adas Yeshurun Herzlia Synagogue.

Henteleff singled out several people who were important contributors to the making of the documentary – in particular, Winnipeg-based Jewish composer Sid Robinovitch for his musical score.

The documentary was followed by a panel consisting of Henteleff, Chesed Shel Emes executive director Rena Boroditsky and Rabbi Green fielding questions from the audience.

Among the questions were ones about embalming and the use of chemicals to preserve the body (none are used in Jewish burials), whether or not a coffin is a religious requirement (no) and how the chevra kadisha works with a damaged body. ("We do the best we can," Boroditsky said.)

One questioner asked Henteleff how the ritual speaks to secular people. His response was that everyone can appreciate on a human level the feeling of being cared for.

When asked if his film students are going to see the documentary, he noted that he expected some of them to be at the screening at Cinematheque after the film's debut last month.

No further screenings are currently planned. ■

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great
Parent Teacher Council
ועדת ההורים והמורים

The Board of Directors,
Parent Teacher Council, Governors & Staff of
Associated Hebrew Schools
mourn the passing of

Esther Zeppieri ז"ל

Long time friend & supporter of Associated
Past President of the PTC
& member of the Board of Governors

Dr. Mark Smiley, Head of School
Mayeer Pearl, President
Heather Goldenberg, PTC President

זכרונה לברכה
May her memory be a blessing

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement

CJN

We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.

Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN

Cancer?

We've "been there".

We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can "be there" for you during your cancer journey.

We provide **confidential peer support** to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.

Hotline: (416) 630-0203

A project of
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

Harry & David, the jewel of Oregon

RANDY FINGRUT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

This fall, my husband, Jack, and I visited Oregon to attend yet another dental course. Dental courses are Jack's passion. The course was to take place in Portland, but my passion – food and all that goes with it – had to be satisfied as well.

To realize this goal, we started by taking a trek to Medford, Ore., in the beautiful Rogue Valley. Medford is four hours south of Portland by car and the home of Harry & David, a premium food and gift producer and retailer known worldwide for its famous Royal Riviera pears. Its products are sold in its retail stores, online and through direct mail. Harry & David also sells its wares under the brands Wolferman's and Cushman's.

The product lines from these three brands include gift baskets, chocolates, candies, baked goods, their famous Moose Munch popcorn treats, wine, fruit and flowers. Harry & David delivers to Canada, and its products are kosher. Products, gift baskets and fruit can be found at harryanddavid.com.

The Harry & David factory tour, the reason we were in Medford, must be booked ahead by telephone and costs $5 upon arrival at the Harry & David country store. Along with the tour information, you receive a $5 voucher to use in the store after the tour. I was really excited to be attending the tour.

We were met by our tour guide, ushered aboard a charming little bus and whisked a short ride away to the Harry & David "campus." Our guide has been with Harry & David for her whole career. She explained that she started out years ago on the production floor working with the pears, and over the years, she learned everything there is to know about Harry & David and its campus.

Oregon landscape

Harry and David were born to southern Oregon Jews living there in the early 1900s. Surrounded by their pear orchards, the brothers decided to create the brilliantly lucrative "Fruit of the Month" club as well as mail order fruit and assorted gift baskets. Their venture grew to an indescribably huge size. From the bus, our guide showed us that the campus contains a pear orchard, flower gardens and many huge buildings. She said similar Royal Riviera pear orchards are located throughout Oregon. The reason is that if some act of nature, such as insects, hail, drought or flooding, affects an orchard in one or two areas, there will still be hope of a good harvest in the other orchards. The pears are harvested in September and put into cold storage. They do not ripen until at least December, so they are perfect to pack in gift baskets or send out in boxes for the holiday season.

The on-site flower gardens are now open to the public. Guests are invited to cut their own bouquet.

Each huge building on the campus has a different purpose, and the buildings we toured had a viewing gallery where we could watch and learn.

We started at the fruit processing plant, which is used for cleaning, weighing, separating, inspecting and then packing the pears. An amazing computerized conveyor belt, holding hundreds of single pears, each in a pocket-like mechanism, moves along and weighs each pear. Then a pear is dropped into the appropriate bin where it is inspected, then packed. The pears that do not pass inspection are either donated where needed or used to make cider. We were told Harry & David is a green company and all the boxes are from recycled paper and made on site.

We bused to the next building and walked in the door to enjoy the amazing smell of chocolate. Here we saw chocolate truffles being made. As we moved along we saw several different types of cookies, coconut macaroons and assorted squares being baked. We continued our tour and got to observe machines that stood two stories high, making popcorn. Meanwhile, nearby in huge cauldrons, the rich, sweet and savoury, buttery caramel was being cooked until just right. The popcorn was spilled out into baskets that hung from the conveyor belt and moved to fill a tank above the cauldron of caramel. The popcorn tank emptied into the caramel mixture and was mechanically stirred then poured out onto another belt that carried it to packaging. If your mouth was not watering when you went in, it would be now!

The last stop was the building where gift basket production is done.

We found the process fascinating. It was explained that the employees, many of whom have been there for 35 years and more and are extremely qualified, still attend "gift basket packing" classes each year. This is because the design of the baskets, the contents and the containers change each year.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

STEELES DELI RESTAURANT
EST 1986
New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions
Deli & Dairy Platters, Party Sandwiches, Wraps, Pasta, Salads, Hors D'oeuvres, Desserts.
Catering for all Occasions.
Disposable Place Settings Included.
Purchase any Deli meat over 1 lb. and receive a small container of cole slaw, or chopped liver, or 2 pickles*
Corned Beef • Pastrami • Roast Beef • Montreal Smoked Meat • Roast Turkey • Smoked Turkey
*Not to be combined with any other offer. *Offer valid until Feb. 15, 2016.
FREE Home Delivery on orders over $50.00
(within immediate area)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT · DINE-IN · CATERING

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services
We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs
• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations
Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years
2 year warranty
WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*
Seniors Never Pay Tax
*on projects over $1,000 before tax.
Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeproranovator.com

THAT'S TRUE WHOLESALE
$3350
Diamond Hoops with over 6 carats of sparkling diamonds set inside & out
Over 30 years as your wholesale source For beautiful diamond jewellery
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • MCDJEWELLERY.COM

Any car. Any age. One passion.

Whatever vehicle you're looking for - new or used, from any brand - Pfaff Leasing offers you the flexibility you need, to drive what you want, when you want. We have access to every vehicle on the market, and offer a level of personal care unmatched in the business.

Heather Levitt
905-851-6311 ext. 5212
hlevitt@pfaffleasing.com

618 Chrislea Road
Woodbridge, ON L4L 8K9

pfaffleasing.com

PFAFF LEASING

Packing pears is an art

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

These expert packers assemble thousands of identical baskets, each exactly the same as the one before and the one after. Each measure of tissue paper, plastic wrap and ribbon, each fold of packing material, every angle of the products placed in the basket, and each bow tied and decorative garnish attached is exactly the same as you see it in the catalogue or online! Amazing!

On the bus ride back to the Harry & David country store, our guide pointed out shipping and administrative buildings, box-making factories, cold storage buildings, flower warehouses, Internet and telephone ordering facilities, and there were many more buildings still undiscovered.

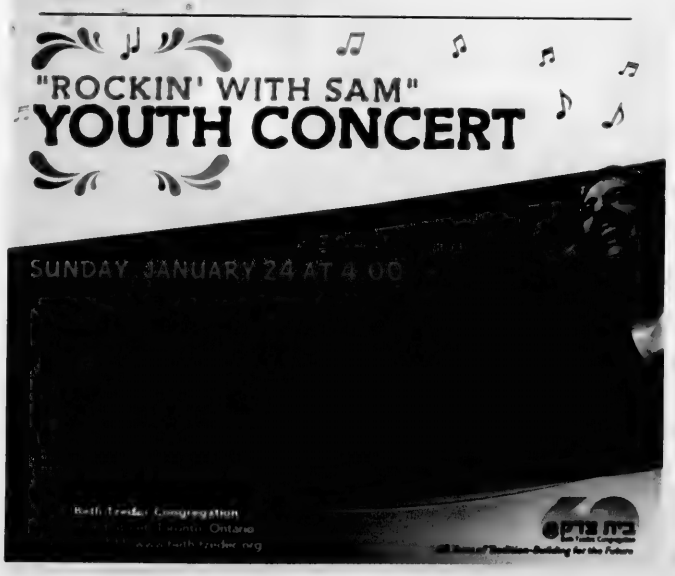
Of course, as with any tour, we ended up in the "gift shop." But the Harry & David country store is much more than that. It's a complete supermarket with fruits, vegetables, dairy products and such. I had a great time looking at everything and deciding what wonderful Harry & David products I could fit into my suitcase – after all, I have a big family to feed. I decided on an assortment of small boxes of Moose Munch, boxes of assorted chocolates, some interesting spice mixes and several varieties of dry soup mixes. I thought that I chose a well-rounded assortment of products for us to try at home.

Saturday evening, January 23 at 8:00 PM

Sam Glaser joins Cantor Simon Spiro and friends for a fabulous evening beginning with a musical Havdalah.

- A concert of hits from around the world, featuring Toronto's finest vocalists and musicians
- Dessert reception following

Tickets: $25 in advance; $36 at the door



Pear, fig and cranberry tart

This tart is a classic French pastry-inspired dessert that starts with a buttery, flaky melt-in-your-mouth crust. Hidden beneath the crunchy topping are sweet figs. Top with a scoop of French vanilla ice cream. Or serve cooled to room temperature and topped with a dollop of fresh cream that has been whipped with a touch of icing sugar and a drizzle of pure vanilla or your favourite fruit liqueur.

Pie

- ❑ 1 cup dried figs (5-1/2 oz.), stemmed and quartered
- ❑ 1 cup water
- ❑ 1/4 cup plus 1/4 cup sugar, plus 1/2 tbsp. more for sprinkling
- ❑ 1 tsp. pure vanilla
- ❑ 6 medium Bosc pears
- ❑ 2 tbsp. cornstarch
- ❑ 1/2 cup reduced sugar dried cranberries
- ❑ 1/2 package of puff pastry, thawed and chilled

Streusel

- ❑ 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- ❑ 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- ❑ 1/4 cup chilled butter, cut into small pieces.

Prepare a 10 inch spring form pan lined with parchment paper

Combine figs, water and 1/4 cup sugar in a small saucepan; add vanilla. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Cook until figs are soft, about 15 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer figs to a small bowl and set aside. Continue simmering syrup until reduced to 1/4 cup, about 10 minutes more. Let cool.

Peel, quarter and core pears, then thinly slice crosswise, place in a large bowl and toss gently with cornstarch, 1/4 cup of remaining sugar, reserved figs, cranberries and syrup. Mix until combined.

Make the streusel crumb topping by mixing the flour and brown sugar together with a fork in a medium bowl. Then mix in the butter with a fork, stirring and blending until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Put aside.

Place a cookie sheet in the bottom third of the oven; preheat oven to 400. Fit the piece of puff pastry dough into the spring form pan. Trim any excess pastry and, using a fork, crimp pastry edges up the side of the pan. Spoon in pear mixture. Top the pie with the crumb topping, place on the cookie sheet in the preheated oven and bake for 40-45 minutes until the crust is a deep golden brown and the filling bubbles. Cool on a rack before serving warm, or refrigerate when cooled. Remove spring form pan and parchment paper before serving. ■

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Allan and Alyce Baker, Ricki and Barry Baker

Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak and keynote speaker Dennis Prager

Shelley and Jerry Werger, Alan and Margo Blostein

Barbara Farber

Ottawa Negev Dinner

Over 450 guests came out to the recent JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner to honour Barry and Allan Baker for their leadership in the Ottawa Jewish community and their long-standing support of the State of Israel. Dennis Prager, bestselling author and columnist, delivered a powerful keynote address. Proceeds from the 2015 Negev Campaign will support autism research in Israel through The Israeli Society for Autistic Children (ALUT). In March 2015, ALUT gained advisory NGO status at the United Nations, making it a very influential voice at key UN committees. ■ – *The Socialite*

Millie Weinstein, Daphne Arron, Claire Bercovitch and Susan Firestone

Karen Zunder, John and Gladys Greenberg

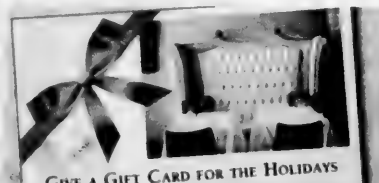
Ruth and Irving Aaron

Gail Victor, Avraham and Elissa Iny

Margo and David Kardish

MARILYN MIKAELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca



KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining CoR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Ivy Room • Off Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

JAN. 14 – JAN. 21

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Jan. 14

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR
Nick Maes discusses "The Dreyfus Affair: the Jew and modern times," as part of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies lecture series, University of Toronto, Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St., 7:15 p.m.

HEBREW CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers Learn to Read Hebrew, part 2, 7:15 p.m. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

A MUSICAL HISTORY OF ISRAEL
Beth Radom Congregation presents a 7-week program on Israel's musical history, 7:30 p.m. RSVP 416-636-3451, ext. 24. Location of program given on registration.

A CONVERT'S ZIONISM
Steve McDonald discusses "Zionism and Jewish advocacy through the eyes of a convert," 1:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

Friday, Jan. 15

BEBY'S BUBALEHS
Beth Emeth Synagogue offers an 8-week program with songs, stories and crafts for children ages 1 to 2-1/2, and a caregiver, 11 a.m.-noon. $72. Free trial, Jan. 15. RSVP by Jan. 13, 416-633-3838. Program runs Jan. 29-March 18. RSVP by Jan. 27.

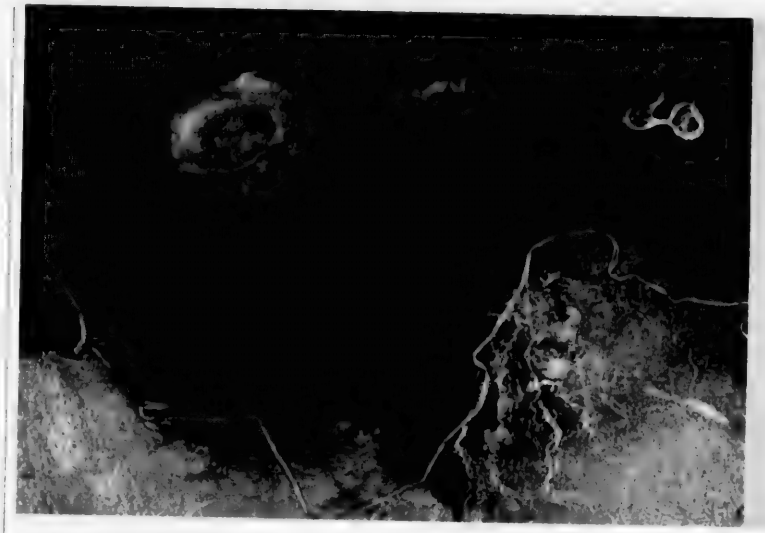
Saturday, Jan. 16

RAMAH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
New and returning campers in grades 1-4 are invited to a skating party at RINX, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $5 (includes dinner). RSVP www.campramah.com

Sunday, Jan. 17

GIVING TZEDAKAH
Noam Zion is the speaker at a webinar on the obligation to give tzedakah,

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Jan. 28 is Jan. 18 . All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**



Towards the Rockies

Towards the Rockies, by fibre artist and geographer Sheila Thompson, is part of an exhibition entitled *Resilience*, on display at the Miles Nadal JCC's gallery until Jan. 27.

Congregation Darchei Noam, 12:30 p.m. $10 (includes lunch). Register at www.darcheinoam.ca

JEWS IN SURINAME
Jacob Steinberg discusses the history of the Jews in Suriname, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam. $5/$10.

MOSAIC INTERFAITH
Mosaic Interfaith presents "Young voices making a difference," in honour of Martin Luther King's birthday, 2-4 p.m., Temple Har Zion.

Monday, Jan. 18

ADULT LEARNING
Rabbi Paul Schneider teaches Monday mornings at 9:45 a.m. January classes examine rabbinic responsa on end-of-life issues, February classes focus on Purim, Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Temple Kol Ami presents a 3-week series of classes on "Sex in the texts," starting tonight, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

LUNCH AND LEARN
Author **Joe Kertes** discusses *The History of Love* by **Nicole Krauss,** 11:45 a.m., Beth David Synagogue. $15/$18.

YIDDISH READING CIRCLE
Yiddish readers are invited to join a *Leyenkrayz*, the third Tuesday of the month, starting tonight, at 7:30 p.m., Lipa Green Centre. 416-635-2883, ext. 5189. www.committeeforyiddish.com.

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Above and Beyond*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

THE HALACHIC ORGAN DONOR
Rabbi Yirmiya Milevsky discusses "The halachic organ donor," 8 p.m., B'nai Torah Congregation.

TRASH INTO TREASURE
The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles holds a hands-on workshop on "Trash into treasure, making a piece of accent bling," 7:30 p.m., Temple Sinai. Non-member admission $10, can be applied to the membership fee. More information at Pomegranateguild.ca

MORASHA CLASSES
Seymour Epstein teaches "How a Jew prays, when a Jew prays," Wednesdays, Jan. 20- Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.; **Jerry Fink** continues teaching "Western art music and the Jews," including opera, Jewish film composers and piano concerti composed by Jews at 11:15 a.m. Both classes at Beth Emeth Synagogue. To register, **Loretta**, 416-789-7400.

Thursday, Jan. 21

ISRAEL AND ITS ENEMIES
Mordechai Kedar discusses "Israel and its enemies," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Presented by Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Volunteers are needed for the Simulation Program at Baycrest to authentically portray clients, family members and professionals as part of training and education activities. Training is provided. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2572, or email volunteer@baycrest.org.

Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs is looking for volunteers to provide visits and support to individuals with a life-threatening illness and their families. A 30-hour training course starts Feb. 8. Contact **Arnold Foss**, 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or afoss@circleofcare.com.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FAMILY NIGHT OUT
Hypnotist **Jeff West** performs at Beth Emeth Synagogue, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. $18 for adults, $10 for children under 18. RSVP by Jan. 21. 416-633-3838.

SHABBAT UNPLUGGED
Beth David Synagogue offers Shabbat Unplugged Jan. 23, 2-7 p.m. with games, learning opportunities for adults, musical Havdalah. Free but register at www.bethdavid.com.

INCLUSION NEWS
The Wedding Doll, a movie about a young woman with a mental disability who embarks on a relationship at work, will be shown as part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Cineplex Cinemas, Empress Walk.

Parent to parent forum, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. at the DANI Centre with **Paula David, Kathy Laszlo, Bonnie Heath, Susan Moore, Chaya Perman**. RSVP ssokol@dani-toronto.com.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Mind, body connection for women: A 7-session group for women who want to learn mindfulness and meditation, Jan. 26, 1 p.m. or Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155

Comedian **Jack Newman** looks at the history of Jewish comedians, Jan. 14 and Jan. 21. Doors open at 1 p.m., program starts at 1:30 p.m.

Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Play board games in a friendly atmosphere, Jan. 21, 11 a.m. RSVP.

Tu b'Shvat seder, enjoy Hebrew songs, readings and ceremonial foods, Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m.

- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. Jan. 19, **Myriam Shechter** discusses "Great operatic tearjerkers: Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*." 10 a.m.; Jan. 21, wellness lecture on "Healthy hands, living with arthritis," 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, Thursdays, noon.
- **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
- **Shaar Shalom Synagogue**. Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- **Beth Emeth Synagogue**. Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.
- **Temple Har Zion**. Mah-jong at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- **Beth Tzedec Synagogue**. Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.
- **Beth Sholom Synagogue**. Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Family night to see a magic show and have dinner, Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m.
- Mix it up with media, Thursdays to March 31, 1-4 p.m.
- Film appreciation program, "As time goes by," Wednesdays to Jan. 27, 1 p.m.
- Yiddish conversation, Mondays, to March 14, 1:30 p.m.
- Beginner mah-jong, Jan. 13-Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m.
- Bridge level 1, Thursdays, Jan. 21- March 10, 10 a.m.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- Subscribe now to the Toronto Jewish Film Society's 38th season, ext. 139.
- It's not too late to register for the Hebrew Institute for adults, Hebrew beginners to advanced conversation and Yiddish. Ext. 386.
- Register for winter Shabbat family party (children to age 4 with an adult), Fridays mornings, 10 or 11:15 a.m.
- Register for PJ Plus (children 18 mos.-years with an adult), Thursdays Jan. 14-March 31, 10 a.m. 905-303-2353, ext. 3258.
- **Shlomo Schwartzberg** presents a lecture series on "Jewish sensibility in Hollywood films," Mondays to Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.
- "Every body dance," with **DJ Layah Jane,** all ages, all bodies welcome. Jan. 17, 2:30 p.m.
- Jewish Film Society screens *Simon and the Oaks*, Jan. 24, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker **Adam Nayman.** Box office opens one hour before the show.
- Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays until Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Body-positive storytelling: accessible theatre for youth ages 16-24 of all abilities. Free. Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.
- From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30- 8 p.m. Ext. 567.
- Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- *Resilience*, textiles by **Sheila Thompson,** is on display at the gallery until Jan.27. Reception, Jan. 21, 4-6 p.m.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- J Singles klezmer concert, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. with the band Ichka. Ext. 3004.
- Beginner mah-jong, Jan. 12-Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m.
- Bridge level 1, Jan. 26-March 29, 10 a.m.
- The hidden story of the songs of Israel, a workshop by the Royal Conservatory of Music, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
- Daytime and evening ceramics courses, Wednesdays, noon or 7 p.m.
- Landscape painting workshop with **Sue Miller,** Jan. 24, 1 p.m. ■

www.cjnews.com

Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016 Toronto's Best Housewares Store
pureguardian
Virtually Silent, Warm or Cool Mist, up to 120Hr, Digital Ultrasonic Humidifier
Uses Silver Clean Technology to Fight Mold & Bacteria Growth
No Pads, Wicks or Filters to Buy, Low Water Indicator, Timer, Nightlight
Lowest Price In Ontario
99.99
Compare at 249.99
Save $150
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat-Sun 10-6
BRIDAL REGISTRY

SENIOR SIDE OF LIFE

Staying at home – is it always best?

Dr. Michael Gordon

There seems to be an ongoing tension/tug of war among health-care policy-makers, members of the public and families about where people should live out their later days. I was recently invited to give a public lecture in another province – the topic was to be based on my book, written with my co-author Bart Mindszenthy – *Parenting your Parents*.

The conference organizer asked me if I was planning to provide strong opinions about the benefits of nursing homes for frail elders. He was concerned that, considering the government funding of the lecture, I not should espouse opinions in conflict with current government public policy, which is to try and keep elders in their own homes.

Aside from the idea that at an invited public lecture there would be a concern about what the speaker would be emphasizing, the issue raised for me important thoughts about the decision that many elders and their families must face as to where they should live during the later days, or often years, of their life.

It reminded me of the experience I shared with my sister when it came to trying to convince my late father that he would be better off moving from his home, where he had been living on his own since the death of our mother a few years previously. At first glance, he seemed to be "managing" – although in his characteristic "messy" fashion – from the evidence we had: he was still shopping for his personal needs, driving to where he had to go, and he even arranged to have his cataracts successfully treated in a day surgery setting.

I spoke to him at least once a week, and as part of my at distance mental status examination, I would ask him how his stocks were doing and would bring up a topic in the news, as I knew he was an avid *New York Times* reader. I and/or my sister would visit from time to time, and although were always amazed at the state of the house, which always seemed to be in some process of repair, he seemed to be managing in the restricted confines of the neighbourhood.

> *Being a hermit in one's home is not necessarily good for frail elders.*

He went out in the morning to get the paper, maybe a bagel at the local convenience store or some other minor items, and once a week, he went to a nearby supermarket where he bought supplies paid for on a credit card that my sister co-owned – so she knew that he was shopping regularly.

When things started to very gradually deteriorate, we became convinced that he had to move into a supportive housing environment of some kind. He refused adamantly to consider it – but after a while, and through a long process of his own gradual cognitive decline and recognition of the benefits of a retirement home that he had moved to near my sister on a *trial* basis, he finally complied. He realized that living alone was no longer a viable choice for him and moved into the facility not far from my sister's home. He eventually required a full-time personal support worker, but for many years, he enjoyed and benefited from the social structure and the activities and support he received.

Living at home sounds great. For those who can do it and have the financial and social means, it might be the best of choices. For many others, the social isolation of living at home may be counter-productive to the need for social interactions that we now recognize as being important for the well-being of those with cognitive decline.

Being a hermit in one's home is not necessarily good for frail elders. Each individual and family must make the best decision for them. Governments should avoid forcing people, through public policy and financial means, away from finding the best solution for their personal, social, familial and economic needs. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

In honour of his bar mitzvah, Zev Hoffer donated an iPad mini and iTunes gift cards to the Hospital for Sick children. So proud of you!

Shirley & Avihu Bar-el celebrated their 60th anniversary by renewing their old and new vows with family and friends.

Wishing you health, happiness, love and laughter on your birthday. You're 80 years young! All our love, Susan & Stuart, Warren & Jodi, and David.

Happy 90th birthday Sam Weinstein, husband of Anne; father of Shellie, Irene & Richard, Elliott & Elisa. Loving grandfather and great-grandfather.

Happy 90th birthday to Gloria Shniffer! With boundless love from Leslie, Irving, Chloe, Blake, Adin, Camille.

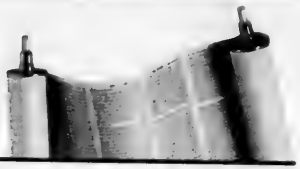
Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblack@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Parshah

Bo | Exodus 10:1-13:16



Yacov Fruchter says freedom requires moral and community-building sensitivities
Rabbi Shalom Spira examines how the laws of the new moon so confounded Moses
Rachael Turkienicz explains why the Jews needed to leave Egypt to receive the Torah

Yacov Fruchter

"But if the household is too small for a lamb, let him share one with a neighbour who dwells nearby, in proportion to the number of persons, each according to his ability to eat" (Exodus 12:4).

Before being freed from Egypt, the Israelites are instructed that on the 10th of the month, they're to select a lamb to be slaughtered and eaten on the night of the 14th, the original Passover.

Most explanations of this focus on the significance of the lamb, which was worshipped by Egyptians. By slaughtering a lamb, an Egyptian god, the Israelites experienced a psychological shift that prepared them for liberation. But in the act of asserting their freedom and dignity, they're instructed to remain thoughtful and to act with moderation. As the quote says, they were required to select a lamb that was an appropriate size for each household. If this act was about revenge alone, there'd be no need to limit the size of the lamb. If this was purely about asserting autonomy, or that lambs couldn't possibly be gods, there would be no need to create boundaries on the damage caused.

This commandment was meant to empower the soon-to-be-freed slaves and to assert God's power, but it's also joined with a clear moral and community-building sensibility. The soon-to-be-freed Israelites need to understand their own physical requirements and what they truly need to live well. From the first act of self-liberation, they're required to act with purpose and not purely on a visceral, albeit warranted, response to years of pent-up hunger and hatred. They don't steal the riches of Egypt, but rather "ask" for it. They don't slaughter more meat than they can consume and eat more than they have an appetite for just to spite the Egyptians. Rather, they immediately need to estimate how much sustenance they'll require and begin to negotiate with their neighbours to find the right balance.

Even before being free, they're instructed to make a conscious decision that's good for them and their neighbours. This is an important reminder as we start 2016. ■

Yacov Fruchter is director of community building and spiritual engagement at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shalom Spira

Rashi in Exodus 12:2 cites the Mechilta that Moses experienced difficulty understanding the new moon, until the Holy One, blessed be He, pointed (metaphorically speaking) and said, "When it resembles this, sanctify it."

What exactly was so initially unfathomable for Moses? Siftei Chachamim suggests that the Mechilta refers to the Gemara, Rosh Hashanah 20b, which divides the period of the appearance of the new moon into time zones of 18 hours versus six hours. This talmudic passage is the source for the international dateline, and it is so marvellously complex that Chazon Ish (*Orach Chaim* 64) begins his analysis by advising: "We disturb the reader with this overview." Rabbi Yisrael Rothenburg, (*Pesher Chazon*, Kiryat Sefer 5772), offers a line-by-line commentary on this chapter of Chazon Ish and reveals a kaleidoscope of opinions on the subject.

Correctly so, Moses was puzzled.

To that effect, Rabbi Joshua H. Shmidman twice confessed: "I am prepared to adjudicate any question except for the dateline." Likewise, Rabbi Yisrael Taplin (*Ta'arich Yisrael*, Lakewood, 5759), reports from an interview with Rabbi David Feinstein that the latter's father, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, refused to address this issue, because he was baffled about why the community in Harbin considered itself the Far East (instead of the Far West, as Ba'al ha-Ma'or to Rosh Hashanah 20b led him to believe). One might even hypothesize that this halachic polemic translates itself into the conflict between North Korea, and South Korea, which to some extent are geographically separated by Ba'al ha-Ma'or's dateline.

Rabbi Moshe Ashen, writing in *Beit Yitzchak*, Vol. 39 (5767), compares this dilemma to Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim (344:1-2) regarding one who is lost in the wilderness and forgets which day is the Sabbath. Each doubtful day is observed as a potential Sabbath, leading to a two-day Sabbath for a number of locations in the Far East and Far West. ■

Rabbi Spira is a research assistant at the McGill AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Rachael Turkienicz

This week we conclude the reading of the plagues brought against Egypt. The text challenges our sensibilities and our Jewish core. We read of suffering and ultimately death that includes children and infants. During Pesach, we are given the seders to debate the definition of an enemy and how far we must go to vanquish an enemy and feel safe. These are ongoing Jewish questions that echo from the ancient world to the modern with haunting relevance.

Amid all of these issues, there is a moment of Jewish definition that is easily missed. At one point, Pharaoh suggests to Moses that the Israelites could worship their God in Egypt. There is no need to leave – Pharaoh would allow Jewish ritual within his borders. Moses refuses, insisting that they must depart. But if Pharaoh is willing to accept the Israelites in their covenantal uniqueness, what's the harm?

Interestingly, the issue does not lie with Pharaoh's perspective, but with ours. Putting issues of trusting Pharaoh aside, the Israelites are headed to Sinai to receive the Torah. Can the Torah be received in Egypt? Absolutely not.

The core for the name "Egypt" in Hebrew is the word "narrow." The Torah cannot be given in a narrow place, since that would restrict its meanings and its messages. God has told Moses to lead Israel into the wilderness, a place with no boundaries and no reference points. The Torah must be given in an environment that does not restrict spiritual growth and dialogue.

In many instances today, we find that the Jewish world can again seek to return to Egypt. Just as the Israelites of the desert spoke nostalgically of Egypt, we can long for a world of strict and narrow definitions. In those moments, we must remind ourselves that Pharaoh's offer was turned down, and instead God led us into a place of broad latitudes. It is there that we can embrace Torah. ■

Rachael Turkienicz is executive director of Rachael's Centre in Toronto, rachaelscentre.org.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

BEDFORD PARK GEM! MUST SEE GRACIOUS FAMILY HOME
Gorgeously decorated, impeccably maintained. Large eat-in kitchen, large master with newly renovated master bath. Margaret Lindzon* 416-488-2875

NORTH PROPERTIES

BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED THORNHILL TOWNHOUSE
Well Designed Layout + Exceptional Living Space. Freshly Painted + Gleaming Hardwood Floors. Fabulous Open Concept With Balcony + W/O Basement. Shows To Perfection! Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987
SOLD

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

3 BDRM PENTHOUSE SUITE AT YONGE/YORK MILLS $2,799,000
Large, premium suite in very private setting. Peaceful ravine views, showcase art, entertain and family loving. Great building. Amenities & location. S. Merrick* & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

NEW LISTING! 7 TOWNSGATE $495,000
Desirable corner 2 bdrm split plan. Approx. 1546 sq.ft. Southern exposure. Ensuite laundry. 2 parking. Susan Dick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

ARMOUR HEIGHTS-GREAT FAMILY HOME FOR LEASE
$2,600/Mo. Nicely Renovated 2 Storey 3Bdrm With Finished Basement. Huge Backyard + 2 Car Garage. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

FABULOUS CEDARVALE RENOVATED RENTAL! $4250/MO.
3 bdrms. 2 baths. W/O to deck & garden from dining room. Steps to all! Available Feb 1st. Lynne Ellund* 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

New Listing:
CLARK & HILDA
$449,900
2 bdrm, 2 bath, Parking, Locker, Balcony.
Immediate Occupancy
Miriam Hartman
Sales Representative
Living Realty, 905-474-0500

ESSIE SHER

Steeles/Dufferin Semi
$699,900
Ridgegate Community on a quiet court!! 3 bdr A1 condition. Huge Combo LR/DR. Great Kit + pantry +S/S appliances, 4 washrooms fin. bas. close to TTC shopping

Clark/Bathurst
Townhouse 1,080,000
Rarely available Stunning 3 bdr designer stylish finishes. Dbl grg, fin bsmt, Combo Lr/Dr. Fantastic custom kit/fam room. Master + fireplace+unique 5 pce ensuite bath. Smooth ceilings, hardwood, limestone, wet bar, wine cellar.

Thornhill Woods
$1,199,000
Most desired street 4bdr w/ upstairs office can be 5th bdr 3300 sqft. Hardwood on main and 2nd. Amazing Kit with granite, pantry and breakfast area o/l fam room. Great flow and layout 2nd floor has 3 washrooms+laundry. Garden with patio and deck. Great curb appeal.

Call **Essie Sher 416-464-5261**
SUTTON GROUP-ADMIRAL REALTY, BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

Sold

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+ Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-788-4887 / www.TwoNeptune.ca

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Sunny Isles, Miami - 2 bed/ 2 bath ocean view apt. available Feb. 23. Totally upgraded & fully furnished. Rent 5k/mth. Call 516-810-2213/raisa@kartash.com

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

We offer a variety of condos and prestigious properties for purchase in the Tel Aviv area. Pls. contact Aliza @ 011-972-544-947-711 or Yossi @ 011-972-549-838-755

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Experienced teacher, for toddler room, Jewish Day Car Centre Thornhill. Send resume & ref. to lc.centre@yahoo.ca. call 905-764-6663

MATURE WOMAN wanted for occasional work as a Medical Assistant. Interesting work. Please reply to CJN Box #5675

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Jewish Senior Care Provider. I am avail. for shopping, cooking, housekeeping, appt's. or companion in nursing home. Live- out. Refs. 416-665-3815

Live-out Cert. PSW-CPR/First aid. Attend to daily activities. Drive to appointments, etc. Have van & refs. Felipa 647-868-4548

Best Wishes To You for 2016
Nurses & Caregivers
from general attendant to acute injury care
Serving Toronto & GTA since 1985
Call
416 754-0700 • 1 800 567-6877
30 YEARS
www.nhihealthcare.com

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Cleaning services for homes, apts., offices, etc. Call Glenna 647-303-5372

European lady caregiver for the elderly, w/vehicle, available day or night, full time for live-out care, w/ expenence & references. Speaks Hunganan & Engl. 647-783-4202

Cleaning lady avail. Mon., every other Tues & Thurs. Refs. upon request. Please call: 647-763-5508

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

Iris Krangle was an actress, singer & dancer who lived in Toronto during the 1950s & beyond. For personal reasons, I would like to get in touch with her. If you or anyone you know has information regarding her present whereabouts, email harbar@videotron.ca

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militana. 416-890-9644

205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE

BATHURST / SHEPPARD RAVINE BUILDING LOT
Just Listed 50X125
On Quiet Cul-De-Sac $980,000
JEFFREY JOSEPH, Broker
416-782-7000
jeffreyjoseph@realtor.com
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available Feb/Mar.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

*PLEASE NOTE OUR **NEW** PHONE NUMBER:*

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant
COR
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905 762 0640
www.cafesheli.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

382 COUNSELLING

Experienced counsellor (personal, family, group). 416- 921-7887

395 ELECTRICAL

Trio electrical services. Specializing in knob & tube removal, & all your electrical needs. For free estimate call Brian 647-282 3380.

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. Roman - 416-716-9094

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Regluing, Custom, reas. 416-630-6487.

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

445 MOVING

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Bar/Bat Mitzvah video full H.D. under $600. 25 yrs experience. Call: Andy 905-763-1584

460 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install. plus repairs on all models. Residential & commercial. 416-722-5225

CJN CLASSIFIED

- REAL ESTATE Sale/Rent/Lease/ Vacation Properties
- HOME IMPROVEMENT Furniture/Movers
- DOMESTIC HELP Health Care/Daycare
- ARTICLES Wanted/Sale
- AUTOMOTIVE
- CAREERS
- CLASSES/TUTORING
- PERSONAL
- AND MORE... IT WORKS!

416-391-1836

Specializing in furniture repair?
ADVERTISE IN CJN

Support goes beyond Israel policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Interestingly, it is one of the issues near and dear to his heart that has further distanced him from the Liberals – refugees.

Trudeau's announced plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of 2015 smacks of political opportunism, he said. The plan was conceived in haste to attract votes after a photo of a dead Syrian toddler made international headlines.

Not enough consideration was given to resettling and absorbing the refugees, he said.

What's more, the policy is unfair to the tens of thousands of other refugees who were looking to make Canada their home. There are an estimated 10 to 12 million refugees around the world, Mamann said. Many have been in the queue waiting to come to Canada, and their relatives are calling him, distraught that their family members must wait while Syrians jump the queue.

"They've been waiting for years, and all of a sudden, in the middle of an election campaign, based on one picture, he made a decision," Mamann said.

Stuart Kamenetsky is a member in good standing at Toronto's Congregation Darchei Noam, a synagogue known in good measure for its members' attention to social justice issues.

Kamenetsky, who serves as chair of the synagogue's Israel connections committee, considers himself a progressive, but notes that being right wing does not mean you cannot be an advocate for issues on human rights, the alleviation of poverty, and serve as an advocate for people with differences.

He's also a Tory supporter and has been since Harper became the party leader. The former prime minister, he said, was a visible friend of Israel at a time when other world leaders were not.

Harper "did what he felt was right," even though it likely cost him votes in the overall scheme of things. He recognized the threat posed by ISIS radicalism and made sure Canada did not avoid the issue by sitting on the sidelines.

Kamenetsky, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto, said he shifted his support to the Tories because of Harper's position on Israel and foreign policy generally.

As someone who spent his formative years in Israel and served in the Israel Defence Forces, he doesn't believe the Liberals really understand what Israel faces. "I don't think they get it," he said.

Canadian and Israeli ministers and diplomats pose during Stephen Harper's 2014 visit.

Although he didn't work for the Tories in the last election – "I don't see myself as politically active" – he is paying close attention to the parties' positions on international issues.

He doesn't see big differences between Liberals and Conservatives on domestic issues so his vote "will have a lot to do with whether the Liberal candidate supports Israel and understands it."

So far, he's pleased with the way Canada voted at the United Nations in November during its annual run of anti-Israel resolutions. For that he credits Harper, whose position against the one-sided resolutions has influenced policy-makers and bureaucrats alike, he said.

You can count Jack Berkovitz among those voters whose Liberal affiliations goes back more than a generation. Both his parents, Holocaust survivors, voted Liberal. He generally voted Liberal, too, as a young man, but that changed in recent years as he moved his vote to the Tories, in part over their position on Israel and because he saw them as the party of good government.

During the last election, the jewelry maven worked for Tory candidates Oliver and Adler in Toronto, and he talked up their prospects with friends and acquaintances.

Support for the Conservatives was strong among Orthodox Jews, he said, but in life, nothing is permanent, including political affiliations. He's taking a wait-and-see approach to the governing Liberals, hoping they will be true to their word about their strong support for Israel.

No group can afford to alienate a government and be seen as permanent supporters of one or another party, so it's best to swing your votes according to the party's actions, he said.

University of Toronto political science professor Nelson Wiseman believes "that it comes down to the fact that there is no one Jewish vote."

Going back decades, you could find Jewish supporters of federal and provincial Conservative parties, some even serving as party leaders, such as Sidney Spivak in Manitoba and Larry Grossman in Ontario. Jewish support for the federal Tories was in the 10 to 15 per cent range, and other ethnic minorities also stayed away from the Tories because of its perception as a "race-proud, Protestant, Anglo, conservative party." Jews, who were on the lower end of the socio-economic strata, also were sympathetic to parties that promised a greater role for the state, he said.

But all that changed over the years, beginning with Tory prime minister John Diefenbaker in the late 1950s, who spoke the language of multiculturalism and opposed the idea of hyphenated Canadians. Meanwhile, Jews improved their economic position in society, felt more integrated and saw their interests better reflected in conservative policies, he said.

A noticeable shift to the Tories began in 2006, accelerated in 2008 and peaked in 2011, when the party received 50 per cent of the Jewish vote, he said.

That support likely dropped in 2015, though he acknowledged there is, as yet, no data to measure minority groups' voting patterns for the last election.

Wiseman suggested that 35 per cent of Jews supported the Conservatives, slightly more than the 32 per cent of the vote the party received overall.

On the issue of Israel, Wiseman discounted the parties' supposed differences on the Jewish state. That has been "exaggerated," he said. "It's more a matter of rhetoric than of policies."

As to the future, that depends, he said. There are a lot of unknowns, including events involving Israel and domestic policies.

Nevertheless, "I don't think Jewish support for the Conservatives will go back to 10 to 15 per cent," he said. ■

Sharren Haskel: Canadian-born MK fights for consumers

JENNIFER TZIVIA MACLEOD
ISRAEL CORRESPONDENT

Born in Toronto, Sharren Haskel isn't a typical Knesset member. She's 31, a veterinary nurse and a vegan, and perhaps the last person you'd expect to join Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party. In last March's Israeli election, Haskel was 31st on the Likud list, but the party only won 30 seats. She took her seat after MK Danny Danon was appointed Israel's envoy to the United Nations last August.

Sharren Haskel

Mazal tov on your new position. How were you feeling after the election in March?
Remember, they predicted that Likud was going to lose the elections. There was a big media war. So the fact that it was a victory, a huge victory, I was just really happy, dancing and celebrating. I didn't think once about my position.

When did you move to Israel?
Both of my parents moved here when I was one year old. They got divorced when I was in high school, and my father moved back to Canada. He lives in Toronto now.

How did you end up going to school in Australia?
After the army, I actually moved to the States. I lived in the United States for a year, in California. My sister lived in California, and I decided to study at Santa Monica College.

After a year, I moved to Sydney. I lived there for about six years. I was working in an animal hospital, volunteering for a wildlife NGO that rescues animals and releases them back into nature.

Four years ago, I decided to move back to Israel, mainly for the reason that Israel is the only true home for Israelis. You can be who you are without any needing to justify it to anyone.

> *Four years ago, I decided to move back to Israel, mainly for the reason that Israel is the only true home for Israelis.*

That's an unusual background. Was heading to the Knesset part of your plan all along?
Some people say that with my skills dealing with animals, that I actually acquired just the right skills for the "Knesset jungle."

Look, I've always been active in causes like animal welfare and the environment. When I returned to Israel, I was looking into where I could donate some of my skills, time and thoughts. There was one member of Knesset that I've always looked up to, Mickey Eitan. I started to volunteer in his office.

From there, I started getting involved in Likud's branch in my hometown in Kfar Saba. I first got involved in Likud as a student. I just finished a degree in international relations and political science [through Israel's Open University] a few months ago.

Is it fair to say that your political views have shifted over the years?
I grew up as a teenager in a peace camp during the times of [former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin. With all my friends from junior high, we would go to demonstrations for peace. Then the suicide bombings began, and then I joined the army.

I did my military service as a combat soldier in the border patrol, around Jerusalem during the second intifadah. Slowly I grew up. I started shifting my opinions and agendas.

When you've seen people die terrible deaths, and thinking that [the Palestinians] are the people that we wanted to live with, side by side, and the only thing they want to do is to kill Israelis, well, you get a different perspective.

Then, suddenly, the prime minister [Ariel Sharon] decides to completely clear all Jews from Gaza because we think that this is what's going to create peace and quiet. And then, seeing that they've just burned millions of dollars of agricultural equipment that was left for them to start building an economy, voting in a party that has written on its flag to kill all the Jews. The more power the Palestinian Authority had, and the more power Hamas had over territory, over their people, the more violent it became.

It was a long process of sobering up from this dream that was about peace and living one next to another. I say this as someone who grew up with my father, who would take us to Shechem [Nablus] to eat hummus. I knew people who would go to dentists in Kalkiliya. We would buy merchandise for our shop in Gaza.

Israel, for its part, never attacked, just defended itself. We know how to do this really well. No matter what they do, they don't scare us. One day they'll wake up and realize that with violence they will not get anything.

You're the second-youngest Knesset member. Is that an advantage or a disadvantage?
I think it's a huge advantage. When you come in and you're young, whether you've lived here all your life or you've gone out and had a chance to think a little bit differently about things, you think outside of the box. You can bring new and fresh ideas on how to deal with things. You're not stuck in older ways of thinking.

What are some areas in which you feel you can make a difference?
I have two main fields of interest. First, from a liberal economic ideology, I'm concentrating specifically on the cost of living, food prices in Israel.

There are many barriers and regulations on almost everything in the food industry, which makes it difficult for people to develop their businesses and to actually sell to customers. Customers are paying a very high price. Everything here is so heavily regulated, so I'm working on releasing a lot of these barriers and regulations in order to eventually create better pricing.

The second thing is the pollution from the Palestinian Authority – industrial sewage, carcinogenic chemicals, running free through Israel's rivers and ending up in the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. Pollution doesn't recognize any borders.

During the Oslo accords, the Palestinians committed to build facilities to clean the water and to reuse water for agriculture. It's been more than 20 years, and they've actually received a lot of funds from the States and the European Union to build all these facilities, but they haven't done it. All this money has somehow disappeared, and we end up with the pollution.

Fish and wildlife, vegetation, it all suffers. Last year, there was three-metre high toxic foam running through the Alexander River, killing everything on its way. Israel's biggest water supply is under Judea and Samaria, a mountain aquifer. If toxic chemicals go into the groundwater there, it's going to be irreversible, and there's nothing we can do.

And they're using it against us. They take pictures of open sewage around cities and rivers, to tell the world "Look how we live." "Look at our polluted streets. It's all the fault of Israel" – another lie they're spreading to get donations to build recycling plants.

You've also been outspoken about marijuana legalization. Isn't medical marijuana already legal here?
You can get already get a prescription for medical cannabis, but it's a very long, very bureaucratic process, relying on committees and clerks to decide who's going to get it or not.

I've seen so many people who are suffering every single day. They're in pain, and committees in the Ministry of Health do not allow it. The system that every prescription has to go through the Ministry of Health is wrong. These decisions should be left in the hands of doctors and specialists. We allow doctors to treat patients with much harsher drugs. We should trust doctors to prescribe this medicine as well.

The second thing is the decriminalization of cannabis. As a modern country, we understand that when people are addicted to drugs, it's a disease. It's not a crime.

What do you think of Canada's recent election results?
I know that [former prime minister Stephen] Harper was a true friend to Israel. Loyalty is very important in the international community. I really hope that the new government will stay on the straight path and strengthen the connection and bond between the two countries. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Uriel Da Costa's path off the derech

Backstory

JONATHAN L. MILEVSKY

At the recent Agudath Israel convention in Stamford, Conn., the closing keynote speeches addressed the phenomenon of Jews going "off the *derech*" – that is, Jews who decide to become unaffiliated with Judaism. The tendency now among community leaders and outreach professionals appears to be to concentrate on preventative measures, putting an emphasis on the care that must be shown towards those at risk.

At the same time, there is less of an emphasis placed on addressing the philosophical and theological questions of those who break with the community on the basis of those concerns. Historically, however, those who went off the *derech* sometimes did so because of theological or philosophical reasons. Baruch Spinoza, who I would call the godfather (or natural father) of all who leave the Jewish faith, serves as an obvious example.

Regardless of the political situation in Amsterdam, where Spinoza lived, or the position that his views regarding the providence of God and the authorship of the Bible put the community in – and some argue that both of those factors may have forced the community's hand in the decision to excommunicate him – the systematic and comprehensive views Spinoza lays out in his *Theological Political Treatise* are not the thoughts of someone who would be able to live within the community.

Spinoza's predecessor (and possible influence), Uriel Da Costa, belonged to a Marrano family, and first converted to Judaism because he found theological difficulties in Christian doctrine. In somewhat similar fashion to Spinoza, Da Costa's first break with Judaism was also a matter of principle.

In fact, as Miriam Bodian, a professor of Jewish history, explains, it was based on his rejection of the oral law, which he believed stood in contradiction to the old law. Da Costa's claims, which he expressed in his *Examination of Pharisaic Traditions* (1623), were taken quite seriously by the Jewish community of Portugal, where he lived. Indeed, the community directed those concerns to the colourful sage Leon de Modena. Modena's response is recorded in his book, *Magen Ve-zina*.

Even so, Da Costa's first break with the Jewish community was only a partial one. He reconciled with the community in 1628, but not fully, since he still did not keep the dietary laws, and he was excommunicated again four years later. This time, the process of reconciliation was a long and humiliating one, and it took seven years until he was admitted again.

> *Those who leave the faith sometimes do so for theological and philosophical grounds.*

Nevertheless, in perhaps the clearest expression of how deeply he clung to his heterodox views, Da Costa took his own life not long afterwards. This interpretation is supported by the autobiography, entitled *Explanation of a Life*, found near his bed, in which he expresses faith in a God that cares only that humans ought to live moral lives.

As Tamar Rudavsky notes, in *Explanation of a Life*, one of Da Costa's main arguments is that rabbinic Judaism has no notion of natural law, the term for a universally valid, moral framework. Given that he originally studied canon law at the University of Coimbra, it not surprising that he thought in those terms. In fact, it is possible that Da Costa reflected on that issue for some time. In an earlier work, *Examination of Pharisaic Traditions*, he already mentions natural law, namely, in the way that the moral framework seems to be incompatible with a particular rabbinic ruling.

Rudavsky convincingly argues that Da Costa was wrong about natural law being incommensurable with rabbinic thought. Although the term natural law does not appear to be in use until it is found in the work of Joseph Albo in the 15th century, a similar idea was found in rabbinic, Gaonic, and medieval thought.

But whether Da Costa was right or wrong on that particular issue is beside the point. Despite our most serious efforts, those who go off the *derech* and leave the faith sometimes do so for theological and philosophical grounds. And in those cases, even our deepest expression of care may not be enough. ■

Jonathan Milevsky is a PhD candidate in religious studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

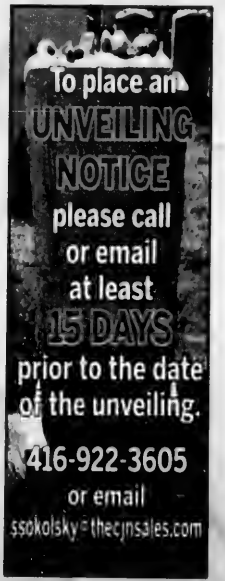
Podgoyetsky, Markus	Dec. 20, 2015	Private
Goldburd, Naum	Dec. 22, 2015	170 Red Maple Rd
Friedman, Elizabeth	Dec. 22, 2015	1001 Bay St
Levin, Moisey	Dec. 22, 2015	Private
Benchetrit, Camille	Dec. 22, 2015	525 Lawrence Ave W
Vilensky, Gennady	Dec. 22, 2015	1 Brookwood Dr
Gutfreund, Pola	Dec. 22, 2015	Private
Geiger, Piroska	Dec. 23, 2015	100 Canyon Ave
Cohen, Rose Carol	Dec. 23, 2015	31 Coral Harbour Cres
Schacter, Rachel	Dec. 23, 2015	3560 Bathurst St
Perez, Lisette	Dec. 23, 2015	31 Mayfair Ave
Cohen, Renee	Dec. 24, 2015	Private
Starodubsky, Sonya	Dec. 24, 2015	Private
Elent, Zoya	Dec. 25, 2015	60 Inverlochy Blvd
Zelenska, Rayisa	Dec. 25, 2015	Private
Biel, Elsa Theodora	Dec. 26, 2015	420 The East Mall
Herskowitz, Norman Morris	Dec. 26, 2015	205 Cummer Ave
Tausinger, Karel	Dec. 27, 2015	668 Roselawn Ave
Gilkarov, Nina	Dec. 29, 2015	343 Clark Ave W

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Marsha York	Dec 23/15	745 New Westminster Dr.
Esther Zeppieri	Dec 28/15	176 Theodore Place
Jordan Appleby	Dec 29/15	15 Oxford Drive
Bernie Cooper	Dec 31/15	3000 Bathurst Street
Patricia Weinberg	Jan 1/16	135 Rose Green Drive
Sidney Rumack	Dec 31/15	127 Combe Avenue
Norman Mekler	Jan 2/16	190 Pineway Blvd

MEDREW BASIC Steven Terrance Adler Dec 25/15 2045 Finch Ave. West

ICRF Israel Cancer Research Fund
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe.
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND



BECAUSE BEING JEWISH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE EXPENSIVE!®

THE ISRAELI SOURCE®

2006-2016
10 YEARS OF SAVINGS!

DOLLAR DAY$

MANY ITEMS STOREWIDE
FOR ONLY $1
*WITH QUALIFYING PURCHASE

DON'T MISS THE SAVINGS!

Challah Boards, Reinforced Glass - Assorted Designs

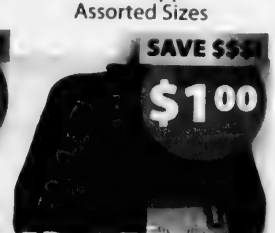
Plush Velvet Challah Covers Assorted Designs

Kiddush Cup Set with Matching Tray

Velvet Kippot Assorted Sizes

Tealight Candleholders

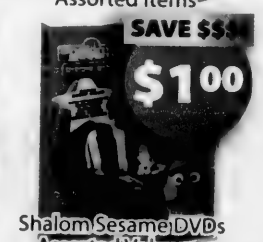
Colour-Coded Kosher Kitchenware Assorted Items



Tallit or Tefillin Tote Bags Assorted Sizes

Silver-Effect Disposable Kiddush Cups, 10-Pack

Hand-Crocheted Kippot Assorted Styles



Shalom Sesame DVDs Assorted Volumes

Red String Bracelet Assorted Designs/Styles

Colour-Coded Kosher Kitchen Labels

Challah Cover, Jumbo Assorted Colours

MANY MORE ITEMS!
· GIFTWARE · KIPPOT · TOYS · TZITZIT · TALLIT BAGS · AND LOTS MORE STOREWIDE!

Scan here to save!

JANUARY 14TH - 24TH

Prices shown are discounted price after qualifying purchase applied. Some items may be final sales, check at point of sale. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion, and we cannot be responsible for typographical errors in product prices or descriptions.

60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill · www.israelisource.com · info@israelisource.com
(905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18 · SUNDAY 10-5 / MONDAY-THURSDAY 10-6 / FRIDAY

FOCUS ON **EDUCATION**

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

SPONSOR CONTENT

University entrance requirements becoming more holistic

Recent media coverage has focused on how universities are retooling their admissions procedures, including assessing applicants through standardized tests, personal references, and complex interview processes to measure students' critical thinking abilities. In an attempt to ascertain the overall suitability of a student for success in a program and future career, many universities have started to rate applicants more holistically, and not based solely on academic ability.

Twenty-five years ago, a brief essay and short interview could secure medical school admission. Today, a high GPA, an outstanding MCAT score, personal references, a rigorous interview and a résumé with diverse work and volunteer experiences doesn't always guarantee admission with more holistic admissions criteria. Admission to other professional programs, such as dentistry, law and business are equally as competitive.

While grades remain an important metric, they are only one piece of the admissions puzzle in working towards a chosen career path. Planning should begin as early as junior high. Students, as well as parents, should consider creating a plan for the student's future university studies.

Overall, universities are evaluating a student's longitudinal development. For example, if you volunteer in an organization in Grade 10, what is your longevity with that organization? Do you continue to volunteer over time and gradually take on roles with more responsibility? Do you grow and develop leadership skills? What is your progression? Being able to demonstrate commitment and growth in areas outside of academics are becoming increasingly important from a university admissions perspective.

University is a long-term investment. Bachelor degrees are still relevant and develop valuable critical thinking skills, providing the launching point for professional development.

Many university programs have moved to problem and case-based learning, providing a broad cross section of transferrable skills, with learning models that sometimes include internships and co-op placements to provide students with early exposure to future work environments. These placements also provide the opportunity to demonstrate personal value and expertise to potential employers, which can result in an offer of employment following the completion of a degree.

Dr. Robert Astroff, president of Astroff Consultants Inc.

How can students improve their application profile? Focus on talent, aptitude, areas of interest and passion. Volunteer and develop skills with respect to communication, time management and leadership. Pay attention to academics while taking advantage of the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills. These steps will help prepare a student to apply successfully for university admission, but most importantly, will develop them as a person. ■

For more information, please contact Dr. Robert Astroff at 416-929-6110 or visit www.Astroff.com.

What would help you achieve your ambitions?

- Choosing the best Canadian universities and programs for you
- Discovering career-building Ontario college programs
- Finding your place at top US colleges, with expert guidance through the complex US admissions process
- Having specialized assistance from an expert in graduate and professional school admissions: medicine, law, MBA, MA, PhD
- Breaking the "medicine-law-business" barrier: exploring other paths
- Developing a "what's next?" plan before your BA/BSc graduation
- Getting back on track after an academic setback in university/college

...and more

Over 20 years of experience, and hundreds of student successes. Expert guidance with a very personal approach.

Judy Libman
AMBITIONS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING
www.ambitions.ca 416-780-0288
jlibman@ambitions.ca

York Paediatric Therapy Services Inc.

Providing the Steps to Independence

- Assess & Treat children 0-18 years
- Registered Occupational, Speech-Language & Physiotherapists
- Wide Range of Therapy Approaches
- Therapy to Private Schools through CCAC
- Medical-Legal Assessments/Treatment

York Paediatric Therapy Services Inc. – 905-737-9680
10520 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, Ont.
www.yorkpaediatrics.com or email info@yorkpaediatrics.com

Personalized Programming:
Literacy, Math, Science, French, Hebrew, ESL, Exam Prep, Study skills...

- **1 on 1 Home tutoring**
- **Competitive pricing**
- **Highly qualified tutors**
- **ANY subject**
- **ALL ages**

BASECAMP TUTORS

Base Camp Tutors is an established tutoring company that exists to serve the unique academic and educational needs, and learning styles of students.

The student's unique needs are always our priority – including learning style, background and family history, schedule preference and where the tutoring should take place.

We have tutors for every age, subject and language. No matter what the need, we can help!

Call today for your free consultation.

BASECAMP TUTORS
TEACHING PEAKS OF EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

1-888-633-8560
basecamptutors.ca
info@basecamptutors.ca

SPONSOR CONTENT

Why a child's curiosity matters

It used to be that a child's aptitude was measured by their understanding of the 3R's. No longer. Today, the more advanced pedagogy says learning facts and figures is fine, but hardly a predictor of lifelong success. What is? Studies are now telling us that curiosity, creativity and, very importantly, perseverance are essential.

Introducing the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Education program at Robbins Hebrew Academy (RHA). This year, they've revamped the JK-SK program based on this legendary approach to education. In 2016, they are beginning a nursery program with the same orientation.

Its history is an interesting one. In post-World War II Italy, the small town of Reggio Emilia recognized that children were the key to rebuilding their city. Education would be a pivotal component. So the community embarked on changing the way its children were taught, particularly in the early years. Half a century later, and based on years of research and evaluation, it has become astoundingly clear that a focus on play, imagination and self-expression build more adept and more advanced learners. The philosophy has become known as the Reggio Approach.

"The idea is to embrace children's natural curiosity," says Claire Sumerlus, head of school. "Children have an amazing ability to think critically, and we encourage them to ask questions and explore their environment. This inquiry produces learners who are able to analyze, hypothesize and come up with their own solutions. Amazingly, it all begins in the early years of a child's education."

The curriculum is structured in a special way. Students work in small groups so that each child is heard individually. Children collaborate to find answers to their own questions, teachers tailor lessons to fit the particular needs and interests of the class, and students' observations drive the conversations and activities. This happens across both general and Jewish studies.

Classrooms are designed to bring the outside environment in, and natural materials are used in the learning process. Each week, time is spent outdoors investigating and observing nature.

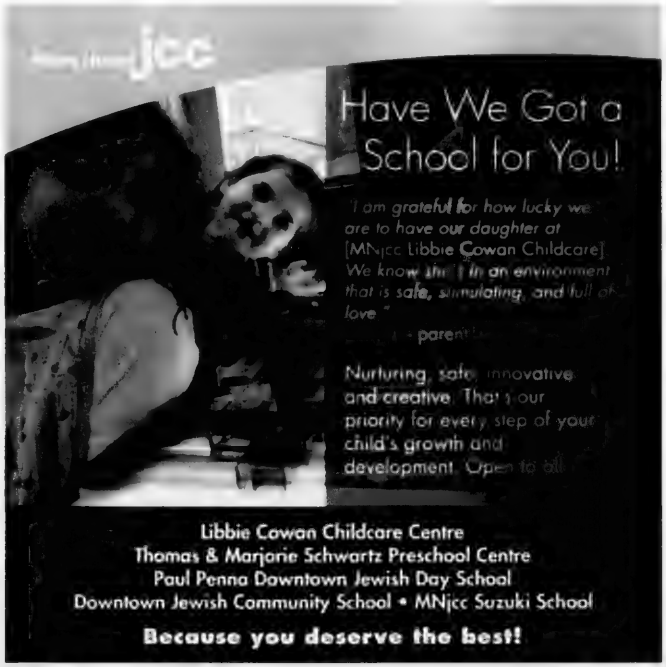
Introducing the world-renowned Reggio Emilia Early Childhood Education program at Robbins Hebrew Academy.

"On a recent excursion, the JK class was curious about why trees grow in different directions," says Sumerlus. "These questions led to discussions about the way in which sunlight and the environment affect the growth of trees and vegetation. The students then took their observations and explored them further in the classroom."

The Reggio Approach also places an emphasis on documenting the children's thoughts and the progression of their thinking. Teachers share the activities with parents so conversations can continue at home. "Gone are the days when your child says they don't remember what they learned at school. Each parent can see what happened at school that day through photos and videos," says Sumerlus.

"The end result is happy children who not only develop sharper and more sophisticated minds, but who also go through life thinking innovatively and originally." ■

For more information about the early years experience at Robbins Hebrew Academy, please call 416-224-8737 ext. 137 or visit www.rhacademy.ca.


jcc
Have We Got a School for You!
"I am grateful for how lucky we are to have our daughter at [MNjcc Libbie Cowan Childcare]. We know she is in an environment that is safe, stimulating, and full of love."
parent
Nurturing, safe, innovative and creative. That's our priority for every step of your child's growth and development. Open to all.
Libbie Cowan Childcare Centre
Thomas & Marjorie Schwartz Preschool Centre
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School
Downtown Jewish Community School • MNjcc Suzuki School
Because you deserve the best!
United Way
Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
750 Spadina Ave at Bloor
(416) 924.6211 • www.mnjcc.org
Charitable # 140344243RR0001

New siddurim connect children to prayer

MAAYAN JAFFE
JNS.ORG

"Tfillah is a journey," says Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former chief rabbi of the United Kingdom.

Some students are better able to experience that voyage with the release of the first two volumes in the *Koren Magerman Educational Siddur Series*, a joint project of Yeshiva University (YU) and Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

These two prayer books – *The Koren Children's Siddur* and the *Koren Ani Tefilla Weekday Siddur* for high school students – offer a new approach to tfillah education in the school, the home, and the synagogue.

The books, according to YU's Scott Goldberg, are based on dialogue with close to 100 elementary, middle, and high school Jewish educators.

Following a short trial period, during which YU and Koren received positive feedback from Jewish educators who reviewed them and tried them in their own classrooms, the books are now available to the general public.

In an introduction, publisher Matthew Miller conveys that the siddurim serve two purposes. One is the obvious: prayer. While volume 1 is abridged, the prayers follow traditional conventions. So too with the high school siddur, which is not abridged.

Giving children age-appropriate siddurim is a paradigm shift, says Daniel Rose, project director of *The Koren Children's Siddur* and author of the adult educational companion.

> *You don't give [primary students] a high school math book ... so why do we give them an adult siddur?*

"You don't give [primary students] a high school math book and say, 'You'll get something now, but by the time you get to high school you'll really get it.'... So why do we give them an adult siddur?" explains Rose.

Rose says he and his team are trying to encourage a new way of thinking about the prayer curriculum in Jewish day schools. Rather than the focus being on Hebrew literacy, tropes, and choreography, the new prayer books will help teachers (and parents) better help students connect to the prayers and their meanings on a spiritual level, according to Rose

In the children's siddur, this is accomplished through a combination of visually stimulating, detailed, and intentional designs coupled with creative use of trigger questions and quotes.

The siddur's creative director, Tani Bayer, describes the project as among the most unique she has participated in during her career as a graphic designer. She says she relates to the concept of the work on personal, parental, and educational levels.

"I grew up frum, and even to this day I would say there is something missing for me personally in my connection to tfillah," says Bayer, noting how "special" it is to know that such a tool is now available for her own children, and that she will be able to watch them grow up with the relationship and dialogue with God she wants them to have.

The high school version (which can be used by anyone in high school or older) stimulates an intellectual, visual, and emotional connection to prayer through Rabbi Sacks' translation of the prayers. It also includes a multi-tier commentary by Rabbi Jay Goldmintz.

"Each of us come to tfillah with different experiences and backgrounds, at different stages of our lives and our development... with different needs, moods and desires," writes Rabbi Goldmintz in his introduction to the high school siddur. "The prayer does not change, but the pray-er does." ■

A new private boys school meeting the needs of our community

Forest Hill Torah Academy and Learning Centre

A supportive environment for students who have academic challenges.

A unique opportunity for gifted students to accelerate at their own pace.

A low student to teacher ratio which improves learning outcomes.

We provide a superior balanced Ontario curriculum that caters to your son's specific needs.

Limited space is available for January for grade 6 and up.

info@foresthilltorahacademy.com
416-565-6605

Discovering selflessness during a gap year in Israel

CHANA DEVORAH LEVINE
JNS.ORG

I had looked forward to my year in seminary with great anticipation because I knew that living and learning in Israel would open up a whole new world to me. In fact, everyone I encountered informed me that my gap year would consist of one life-altering experience after another and that I needed to make the most of every opportunity that came my way.

But I was a little anxious about my ability to truly maximize the year. After all, I had only a few short months to achieve so many important things. In addition to increasing my Torah knowledge and enhancing my spirituality, I wanted to volunteer, to give of myself, and to make an impact on others. Even though an incredible opportunity to volunteer with special needs children fell into my lap, I wasn't sure if I could juggle everything.

To my great surprise, however, the volunteering opportunity was actually the best thing that could have happened to my year. It reframed and added structure to my seminary experience, and opened my eyes to the depth and beauty of life.

So what was this transformative volunteering program?

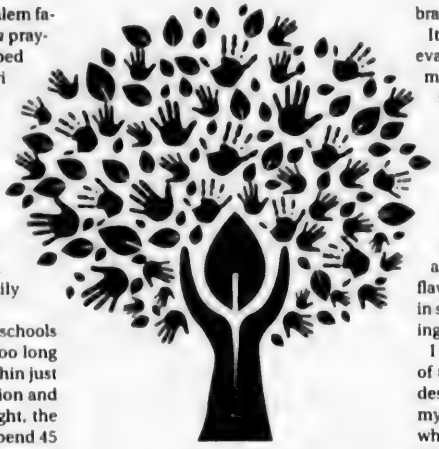
While serving as a counsellor last summer at Camp Migdal, a camp for children and teenagers with special needs, I was approached by the assistant director, Perri Binet, with a request. During her gap year many years earlier, Perri had started a unique volunteering initiative with ALEH, Israel's largest network of facilities for children with severe physical and cognitive disabilities, whereby seminary students would visit ALEH's Jerusalem facility every night to say the *Shema* prayer with the kids and put them to bed (like all other Jewish children). Perri was hoping that I would take over the "Sweet Dreams" program for the year.

At first, I didn't know what to say. I was concerned about how I could possibly fit this into my already packed schedule, and the added responsibility made me anxious. But the program touched my heart, and I happily agreed.

Thanks to my friends in different schools around Jerusalem, it didn't take too long to complete the weekly roster. Within just a few days, we solidified the rotation and began visiting the kids. Every night, the designated group of girls would spend 45 minutes going from room to room singing *Shema* and other lullabies and dispensing countless hugs and kisses.

I had slotted myself in for Thursday nights, and it quickly became the highlight of my week. Prior to my first visit to ALEH in Jerusalem, I wondered how responsive the children would be. As my relationships with the children grew from week to week, I revelled in their abilities to enjoy our time together –smiling, clapping and giggling from the moment we arrived until the moment they faded off to sleep.

Though our weekly visits were short, my interactions with the ALEH kids and staff impacted me tremendously. It was amazing to be surrounded by such warmth, to realize that every person who entered ALEH Jerusalem would be praised and appreciated both as individuals and for the great value that they added to the group, even if the value added was seemingly unconventional. It was inspiring to see that every accomplishment, no matter how small, would be celebrated as a major milestone.



> *The volunteering opportunity ...opened my eyes to the depth and beauty of life.*

It was this stunning new system for evaluating the world that transformed my year and, ultimately, my life. By design, there is a sense of "selfishness" that is built into the seminary experience. The year is all about the individual: her goals, her growth, and how much she hopes to gain from every experience. Thankfully, my time at ALEH kept me grounded, reminding me that while my personal growth was important, it would be flawed and incomplete if it wasn't rooted in selflessness and receiving by way of giving as much of oneself as possible.

I also reflect on how at the beginning of the year, I was so overwhelmed by my desire to achieve "everything" that I found myself paralyzed, with no idea of how or where to begin. But as I spent more and more time at ALEH, I learned that in order to achieve my goals, I would first need to redefine success and celebrate every step of my journey toward that goal –even the small ones – as a major victory.

All too often, it is the fear of failure that prevents us from accomplishing our goals. Yet if we only realized the value of a single action or experience, we would likely achieve a great deal more than we could ever imagine. Most of the time, all that stands between our greatest successes and our most dismal failures is the bravery to take (and celebrate) one step at a time.

In my case, a step toward the unknown allowed me to impact the lives of so many beautiful Jewish children and, in turn, provided me with the tools to not only maximize my year, but to elevate my outlook on life. A cause for celebration, indeed. ■

Temple Sinai
Dynamic Learning at Temple Sinai from JK to High School
Educating our Children Today to be our Leaders Tomorrow!
TEMPLE SINAI
210 Wilson Avenue
416.487.3281
www.templesinai.net
Flexible, Family-Focused Elementary School Programs:
Judaic and Hebrew Studies
Progressive and innovative learning opportunities, providing for the unique needs of all students, including those with special needs.
Engaging and Enriching
High School Programs
Diverse youth programming for Grades 8 to 12, including unforgettable travel experiences, youth group, and opportunities to earn volunteer hours.
For more information on our programs or to register, please call 416.487.3281 or email education@templesinai.net.

Forming Meaningful, Ongoing Jewish Connections for Children and Families
SHABBAT
HEBREW SCHOOL
at
Darchei Noam
Toronto's Reconstructionist Synagogue
קהילת דרכי נועם
Registration open to non-member families!
For more information, visit us online at
www.darcheinoam.ca

Scientific-technological preschool opens in Israel

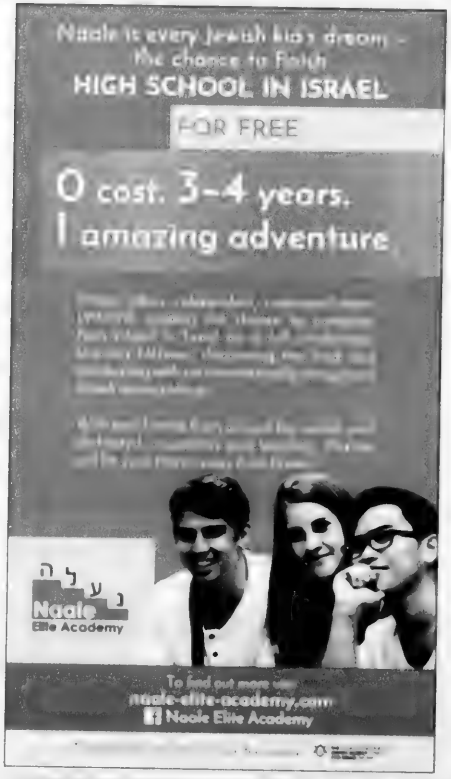
ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN
ISRAEL21C

Why did global aerospace giant Lockheed Martin send its chief executive to a Be'er Sheva preschool?

Because Lockheed Martin is a major partner in Israel's first science-technology preschool program, thus far serving 100 children ages three to five. The idea is that it's never too soon to inculcate the basics of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) so as to better prepare the next generation for the job market.

"The future growth of Israel's economy will require a constant supply of highly trained, highly capable technical talent, which is why advancing STEM education is a critical focus for Lockheed Martin," said Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin chair, president and CEO.

Israeli Minister of Education Naftali Bennett with science kindergarten kids in Beersheva.
MOSHE AZULAY PHOTO



> *The future growth of Israel's economy will require highly capable technical talent.*

"We are proud of our collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and the Rashi Foundation to promote STEM-related programs for kindergarten through high school students," said Hewson at the dedication ceremony.

Lockheed Martin is among several major multinationals that have established offices in Be'er Sheva's new Gav-Yam Negev Advanced Technologies Park (ATP) housing mainly companies involved in developing cyber technologies.

The new early-childhood curriculum was designed to provide 300 hours of science study per year in a learning environment that allows preschoolers to develop skills through hands-on activities in astronomy, physics, chemistry and robotics.

Over the next three years, the classrooms taking part in the project will be equipped with computers, Lego construction kits, robotics experiments and space-related content, according to the Rashi Foundation. The joint initiative is part of the MadaKids program that aims to cultivate future scientists in Israel. ("Mada" means "science" in Hebrew.)

The project is operated by Beit Yatziv, an organization that runs science education programs for some 40,000 elementary school pupils across Israel on behalf of the Rashi Foundation, including a municipal science excellence centre in co-operation with the municipality of Be'er Sheva.

"The participating kindergarten teachers received special training at Beit Yatziv that focused on the science behind natural phenomena such as the seasons, astronomy, robotics and more," says Maya Lugassi Ben-Hemo, head of pedagogy at Beit Yatziv.

She emphasizes that the preschoolers won't lack time to enjoy traditional nursery-school activities.

"The science and technology program will be integrated within the regular curriculum of the Ministry of Education for science-oriented kindergartens," she tells ISRAEL21c. It is hoped that this model for technological preschool education will be duplicated across Israel.

Hewson was not the only big name on hand for the dedication of the science preschool. Also in attendance were Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, Be'er Sheva Mayor Rubik Danilovitch, Rashi Foundation chairman Lt. Gen. (ret.) Gabi Ashkenazi and other dignitaries from Israel and abroad.

"The significance of the knowledge the children gain in preschool will be felt in years to come, and it will surely be highly valuable on the personal as well as the national level," said Bennett. ■

Inspiration versus information

Our goal is to engage our students.
To build character.
To prepare them for success in life.

Our programs are designed to inspire each student to value:
- Effort and achievement in Torah and General Studies
- A connection to Hashem through daily Tefila
- A connection to their fellow man through Middot, Derech Eretz and Chesed
- A connection to their world through math, science and technology

Our programs include:
- Qualified, experienced, and professional caring staff
- Full day preschool through Junior High
- Enriched early years program
- French Studies Grades 1-8
- Extra-curricular programming

Visit our school and be inspired.

To arrange a visit or for more information:
Please call (905) 669-7653 x223
Visit our website www.jdohss.org
Or email us at info@jdohss.org

The Joe Dwek Ohr HaEmet Sephardic School
7026 Bathurst St.
Thornhill, ON L4J 8K3

Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Three reasons why reading is important for children

NEWS CANADA

Despite the proliferation of high-tech mobile devices, tablets and laptops, the benefits of simply reading a book endure.

Fostering a love of reading among children has long-term payoffs. It teaches them new values and lessons, exercises concentration skills, and even helps them learn new vocabulary or different ways to phrase a thought.

The National Reading Campaign, organized by readers, writers, publishers, educators and others who are focused on creating a society of lifelong readers, reports some of the top reasons why reading is so important:

- Readers have better physical health, mental health and empathy.
- Reading for just six minutes can reduce stress by as much as 60 per cent, slow your heart beat, ease muscle tension and alter your state of mind.
- Reading has better stress-reduction outcomes than playing video games, drinking tea, listening to music or even going for a walk.

Reading is important on many levels. So teachers across the country work with innovative approaches to ensure every student is equipped with, not just reading skills, but a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

"As students get older, it can become more challenging to keep them engaged in reading," says a North Vancouver elementary teacher.

Providing realistic content helps. For high school students with learning disabilities, integrating familiar technology assists with repetition exercises to boost reading.

Not all teachers who want to implement this love of reading for their students have access to the resources and technology necessary to do so. To create a meaningful learning experience for their students, teachers can post their projects with MyClassNeeds, a charitable crowd-funding organization that supports publicly funded schools across Canada. ■

More information about the MyClassNeeds program and how Canadians can contribute to a widespread love of reading is available at www.myclassneeds.ca.
www.newscanada.com

Temple Sinai
COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL
A caring and engaging learning environment for children aged 10 months to 4 years.
TEMPLE SINAI
210 Wilson Avenue
416.487.3281
www.templesinai.net

Creating wonderful memories for over 45 years!

New programs with lunch!

- Extended Day (9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)
- Full Day (9.00 a.m. to 2.45 p.m.)
- Early morning drop off
- Transportation available

Our beautifully renovated school boasts spacious classrooms, fully equipped gym, exciting discovery room and engaging library.

Register online at www.templesinai.net or call 416.487.3281 to book a tour.

Reingold Tutoring
"We develop our students for success!"
Private Tutoring Services
647-519-4771
- Specializing in Math and Science
- One-on-one tutoring in your home (Toronto, Thornhill, Richmond Hill)
- Customized lessons
- Highly skilled and experienced tutors
- Motivation, study skills, and test prep
- Strong results with learning disabled students
- Stress Management & Student Anxiety

40% DISCOUNT on 1st Lesson
Flexible Hours & Scheduling
Grades 1-12 + University
www.reingoldtutoring.com

THE ACADEMY FOR GIFTED CHILDREN – P.A.C.E.
PRIVATE SCHOOL

The Academy for Gifted Children, P.A.C.E., is the only school in Ontario devoted entirely to intellectually gifted students. The primary goal of P.A.C.E. is to find and enhance the abilities of each child, in order to maximize his or her potential for success, while addressing the social and emotional needs of each student. Barbara Rosenberg, Director of P.A.C.E., is a specialist in gifted education. P.A.C.E. is based on the premise that gifted children need high-powered learning experiences to challenge their minds and ensure intellectual growth and achievement. P.A.C.E. offers a differentiated education, a curriculum that is built on greater depth and breadth of instruction and a more complex approach to learning.

A fully balanced school program, including the fine arts and physical education, complements this specialized academic program.

For further information please visit
www.pace.on.ca
call 905-773-0997

SPONSOR CONTENT

A new chapter for engineering at York for 2016

What springs to mind when you think of York University? Engineering? Perhaps not.

What do you associate with engineering? Passion? Humanism? Unlikely.

What about the spaces for engineering studies? Bright? Inspiring? Probably not.

These things are changing at York in 2016.

The transformation comes from the Lassonde School of Engineering created less than four years ago by founding Dean Janusz Kozinski, backed by a $25-million donation from mining entrepreneur and philanthropist Pierre Lassonde.

The school offers a full spectrum of undergraduate programs – with civil, mechanical and electrical engineering added recently – together with computer science degrees and more.

It offers a different type of engineering education to prepare students for the rapidly changing world. Students, or Lassondians as they are known, can study a variety of subjects including entrepreneurial courses at the Schulich School of Business, and intellectual property classes at Osgoode Hall Law School. Lassonde has also committed to achieving a 50:50 gender split among students, the first engineering school in Canada with that goal.

"We will be a school that is recognized for its fascination with improving education, its humanistic breadth, its warmth, its human sympathy and its intense need to look at every angle of an issue," Kozinski said.

For the past two years, 25 students have attended a summer program at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. The next cohort is being selected for the 2016 program, which includes a chance to visit startups and entrepreneurs in Israel. This year, plans are also underway for students to travel to Ethiopia for an international development program led by Technion's Engineers Without Borders chapter.

"Those three weeks in Israel were probably the best of my life so far… We learned some valuable lessons, and we formed some bonds that will last a lifetime," said Amal Dave, a Lassonde student who participated in the Technion program last year.

Another dramatic change for Lassonde's engineering students will come in 2016 with the opening of a brand new space that confronts all expectations of what an engineering building should look and feel like.

Opening in March, the Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence is already attracting global attention from design critics and architecture experts worldwide. It will be the new $115-million home to the students and faculty of Lassonde, with open-plan work areas, student-owned spaces and natural light streaming through the tessellated glass façade.

"The building has been designed to feel open and built just for us – they put in everything we need to do our studies so that we feel at home and valued… It's a beautiful building, and even the triangle-shaped glass in the design represents engineering well," said Lassonde space engineering student Tetiana Sitiugina.

The Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence represents a seismic shift in the way engineers are educated. Students can learn through practical problem-solving and team projects.

In the "flipped classroom" approach, students can watch lectures on their laptops wherever and whenever they wish, and then come to the Bergeron Centre to develop hands-on solutions to challenges, with the help of classmates and the guidance of professors. ■

LEARN IT
LIVE IT
LAUNCH IT

In 2016 students from the Lassonde School of Engineering will experience what it means to be an entrepreneur in Israel.

In three intensive weeks the undergraduates
will learn what it takes to start a business,
live the life of an entrepreneur in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem,
and launch their own ideas into start-up ventures.

Read the stories of our students as they travelled across the Start Up Nation in summer 2015 on our website:

lassonde.yorku.ca/technion

LASSONDE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING | YORK UNIVERSITY

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

JANUARY 21, 2016 • 11 SHVAT, 5776

$2.00 • 52 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

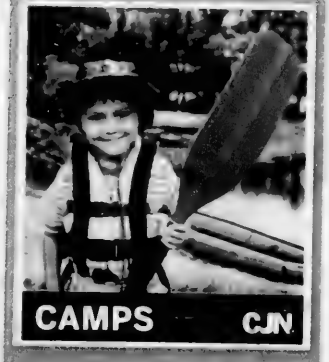
Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan

Inside

Will a weak dollar affect travel to Israel?

Canadians still planning trips, despite exchange rate **PAGE 9**

PLUS Critics say city budget shortchanges Jews **PAGE 17**



Give your kids the summer of a lifetime. **SPECIAL SECTION**

Shabbat

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	4:50 p.m.	5:57 p.m.
Montreal	4:28 p.m.	5:36 p.m.
Ottawa	4:36 p.m.	5:44 p.m.
Toronto	4:56 p.m.	6:03 p.m.
Winnipeg	4:48 p.m.	6:01 p.m.
Calgary	4:51 p.m.	6:06 p.m.
Vancouver	4:34 p.m.	5:46 p.m.

What are the lessons of the Shoah?

A new book argues that the Holocaust may not help us solve the problems of today. **PAGE 8**

Remembering George Jonas

Throughout a distinguished career, the author was always a consummate outsider. **PAGE 7**

Does marijuana need a hechsher?

Montreal's MK kashrut agency says yes, while Toronto's COR says no. **PAGE 13**

Canadian doc gets Oscar nod

Self-financed film joins Spielberg and *Son of Saul* among Jewish nominees. **PAGE 29**

GASLIGHT
NOW 'TIL FEB 28
irvish.com

Rabbi makes history again, and kippot get a boost in France

Another milestone for Kagedan

Canadian Rabbi Lila Kagedan, who was ordained last year by New York's Orthodox women's seminary Yeshivat Maharat and became its first graduate to use the title rabbi, will make history again when she starts work at the Mount Freedom Jewish Center in Randolph, N.J., later this month. In her new part-time role – the first for a female rabbi at an Orthodox shul – Rabbi Kagedan will join the spiritual leadership team, teaching and doing youth outreach. Mainstream Orthodox and haredi groups reject the idea of female rabbis. "Rabba" or "maharat" are the more common titles adopted by graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, which allows the women to choose what to be called.

Skullcaps on social media

A social media campaign hashtagged #TousAvecUneKippa asked people in France to wear kippot Jan. 15 after Marseille

French Jews are getting support on Twitter.

Jewish community leader Tzvi Amar urged Jews to remove them following a spate of stabbings in his southern French city. Jewish lawmaker Meyer Habib and non-Jewish colleague Claude Goasguen wore kippot in the National Assembly to protest Amar's idea, which was also rejected by other Jewish leaders and French President Francois Hollande, who said it was "intolerable" that Jews feel the need to hide their identities. Many Twitter users posted altered photos of Jewish and non-Jewish celebrities wearing skullcaps, while Chabad said rabbis would be handing out kippot across France. Since October, there have been three non-fatal stabbing attacks on Jews in Marseille, which has 80,000 Jews.

Siri speaks *Lashon Hakodesh*

Siri, Apple's voice-activated personal assistant, now speaks Hebrew. Hebrew Siri is part of a beta version of Apple's new iOS 9.3 operating system, which was released to developers Jan. 11. The general public will see it in about a month. Hebrew beta Siri doesn't support queries on Apple's navigation app, Maps, but can answer general questions. The version ultimately released to the public could have more features. Siri currently supports more than 30 languages. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	News 9	Jewish Life 25	Parshah 36
Perspectives 7	Comment 10	Books 26	Q&A 38
Cover Story 8	International 21	What's New 34	Backstory 39

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

660,000

The number of Israelis who aren't allowed to marry, including 364,000 from the former Soviet Union, 284,000 LGBTQ Jews, and 13,000 non-Orthodox converts.

9,880

A record number of olim arrived in Israel from western Europe in 2015, including some 8,000 French Jews.

Quotable

The local level is pretty grim, and the regional and international actors will have to intervene to make a difference.

– Mark Rosenblum of American Friends of Peace Now on Mideast peace prospects, p. 38.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

More on the healing power of chicken soup from columnist Mark Mietkiewicz.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

The dilemma of Jewish terror

Like most Jews, I am saddened and shocked and horrified at the idea of Jewish terrorism, specifically the Duma attack resulting in the death of a toddler and his parents and the severe injury of a four-year-old child ("Police reveal full details behind July attack," Jan. 7).

In no way do I condone or excuse or accept such behaviour.

However, I can understand the sheer frustration and sense of helplessness that may lead to a misguided belief that murder of innocents is an option.

The situation in Israel is untenable where Israelis are murdered at random by car-wielding and knife-wielding murderers.

The sense of fear must be immense, exacerbated by the terror attack earlier this month in Tel Aviv. The government is not doing enough to stop the horror.

The world continues to blame Israel, even as Jews are being attacked and murdered. Is it any wonder that some Jews feel that they must take the law into their own hands?

It is not the solution, and nothing good can come of terrorism of any sort.

But unless there is a more concerted attempt by the Israeli government to end the current wave of terrorism, it is likely that some Jews may continue to fight the wrong of Arab terrorism with the wrong of Jewish terrorism, though even saying those words is an oxymoron.

Kathy Schneider
Toronto

Column disturbed

I am 78 years old, and I, along with many of your elder readership, found the column "Reflections on the final journey," (Jan. 7) in the worst possible taste.

I really did not need to know that there will be holes the size of golf balls at the bottom of my casket, letting in various bugs and flies, etc., to allow forensic entomologists, should they be interested, to tell exactly how long my body has been decomposing.

Lillian Sherman
Toronto

Jewish family services

In the article "JF&CS reaches out to Orthodox community," (Dec. 10), Toronto's Jewish Family and Child (JF&CS) is described as the "only Jewish child welfare agency mandated by the government in North America."

As the recently appointed director of communications at Jewish Child and Family Service in Winnipeg, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our agency, which is also officially mandated by the province of Manitoba to provide child welfare services.

Our agency here in Winnipeg has an impact on over one-third of the Jewish community providing financial assistance to over 800 families including 500 children living under the poverty line and 20 children living in foster care.

Our agency is proud to be a part of the North American Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) and a government mandated agency providing vital services to our local community.

Rena Elbaze
Winnipeg

Our question is answered

On Jan. 7, *The CJN* asked, "What do you hope 2016 will bring for the Jewish community?"

I am hoping for less anti-Semitism, as well as peace in Israel!

Gail Goldstein
Cote St. Luc, Quebec

Question of the week

Has the weak Canadian dollar changed your, or your children's, plans to visit Israel?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED IN ONTARIO?

WE CAN HELP!

Tkatch & Associates Personal Injury Lawyers

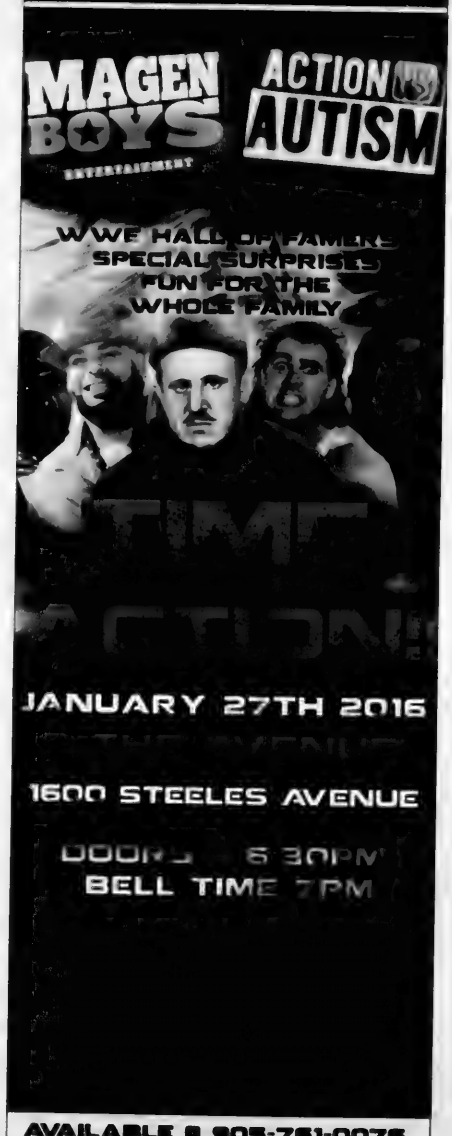
Helping Injury Victims since 1981

49 Gloucester Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1L8 | www.tkatchlaw.ca
T 416-968-0333 | Toll Free 1-844-968-0333 | F 416-968-0325

FREE CONSULTATION

Benjamin Group
Through the generations ...a sacred trust

PROUD SUPPORTER



AVAILABLE @ 905-761-0076
FOR MORE INFO:
INFO@MAGENBOYS.COM

The Benjamin Group companies
Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, Benjamin's Landmark Monuments, The Benjamin Foundation, The Benjamin Institute, Benjamin's Lifecycle Financial Services

RABBI-2-RABBI

Judaism in the age of Rabbi Google

Our 21st-century web-based reality has affected the way religion is studied and practised, but while the Internet can provide content, it can't provide physical community

RABBI ADAM CUTLER
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI ADAM SCHEIER
CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Scheier: Recently, a media marketing firm interviewed me for a segment they were producing about religion and the web. Just as our 21st-century web-based reality has impacted practically every area of human endeavour, it has affected the way religion is practised. From Googling halachic questions to Facebook conversations that refine opinions in the model of the beit midrash, a religiously engaged life looks different today than it did in the pre-Internet era.

What are some of the ways you have observed religious life being influenced by the Internet, and is there merit in waxing nostalgic for a less web-obsessed era?

Rabbi Cutler: There are a lot of wonderful websites filled with contemporary, relevant Jewish sources. Indeed, I often instruct young adults approaching the age of bar/bat mitzvah to consult Rabbi Google.

But while the Internet can provide content, it can't provide community.

Various attempts have been made at organizing minyans (especially for *Kaddish*) via the web. Many authorities, while applauding the ingenuity, nevertheless rule that a quorum cannot exist in the ethers of the Internet. Rather, it is physical presence that matters.

Online communities are not the same as physical communities. The recitation of *Kol Nidrei* in a filled room is not the same as live-streaming a Yom Kippur service. The personal shivah call is not the same as Skyping in. Facetiming a wedding isn't the same as actually dancing with the bride or groom.

How does your digital-free Shabbat compare with your plugged-in week?

Rabbi Scheier: I imagine this is the moment in history when traditional Shabbat observance least resembles our weekday realities. Instead of simply refraining from commerce and electricity and the like, we have added another area of observance: the withdrawal from our essential forms of communication, connection and study.

That being said, perhaps the contrast highlights the power that a community can offer. In a Facebook era where we count even remote acquaintances as "friends," the authentic friendships developed in community are even more treasured. In a Twitter age that values brevity of expression, deeper and more-developed thoughts might be more appreciated. And in a world where so much information is easily accessed by dint of a few keystrokes, how precious is the opportunity to ponder those deep questions about life, God and religion – questions to which Google has no satisfying answer!

Do you think that a digital era challenges Shabbat observance, or does it make Shabbat observance more satisfying?

Rabbi Cutler: As I often tell people, there are few things as satisfying as putting away my cellphone before Shabbat. I am less distracted. I spend less time thinking about my response to whatever I'm hearing or reading. I spend less time thinking about what I have to do next. I can actually think about what I am hearing. I can be present in the moment. Life without live-tweeting is a life much better lived.

What, though, of individuals who do not share our commitment to Halachah or understand it in a way that would not prohibit cellphone usage on Shabbat?

Certainly, many Jews bring their phones to shul. Sometimes they may be scrolling through Instagram. Other times they may want to keep tabs on a sick child or parent. While cellphone usage in the sanctuary may be inappropriate for a variety of reasons, what about the foyer or during kiddush?

I am a proponent of meeting Jews where they are. I don't think it is our place, as rabbis, to judge. Yet, in the sacred space of the synagogue building, I think it is wholly appropriate to ask people to put away their phones on Shabbat.

In an individually oriented society, we too often fail to sublimate our personal desires for communal norms. There are moments – and I believe that being in shul on Shabbat is one of those moments – when we should give-up personal desires in order to be fully part of something greater than ourselves. This is an expression of communal and religious solidarity, as well as an indication that one can transcend the self in a web-obsessed world that preaches personal happiness as the ultimate virtue. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 3 (2,229)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949

Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

FABRICLAND
Check out our
no-sew, ready-to-go
Home Decor!
Over 350 styles and colours of
ready-to-hang Drapery Panels!
We're so much more
than a fabric store!
Follow us on
Facebook
@fabriclanddistr
Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St.
(at Orfus). Brand new Fabricland at Steeles & Dufferin opening mid-February!
www.fabricland.ca OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Editor Yoni Goldstein **General Manager** Tara Fainstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergie **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | First step to a new shul

Rabbi Jacob Gordon officiates at the cornerstone setting of the Horton Street Synagogue in London, Ont., in 1924. Born in Russia, Rabbi Gordon was said to be "a living encyclopedia of Jewish knowledge."

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

SeeJN | Simta Party

TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90 PHOTO

Israelis attend a street party at the Simta Pub on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv on Jan. 15, in support of the bar where two weeks earlier two Israelis were killed and several more injured in a shooting attack.

From Yoni's Desk

Amid terror, anti-Semitism, a lesson from the Holocaust

In a new book excerpted in this week's *CJN*, historian Michael R. Marrus argues that the Holocaust cannot teach us any formulaic lessons. The Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe professor emeritus of Holocaust studies at the University of Toronto suggests instead that the lessons of the Holocaust are constantly in flux, and open to interpretation and reinterpretation. "I contest the idea that there exist some formulae that constitute lessons of the Holocaust – or even worse, the lessons of the Holocaust," he writes in *Lessons of the Holocaust*. "In a nutshell, the problem with such lessons is that, unfortunately, history does not speak to the present with so clear an admonitory voice."

Perhaps not, but the events of the last few days might suggest otherwise.

Over the weekend, the United States lifted sanctions against Iran, after concluding that the Islamic Republic had complied with the terms of a nuclear deal reached last July. Overseas assets frozen for years – as much as $100 billion worth – will now be available to Tehran. The European Union also cancelled its oil embargo of Iran.

How Iran plans to spend this windfall is a matter of great speculation. Perhaps, as many who support the nuclear deal hope, it will focus on modernization and purchasing the goods that the Iranian people have gone without for many years. Or maybe, the deal's detractors argue, the money will finance more weapons and fighters to be used against Iran's enemies, to fund Syria's brutal civil war and bankroll terror organizations in the region. Israel and Jews around the world are praying for the former, while planning for the latter.

Elsewhere, in recent days, a terrorist inspired by Islamic State (ISIS) used a machete to attack a Jewish teacher in the French city of Marseille, just two months after another Jewish teacher was stabbed by ISIS supporters north of the city. In response, one local Jewish leader suggested that Marseille's Jewish men should stop wearing kippot in public. And while other leaders, including the French president, were quick to reject that idea and lend their support to the embattled Jewish community, this latest incident again casts doubt on the future of French Jews, a record 8,000 of whom immigrated to Israel in 2015.

Then, late Sunday night in Israel, a Palestinian terrorist murdered Dafna Meir in her West Bank home. Meir, a nurse and premarital counsellor, fought her attacker, saving the lives of three children who were in the house at the time. She "was a happy woman, joyful, optimistic, driven, responsible, loving," one of her neighbours said. "She was always looking for how to help," a friend added.

Seventy years after the end of the Shoah, the danger facing the Jewish People may not be the same as that of 1930s Germany. But as the events of last week show, the threat is real, and so is the fear that there are insane, powerful entities out there who will not stop until Israel and the Jewish People are destroyed. That's why the most important lesson of the Holocaust, one that can be distilled down to two simple worlds, is as applicable today as ever before. Never again. ■ — YONI

REFLECTIONS

George Jonas: A consummate outsider

Editor's Note: George Jonas passed away last week at the age of 80. The article below first appeared in the Jan. 26, 2006 edition of The Canadian Jewish News.

Shlomo Schwartzberg

Everything old is new again.

That expression has gained renewed cachet with the 2005 rerelease of George Jonas' *Vengeance* (Simon & Schuster), the 1984 book that is the basis for Steven Spielberg's controversial film *Munich*.

Jonas' equally controversial book, which tells the dramatic story of the Israeli Mossad's hunting down of the Palestinian terrorists responsible for the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, made a clear moral distinction between terrorism and counterterrorism. The $70 million Hollywood movie, by many accounts, does not, adding a key scene that offers up the Palestinian point of view and others in which the Mossad agents engage in constant questioning of their mission.

Sitting in the lobby café of a local hotel, Jonas seems almost bemused about the furor over the film adaptation. "The interesting thing is that the film actually is quite faithful, perhaps slightly more faithful, to the letter of the book than I would have been had I made a film of it. What it is not faithful to is the fundamental spirit of the book," says Jonas.

In a recent *Maclean's* magazine cover story, Jonas wrote: "The book has no trouble telling an act of war from a war crime; the film finds it difficult. Spielberg's movie worries about the moral trap of resisting terror; my book worries about the moral trap of not resisting it." Fortunately, Jonas says, "There have been a handful of reviewers, in the *New York Times*, the *Weekly Standard*, who actually bothered reading the book before making comparisons between the movie and the book. [They] saw the fundamental difference between the conclusions of the book and the conclusions of the film"

However, most journalists, whether defending or attacking Spielberg's film, have also taken a swipe at Jonas' book, deeming it inaccurate or saying its veracity has been called into question, specifically concerning the "existence" of the Mossad team leader, Avner.

"Personally… like every writer, I would be happier if there were no suggestion about the book's research lacking or being in any way in doubt," Jonas says. "I feel quite comfortable about my research [for the book]."

Malcolm Lester, whose then-company Lester & Orpen Dennys co-published the book in 1984, stands by the book's truthfulness, as well, provocatively adding that many of the broadsides against it "may come from the Mossad who want to create disinformation.

"I can only guess that," he added, pointing out that when *Vengeance* first appeared Israel's spy agency denied even engaging in targeted assassinations. ("Today," says Jonas, "you see examples of counterterrorism on television, on CNN news; you see an Israeli missile launched to strike a terrorist enclosure on the West Bank.")

Lester also met Avner and says, "I have no doubt that Avner at one level is who he says he was; whether all the details [he gives] are true… [But] I think George got at the truth of what was going on."

Controversy is nothing new to the Hungarian-born Jonas, who still exudes a gentle old-world European charm, despite having spent most of his life in Canada. (He emigrated from Hungary after the Soviet-quashed 1956 uprising.) His strong opinions, such as those decrying Communist holocausts as comparable to the Shoah, have been manifest in his columns for the

George Jonas

National Post, which he's been writing since the newspaper's inception in 1998, and in his syndicated newspaper columns, which date back to the mid-'90s.

Jonas was the writer/ producer/ director of the award-winning *The Scales of Justice*, dramatizations of landmark and interesting judicial cases that Jonas did for both CBC radio and television from 1981 to '96. David Cronenberg directed a TV segment of the show in 1990 when he was in between movies.

Despite his success as a writer/ producer/ director, and for the last 20-plus years as a freelancer, Jonas has always felt like an outsider. He tells the story of when he parked cars for the members of Toronto's tony Granite Club. "A Granite Club member couldn't place my accent and he said, 'let the Martian park my car.' In many ways, he was accurate.

"I was always a bit of a Martian in any group. I did not fully belong to any group that I nominally was a member of, whether it was fellow writers, fellow Hungarians or fellow Canadians or fellow Jews or fellow lyric poets or fellow motorcycle racers. I was never quite at home [with them], so in that sense I was a bit of an outsider."

That's a description that many writers and artists would embrace, he adds. "If you were to ask me a question, do I belong to a group called outsiders, the answer may be yes."

Politically, Jonas is often perceived as a right-winger. He disputes that label. "I do not see myself as a libertarian. I certainly don't see myself as a neo-conservative. I see myself as a classical liberal. My political views I derive from 19th-century liberalism, [from] John Stuart Mill, the kind of liberalism derived from the Scottish philosophers, not from the French revolution." It's a liberalism that he regards "as an organic property of existence, not a gift of the state."

He refers to the late John F. Kennedy's famous dictum, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." "I would have some difficulties with that," says Jonas. "I believe that it's the country that exists for its individuals, for its people, rather than the individual for the country."

Those views come into contentious play today. "9/11 has awakened people to one danger, the danger of international terrorism, a certain totalitarian streak of Muslim theocracies," he stresses. "But in another sense, it's increased the aspect of statism in many areas, in the name of security. It's not because [the need for security] is not real, but it can serve as an excuse for that all-encroaching state to interfere with more and more aspects of your existence and develop more and more control over your life as an individual, on the basis that it's doing it for your own security. The paternalism of the state has been increased."

If so, it's a safe bet that Jonas will continue to sound the warnings against that paternalism and all the other pernicious ideologies that he fears affect us all. ■

Shlomo Schwartzberg is an arts journalist, a teacher and former director of programming of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

ATRIUM
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Invest with the best. Fourteen years of consistent high yields. The security of mortgages backed by real estate.

For historians, the Shoah presents a conundrum

In an excerpt from his new book, **MICHAEL MARRUS** argues that the Holocaust may not direct us how to solve the problems of our time

Just over half a century ago, in family libraries throughout the English-speaking world, one could probably find, alongside the Bible, a dictionary, and a few other books, an 11-volume set by a couple, Will and Ariel Durant, entitled *The Story of Civilization*.

Somewhat anodyne by present-day tastes, their work presented a celebratory account of the human past. The Durants' history, although never completed (they both died in the 1980s), was a triumph of middlebrow culture of the day, written between 1935 and 1975 in some four million words and covering over 10,000 pages. These books arrived regularly into millions of households via the Book-of-the-Month Club, which included volumes as an inducement to join, and thereby put 13 million copies into print. The Durants' work became a landmark of accessibility, eventually publishing some 17 million copies. Recognized by the Pulitzer Prize (1968) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1977), the couple achieved great acclaim as masters of a huge panorama of popular history.

Similarly admired was a little volume by the Durants called *The Lessons of History*, published in 1968. Echoing the theme of their larger work, this book was upbeat. Things were improving, despite occasional setbacks. Like *The Story of Civilization*, *The Lessons of History* had absolutely nothing to say about the Holocaust, the persecution and murder of European Jewry during the time of Hitler's Third Reich. Indeed, there was nothing in *The Lessons of History* about Nazism. Nor, so far as I can tell, did anyone ever complain about this omission of what is now considered one of the most important historical events of recent centuries. And nor, so far as I know, did Will Durant's wife and co-author, Ariel, née Chaya Kaufman, from a Jewish family from Proskurov in western Ukraine and the granddaughter of a Torah scholar, ever make the case for the inclusion of these terrible events of modern history.

The Durants and their oversight suggest that the lessons of the Holocaust, and indeed much else of what we deem to be important in history, are not settled matters, as most people might think, but are rather the object of perceptions that differ and that change. Moreover, while opposing views flourish over what to include, contestation is, if anything, even more vigorous when it comes to the lessons of history.

While these lessons are constantly mentioned in popular discourse, historians generally avoid the issue as an embarrassment, out of keeping with their professional standing. Indeed, the more expert the historians, the more respected they are in their craft, the *less* disposed they are to proclaim lessons of history with any confidence. Put differently, historians and others who know their subjects well are likely to be far more skeptical than lay persons or popularists about the lessons of history – and whether such lessons even exist.

Over the course of some 35 years of reading, writing, and teaching the history of the Holocaust, I have contended with the questions that the Durants omitted – what we can learn from the history of the Holocaust. Although the topic of "the lessons of history" has gone somewhat out of fashion, reference to the lessons of the Holocaust is ubiquitous. Unsurprisingly, perhaps. After all, it is about unprecedented horrors: the brutalization of men, women, and children across Europe, in a sinister racially inspired scheme of wiping millions of Jews off the face of the earth.

What should all of this say to us, now that we have had time to reflect and research, over the passage of time? What should we take away, not only about the events, but about the killers, those immediately responsible, and also those who directed, who facilitated, who helped, who stood by – and for that matter the victims themselves, coming from so many different Jewish cultures, rich and poor, young and old, sick and well, believers and non-believers, scattered across an entire continent in their great diversity?

It is hardly surprising that so many expect that specific lessons should emerge from exposure to the massacre of European Jewry during World War II, and that studying this catastrophe should make these lessons explicit. We hear all the time about these lessons of the Holocaust in public pronouncements by dignitaries and in commemorations and educational contexts. More often than not these are part of public advocacy – as in, for example, "We should heed the lessons of the Holocaust" or "We must not ignore the lessons of the Holocaust" – rather than historical analysis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Helping our clients
focus on what really matters

Allan Newman
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Greg Newman
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Discretionary Asset Management can be an ideal solution for busy professionals, business owners, retirees, frequent travellers, or those who simply do not wish to deal with the **day to day demands** of portfolio management. Allowing you to take a hands-off approach, this full service program ensures that your financial goals are met with expertise, **convenience and peace of mind**.

www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com

The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI") SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund

News

Despite weak dollar, Canadians still planning Israel trips

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

Canadian travellers may get sticker shock when they look at tours priced in U.S. dollars, but despite our own anemic dollar, tourism to Israel remains surprisingly strong, tour operators say.

With the Canadian dollar hovering around 70 cents and not expected to bounce back any time soon, Israel trips, generally priced in U.S. dollars have become considerably more expensive.

But despite the additional costs, bookings for the summer of 2016 "look fantastic," said Ehud Telem, president and CEO of Peerless Travel Group, which takes between 9,000 and 10,000 people to Israel annually.

Bookings are down slightly right now, but it's driven by concerns about the security situation in Israel more than the weak dollar, Telem said.

Youth movements, which run numerous trips for teenagers in the summer, also say the number of young people going on Israel trips this summer has remained stable, despite the fact that trips priced in U.S. dollars cost more for Canadian parents.

"Those people who grow up in Bnei Akiva, even though it may be financially difficult, they prioritize it," said Jonny Lipczer, director of Bnei Akiva Toronto, a religious Zionist youth movement.

So far, 20 Canadian teens have signed up for the summer trip, slightly more than last year, which will cost $7,300 (US).

Because applications for subsidies are handled confidentially, Lipczer did not know if more families were seeking scholarships, but he has helped families find cheaper flights.

Canada's gold-medal-winning junior hockey team at the 2013 Maccabiah FILE PHOTO

Camp Ramah, part of the Conservative movement, is offering a $1,000 (US) discount to Canadians to bring down the cost of their summer Israel trip, which is $9,580 (US).

A discount of $1,500 was offered to Canadians who enrolled in the movement's high school semester in Israel, said registrar Judy Greene. So far, the same number of Canadians have signed up for the Israel trip as in previous years.

The low Canadian dollar is actually boosting attendance for NCSY trips, which are the cheapest Israel youth trips available, said Rabbi Leib Irons, director of education for NCSY Canada, the modern Orthodox youth movement. Families who were considering more expensive trips are now looking at NCSY's heavily subsidized trips, the least expensive of which cost about $3,500 (US).

About 200 Canadian youths are expected to go to Israel this summer, an increase from previous years, Rabbi Irons said.

Discounts were offered to students who signed up early or who attend Torah High, the after-school educational program.

"We have many, many private donors who subsidize it," Rabbi Irons said. Because the program requires teens to attend educational sessions before and after the trip, donors feel it's a productive investment in Jewish identity, he said.

Tommy Bacher, president of Maccabi Canada, is going to be looking for generous donors to cover the increased costs of the 2017 Maccabiah Games in Israel.

While the final trip price is still being worked out, the low Canadian dollar will add about $2,500 to the cost. Bacher worries the higher price will discourage athletes from even trying out for teams.

"We don't want this to be the games for people who can afford it," he said. "We want to take the best athletes in the country, irrespective of their financial situation."

The organization will be fundraising to help bring the price down, but Bacher said he anticipates the 2017 delegation will be smaller than in previous years.

But adult travel, which is usually not subsidized, remains strong.

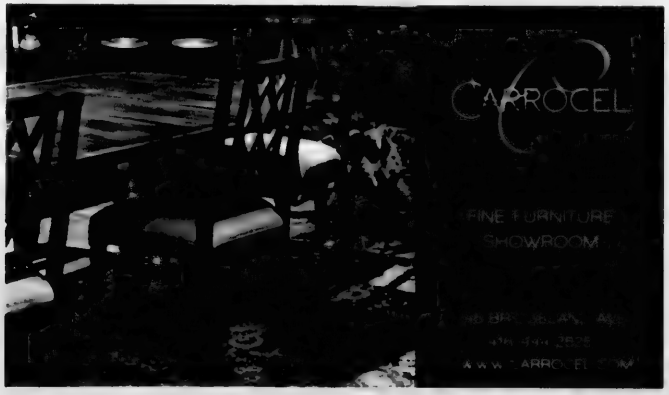
El Al's bookings for the next three months are up, said Dinah Kutner, the airline's general manager in Canada.

Airfares have remained relatively stable, and there are deals to be had in Israel, if one looks carefully.

"A lot of tour operators are very sensitive to the fact the dollar has been devalued. They're trying to be creative and competitive. There have been some amazing packages offered by different hotel chains," she said.

Trips offered by Jewish federations are also fully subscribed. An adult March of the Living, which will travel to Poland and Israel this spring, has 70 adults, the same number as last year, each paying almost $9,000 (US), while the youth program has 250 participants, the same number as in previous years.

In Montreal, there's still a year and a half to go before the departure of CJA Federation's Mega Mission, and the price could rise from the advertised $4,500 (US), depending on the strength of the dollar. However, nearly 200 participants have already signed up, four times the number compared to the same period for the 2014 mission, said Yair Szlak, chief development officer of Federation CJA. ■



Wealth Building Question Of The Week
DO YOU OWN PREFERRED SHARES?
We have a strategy to help reverse your losses.

Contact us for a free information package.
Lorne Cohn, LLB, MBA, Vice-President, Investment Advisor
416 369-7707 • lorne.cohn@cibc.ca • www.lornecohn.com

CIBC Wood Gundy | The Cohn Wealth Management Group

CIBC Wood Gundy is a division of CIBC World Markets Inc., a subsidiary of CIBC and a Member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your Investment Advisor.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 21, 2016

Trudeau should learn from Clinton, Moynihan and Cotler

Gil Troy

Those seeking a morally centred and reality-based Canadian foreign policy worry about what path Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will follow. Trudeau disdains former prime minister Stephen Harper's muscular, moralistic foreign policy. But Trudeau shouldn't lead Canada back to the morally blind days of liberal (and Liberal) "evenhandedness" that so worshipped the United Nations and so feared confronting any international organizations. Canada's approach should be anchored in democratic values, intolerant of international evil and tempered by a realistic assessment of Canadian reach. Trudeau's foreign policy guru, Roland Paris, once denounced "Canada's decade of diplomatic darkness." The response should not be a return to Canada's decade and a half of moral idiocy.

It's tempting for Trudeau to be the un-Harper. But beware the mess U.S. President Barack Obama made by trying to be the un-George W. Bush. In today's messy, menacing world, overreacting to heavy-handed, overly moralistic overreach with amoral appeasement helps nobody. Obama's weakness emboldened ISIS, the Iranians, the Syrians, the North Koreans and Vladimir Putin's Russian hooligans.

Trudeau should learn key foreign policy lessons from three leading liberals: former U.S president Bill Clinton, former U.S. senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and former Canadian justice minister, Irwin Cotler. Canadian foreign policy should remain moral, muscular, meaningful, and respectful of the good the UN, NGOs and the current international infrastructure can accomplish, while skeptical of the evils too much of the global community tolerates, and even encourages.

Coming into office with little foreign policy experience and a Vietnam-era skepticism about U.S. power and righteousness, Clinton was originally too passive. He didn't defend U.S. interests effectively in Somalia and Haiti, and he violated core American and international ideals by standing idly by during the Rwandan genocide.

Clinton learned from Rwanda: the international arena abhors a vacuum. When democratic countries, including Canada, but especially the United States, dodge active leadership there, evil can flourish. Clinton became a liberal interventionist after Rwanda, leading aggressively against Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Slobodan Milosevic, the "Butcher of the Balkans," because no one else would.

Moynihan taught an important lesson as U.S. ambassador to the UN in the mid-1970s. He showed that sometimes, blasting the UN shows respect for it. His passionate fight against the UN and the global community's appeasement of dictators such as Idi Amin, against their worship of terrorists like PLO leader Yasser Arafat and against their demonization of democratic countries like Israel convinced many that Moynihan hated the UN. The United Nations Association even broke tradition and didn't make him its honorary chair when he left the UN.

Moynihan scoffed, noting that these fools didn't realize that he fought so hard against the UN's emergence as the Third World dictators' debating society precisely because he believed so deeply in the UN's great potential. Trudeau must remember that pushing for UN reform can be a compliment, not a mark of contempt.

Ultimately, Trudeau should learn from Cotler how to fight for human rights, uphold Canadian values and embody the quest for democracy worldwide without losing your soul. Cotler is neither a Harperite nor a Chrétienian. Wherever he has seen injustice, be it at a UN anti-Zionism conference in Durban, South Africa, or in President Bashar Assad's chemical gassing of his fellow Syrians, he's championed the moral response, the proportionate response, the Canadian response.

Cotler isn't a sabre-rattler, nor is he a pacifist. He's taught generations of Canadians the essential lesson that Clinton and Moynihan mastered and Trudeau must now learn: defending Canada, which includes pursuing justice whenever possible, requires a clear moral vision, a realistic appreciation of what can be accomplished and a broad arsenal of tools – some peaceful, other not. Because if the good people are the world are too passive, too relativistic or too silent, the bad guys win. ■

Are trees like us?

Sara Horowitz

It's easier than you would think to anthropomorphize trees – to imagine them as people. Branches become stout arms ending in lacy fingers, trunks become torsos, and facial features pop out of twists and knots of bark. Trees suffer in drought, lap up the rains, sap moving through them like lifeblood. They bear wounds and scars from disease and assaults. They silently witness our loves and our losses.

There is an ethical push in anthropomorphism. When we imagine that something is like us, we create a pocket of empathy. Its well-being comes to matter to us, and its suffering pains us. We become answerable for its welfare. But there's also an ethical pitfall to anthropomorphism – to imagining that everything is just like us. By projecting ourselves onto another, we stop paying attention to how that other is very much unlike us. We stop thinking about what it might require and desire, because we imagine it needs and wants exactly what we do.

A popular, if controversial, children's book from the mid-1960s imagined a boy and a tree in a lifelong relationship. At each stage, the boy desired something that the tree provided. Over time, granting the boy's desires took more and more out of the tree. From a branch for a swing and fruit to eat, the tree offered itself for agri-business, building materials, and eventually, a stump for the elderly former-boy to sit on. The book gives the tree human emotion and volition, repeatedly pronouncing it "happy" to serve. The tree's self-effacing joy has been read as a model for a "giving" spirit. The book has also been read as a manual for thoughtless exploitation – of nature, mothers or others. The emotions projected onto the tree allow us to imagine it gains fulfilment.

Tu b'Shvat, the New Year of Trees, reminds us that Judaism puzzles over whether and how trees might be like us, or we like them. Biblical laws concerning warfare, for example, lay out an ethical obligation to the natural world even under duress, focusing on the cutting down of trees during battle. In besieging a city, we read, "you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you under siege?" (Deuteronomy 20:19, JPS translation). In the predominant reading of this passage, it's precisely because trees are not like us that we have an obligation to them. There's a poignancy to the helplessness of trees, literally rooted in their spot, unable to escape human assault. Unlike us, trees have no option to escape, to surrender, or to fight back and defend.

> *When you eat a tree's fruit, it keeps on giving. When you use it to wage war, it gets used up.*

But there is a tension in the passage between letting nature be and using it – even using it up. The passage continues: "Only trees that you know to not yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siege works against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been destroyed." (Deut. 20:20). In other words, we spare at least some trees because we need them. Trees, in their "tree-ness," are neutral. Their fruit feed all parties – conquered and conqueror alike. And they may be used by all sides to wage war.

Most English translations render the phrase "*ki ha'adam etz hasadeh*" as a question: "Are trees of the field human?" – implying that they are not. But a few translations pick up on ambivalence of the Hebrew phrasing and translate it as an assertion that trees are, indeed, like humans, and we, like them – a metaphor we find elsewhere in the Tanach.

Hovering behind the image of trees in the field that may or may not be spared, I imagine the people in the city under siege. When you eat a tree's fruit, it keeps on giving. When you use it to wage war, it gets used up. ■

Why Jews will continue to support the Tories

Michael Taube

Not long after the Tories were defeated in last year's federal election, some pundits started to speculate that Canada would experience a long-term political shift.

What would this entail? The pundits didn't know for sure. Yet their magical crystal balls of (ahem) wisdom suggested a significant realignment of policies, ideas, individuals and groups.

Jews could certainly be included in the mix.

The two Jewish Tory MPs, Joe Oliver and Mark Adler, both lost their seats. All seven Jewish MPs in the current Parliament are Liberals. Former prime minister Stephen Harper, a strong supporter of Israel, stepped down as Tory leader. And while an informal *Canadian Jewish News* poll held Sept. 25 to Oct. 7, 2015, showed Jewish support at 44 per cent Tory, 40 per cent Liberal and 14 per cent NDP, exit polls – when they're released – could show different results.

This is the scenario some Canadian Jews desperately want to see. They can keep on dreaming in technicolour, because it ain't going to happen.

Jewish political and economic views have changed, improved and, quite frankly, grown up in recent years. This community's historical infatuation with the political left is over. While support will obviously shift from election to election, no political party can claim that it has a monopoly on Jewish voters.

Interestingly, a similar discussion about Jews occurred a few years ago, not in Canada, but in the United States.

It happened just after former Republican house leader Eric Cantor's stunning loss in his Virginia primary battle against David Brat in June 2014. Some publications played up the fact that the only Jewish Republican in both houses of Congress had been sent packing.

The *New York Times* reported David Wasserman's inference that Cantor was "culturally out of step with a redrawn district that was more rural, more gun-oriented and more conservative." Wasserman, who works for the *Cook Political Report*, directly said, "Part of this plays into his religion. You can't ignore the elephant in the room."

The *Huffington Post* went even further. It noted Cantor's defeat left "congressional Republicans without a non-Christian member," since he was "the second-ranking House Republican and highest-ranking Jewish member."

It wasn't not too hard to figure out the underlying message. Moderate-thinking Jews may not have a home in the GOP any longer if someone like Cantor couldn't survive the wrath of conservative Republicans and Tea Party activists.

The whole argument was ridiculous.

Cantor had a 23-year political career in a state with a population that's about one per cent Jewish. Virginia's 7th District, which has always been primarily rural and Christian, clearly didn't have a problem with a religious Jew as its representative, either.

Cantor was also, for the most part, a centre-right Republican. He's pro-free trade and a strong supporter of capitalism. He's opposed to gun control and had an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association. He's pro-life (100 per cent rating by the National Right to Life Committee) and opposed to gay marriage.

As well, Cantor didn't lose his Republican primary because he was Jewish. He lost because he ran a poor campaign.

The *Washington Post* reported on June 6, 2014, that he was leading 62 per cent to 28 per cent against Brat, based on an "internal survey of 400 likely Republican primary voters." By most accounts, Cantor took his big lead for granted and assumed he would win. As *CNN Politics* executive director Mark Preston mentioned, "this is a perfect example of somebody here in Washington who has gotten a little bit lazy and they didn't act quick enough to win their primary."

Fortunately, there were other Jewish Republicans in U.S. politics. One of them, New York's Lee Zeldin, was elected to the House of Representatives that very year.

American Jewish Republicans are, therefore, on the road to recovery. Their Canadian Tory cousins will soon join them. A small political setback doesn't lead to a massive political earthquake, folks. ■

The genocides are different, but the pain is the same

Bernie Farber

You could hear a pin drop. The silence accentuated the muffled cries and spilling tears as Justice Murray Sinclair Chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented its final report Dec. 15.

Standing on a stage in the cavernous Ottawa Congress Centre beneath a banner reading, "For the child taken, for the parent left behind," Justice Murray Sinclair delivered a report consisting of some 3,231 pages.

It was at once historic and devastating. The report detailed the horrendous abuse suffered by indigenous children in residential schools after being kidnapped from their homes by federal government "Indian agents" and placed in strange, unwelcoming surroundings where hunger, sexual exploitation and even death became their tragic watchwords.

On the stage were two empty chairs in memory of perhaps up to 6,000 indigenous children for whom a residential school became their final resting place.

In a moment of absolute anguish, Sinclair asked all residential school survivors and their families to stand. He then addressed them directly: "We did this, after all, for those who were there and for those who were with us. We did this for the children who were taken away and for the parents who were left behind to cry for them. We did this for the children of today who needed to know when and what and why things occurred, so they could understand their lives."

The report itself is sharp and damning in its denunciations.

"Many students who went to residential school never returned… They were lost to their families. They died at rates that were far higher than those experienced by the general school-aged population. Their parents were often uninformed of their sickness and death. They were buried away from their families in long-neglected graves. No one took care to count how many died or to record where they were buried," the final report stated.

But mostly that day in Ottawa, we cried for the children.

> *The tears that were running down our cheeks came from the same well of sadness and misery.*

As Jews, you will understand.

Sitting in the Ottawa Congress Centre, I was reminded of another time in this very same place 30 years ago. I sat perhaps in the same row with my late father, Max, at the first "Gathering of Canadian Holocaust Survivors and their Children." The pain I felt that day in 1985 was precisely the same pain I was feeling this day in 2015. The tears that were running down our cheeks came from the same well of sadness and misery.

It never really occurred to me before that while the tragedies were different in scope and numbers, the pain of these two genocides was very much the same. Indeed, whether it was the Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide or others, the pain is a living, felt experience. The loss of a generation of children at the hands of a power and authority, though different in expression, ends up in that same pit of darkness for the survivors.

The TRC found, quite rightly, that Canada engaged in what it termed a "cultural genocide" against its First Nations people. I know that many Canadians found such a charge hard to accept. However, accept it we must. A popular Holocaust teaching curriculum that helps other countries come to grips with their own responsibilities and faults during the Shoah is called "Facing History and Ourselves." Surely it is time here in Canada that we, too, face our historical culpability in order to truly begin the healing process on the road to reconciliation.

On the final pages of the TRC report, residential school survivor Chief Robert Joseph said: "Reconciliation includes anyone with an open heart and an open mind who is willing to look to the future in a new way. Let us find a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future, and the well-being of all our children, rests with the kind of relationships we build today."

Indeed, words for all of us to live by. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 21, 2016

Protesters disrupt U of T 'Palestinian resistance' event

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Roughly a dozen protesters associated with the Jewish Defence League of Canada loudly disrupted – and temporarily halted – a panel discussion Jan. 12 at the University of Toronto titled "Palestinian Popular Resistance: Building the Student Movement."

The protesters, a few of them wearing clothing marked with the JDL logo, sat scattered throughout the audience in the auditorium in U of T's George Ignatieff Theatre building and, part way through the first speaker's talk, several of them, including JDL Canada director Meir Weinstein, began shouting things like, "How many Jews do you want to kill?" "Terrorism" and "Anti-Semitism."

The event moderator said she would apply a "three strike" system – meaning that after three outbursts, anyone interrupting the talk would be asked to leave – but none of the protesters complied with numerous requests to vacate the room, and the organizers eventually called a recess and cleared out the auditorium.

At that point, most of the protesters lingered outside the theatre building for a bit before heading home, while the bulk of the audience relocated to the OISE building on Bloor Street to finish the lecture.

According to its Facebook invitation, the purpose of the event, which was hosted by the U of T Graduate Students' Union's (GSU) boycott, divestment and sanctions committee and endorsed by the Students Against Israeli Apartheid group at U of T, was to inform attendees about "what is currently taking place on the ground in Palestine and what we can do on our campuses to support and continue building the Palestinian popular resistance movement."

The panel featured, via Skype, Noura Erakat, a human rights attorney, assistant professor at Virginia's George Mason University and a former national grassroots organizer and legal advocate at the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, and, in person, Nada Elia, a member of the organizing committee of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, founding member of the Radical Arab Women's Activist Network and a former representative to the United Nations of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association.

The JDL posted a call on its website Jan. 6 to attend the event to "confront and expose calls to murder Jews at U of T," adding that "the word 'resistance' is a code word for murdering Jews."

JDL member Liam Cohen, left, and JDL Canada director Meir Weinstein stand outside the George Ignatieff Theatre after the group's protest led an anti-Israel panel to switch venues.

"What I heard tonight was a total justification for murdering Jews," Weinstein told *The CJN* after the lecture had moved locations. "It's unfortunate that this is happening on a university campus. Students are being indoctrinated to hate Israel and Jews, and [these groups] are giving full justification for what's been called the 'knife intifadah.'"

He spoke in reference to Erakat's talk before it was cut short, which touched on issues such as Jewish settlers taking over Palestinians' homes and the Israeli government placing restrictions on the movements of Palestinians in Israel and the West Bank.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre presents

Join the Neuberger and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, for the annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day lecture.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27 | 7 PM
THE FUTURE OF HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Reflections on the field from Michael R. Marrus, Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies, University of Toronto.

Program includes book sale and signing of Michael Marrus' new book, *Lessons of the Holocaust*.

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE FACILITY, MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
1 Devonshire Place, Toronto
Admission Free

The lecture is supported by the Esther Bem Memorial Fund.

The annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 60/7 on 1 November 2005. January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

For complete information, visit

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital

We work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000277
416 543 1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Erakat also showed a clip of the so-called "wedding of hate" – the now infamous video showing young religious men at a Jerusalem wedding celebrating the firebombing attack on a home in the Palestinian village of Duma in July.

She noted, "I should mention that the Israeli government has roundly condemned this video… yet they continue to let settlers act with impunity."

Elia, who only spoke briefly before protesters interrupted her, said she'd read about the JDL's planned protest of the event and declared, "Anyone who is here to object to calls to murder Jews, you're wasting your time. But you can be here to gain from learning that BDS is not about calls for the murder of Jews, but for the liberation of the people of Palestine."

Although a number of U of T campus police officers were present outside the doors of the auditorium, none got involved during the verbal altercation between protesters and event organizers.

On Jan. 7, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) sent out an email to its supports expressing concern about the event, writing, "For many Palestinians, the term 'popular resistance' – particularly in the current context – means acts of violence against Israelis. The use of this term by event organizers can reasonably be construed to endorse the current wave of Palestinian terror attacks."

> *The term 'popular resistance'… means acts of violence against Israelis*

CIJA could not be reached for comment.

Shira Gelkopf, U of T's Hillel co-ordinator, said Hillel sent a staff member to "monitor the event," but stressed it and the JDL had no communication prior to or during the event.

She noted that Hillel submitted a formal complaint to the university's vice-provost and urged the administration to ensure campus security was present.

A U of T spokesperson told *The CJN* that event organizers were informed they must comply with all university policies and ensure civil dialogue, and that campus police would be present.

The organizers could not be reached for comment.

The GSU voted in 2012 to endorse the BDS movement, but last fall, the board of the undergraduate University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) decided not to introduce a motion backing BDS at its fall annual general meeting. ■

Medical pot must be certified, MK says

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Rabbi Saul Emanuel

The Jewish Community Council of Montreal (JCCM) says medical marijuana does need kosher certification, an opinion that differs from that of the Toronto-based Kashruth Council of Canada.

"Any product which is ingested… must bear kosher certification," council executive director Rabbi Saul Emanuel told *The CJN*.

"The product, [the] cannabis plant, in its raw state is kosher. It is the fact that it may be produced with other ingredients, and perhaps on a non-kosher production line, that would require the product to have reliable kosher certification."

The council, which issues the MK hechsher, calls itself "Canada's kosher certifier."

On Jan. 7, the Kashruth Council, which issues the COR hechsher, said it believes certification is unnecessary. "Something that is medicine, that's prescribed from your doctor, that you need to take for your health, that doesn't need kosher certification," the Kashruth Council's managing director, Richard Rabkin, told the media.

The organization, which describes itself as Canada's largest kashrut certification agency, made the announcement after MedReleaf, a Health Canada-licensed producer of medical cannabis based in Markham, Ont., applied for certification.

The JCCM's position is in line with that of the Orthodox Union (OU). In December, Vireo Health of New York said the OU is certifying its medical marijuana products. They went on sale Jan. 7, the day medical marijuana became legal in New York state.

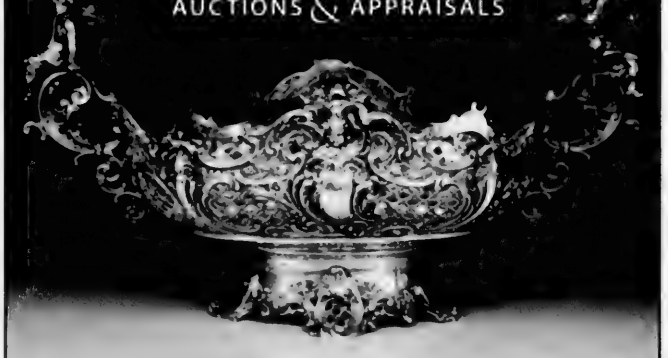
The OU, like the JCCM, says the cannabis plant is inherently kosher, but the final product may contain other ingredients such as alcohol, gelatin and oil. The agency also notes marijuana isn't used exclusively for life-threatening conditions and so presumably, cannot be exempted by virtue of pikuach nefesh (saving a life).

"[E]ven in such instances where there is a threat to life, it is preferable to use a kosher medication when available," the OU said in a statement on its website.

The JCCM has not been approached by a medical marijuana producer about certification. There is only one producer licensed by Health Canada located in Quebec, Hydropothecary of Gatineau. ■

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
WINTER DIRECT FLIGHTS from $836 including all taxes
Book by Jan. 31, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES · NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary · All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels · More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar. 10-21, 2016
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01, 2016
Summer 2016 July 03-14 / July 24 – Aug. 04 / Aug. 07-18 / Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND · One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All Inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
· We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
· FREE – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
· TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) · 24 hrs Emergency Service
· We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
· Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com · www.peerlesstravel.com

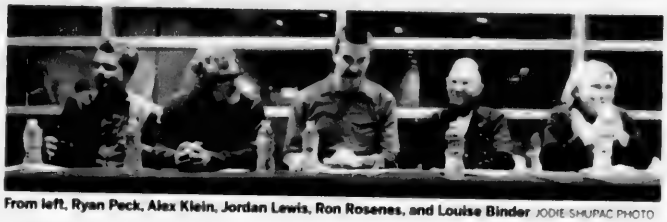
A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS



SPECIALIZING IN ESTATE SERVICES,
DOWNSIZING AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through our auction
www.ahwilkens.com · 416.360.7600 · info@ahwilkens.com
299 Queen St East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7

Panel on Jews and HIV sheds light on lingering stigma

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca



From left, Ryan Peck, Alex Klein, Jordan Lewis, Ron Rosenes, and Louise Binder JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

"Why, in 2016, are we still talking about HIV?"

That was the question posed by Justine Apple, director of the Jewish LGTBQ group Kulanu Toronto, in introducing a Jan. 14 panel on seeing HIV through a Jewish lens.

The discussion, held at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, marked the organization's inaugural event examining the relationship between HIV and Jewish values.

The panel consisted of Alex Klein, a founding member of the Toronto HIV Primary Care Physicians' Group, past chair of the Ontario provincial advisory committee on HIV/AIDS and a doctor who's been treating HIV since the 1980s; Jordan Lewis, a social worker at St. Michael's Hospital; Ron Rosenes, who's been living with HIV for more than 30 years and is former chair of AIDS Walk; and Louise Binder, a lawyer living with HIV who's been involved in informing health policy and treatment of the disease for more than two decades. The panel was moderated by Ryan Peck, executive director of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario.

The panel primarily addressed the social, political and biomedical implications of HIV having evolved from being considered a guaranteed death sentence in the 1980s to what Peck called "a chronic, manageable illness," due to sweeping medical advancements

They stressed the extent to which stigma and discrimination remain, and how these affect public policy, legislation and reaction to people with HIV.

"Nobody would say it's a picnic living with HIV, but people do live long, happy, productive lives with it, and science increasingly demonstrates that newly infected folks can live more or less the same length as someone who's HIV negative," Peck said, adding he hoped the event would spark renewed Jewish commitment to HIV issues.

He raised historical examples of Jewish involvement in the disease's early days, such as Jewish activists being among those who agitated for medications.

He noted that many people living with HIV, even in Ontario, don't have access to medications and that one in five gay men in Toronto are living with HIV.

He cited a 2012 survey that found 15 per cent of Canadians remain afraid of people with HIV and noted the stigma is evident in the fact that non-disclosure of HIV to a sexual partner is criminalized.

"HIV is essentially the only illness that's criminalized in Canada, and people are being convicted for aggravated sexual assault... for engaging in behaviours that pose little to no risk of HIV transmission," Peck said.

Rosenes spoke about the survivor's guilt he's experienced after losing many friends and a partner to HIV, and said that criminalizing non-disclosure "dampens people's desires to get tested."

Binder said women can be more vulnerable to the disease for social reasons, similar to people with less education and those living in poverty.

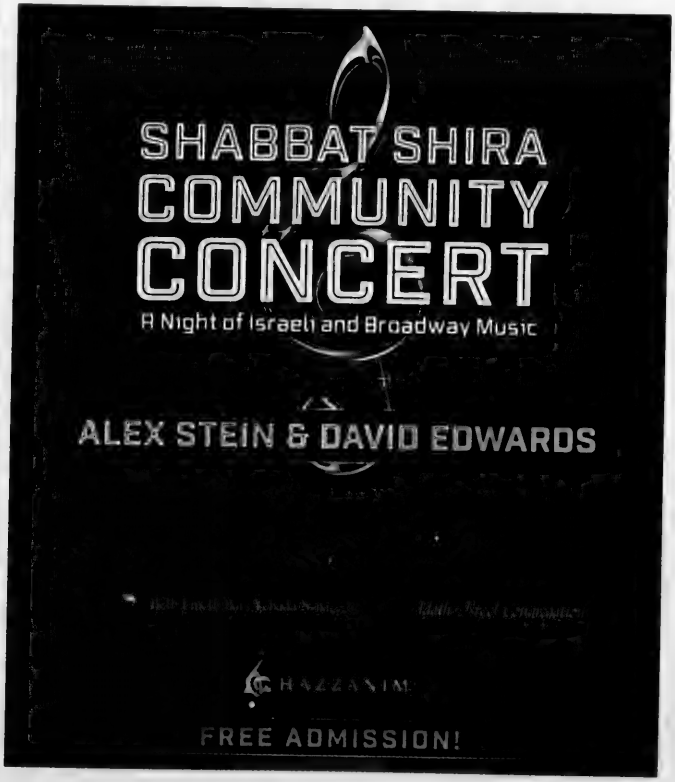
"I was living with a man who was a nightmare and I felt I should stay" to try to make her marriage work, she said of the ex-husband from whom she got HIV.

"Women are less well-educated, less employed, have fewer health benefits... they're often afraid what partners will do if they get tested."

Lewis said the stigma around HIV is "very real," and that even though HIV has better clinical outcomes than a disease like diabetes, the shame around HIV can make it more devastating.

Linking the need for greater compassion and understanding of HIV with traditional Jewish principles like tikkun olam, Rosenes said, "The greatest challenge... and perhaps the greatest opportunity to apply Jewish values is around the area of stigma." ■

Canadian Mortgages Inc.
INVEST INTO CANADIAN MORTGAGES WITH OUR
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM
Opportunities Available from $25K to $1M+ with ROI from 6-15%+
Fully Managed Loans With No Servicing Fees
OVER $40M+ in funded loans with very few defaults!
CASH OR REGISTERED(RSP) INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE IN
GTA, GOLDEN HORSESHOE, ONTARIO, AND CANADA WIDE
www.canadianlending.ca/investors
888-465-8564
FSCO #10601



GUEST VOICE

Refugee work heralds new era of shul-driven social action

Benjamin Shinewald

In an age of declining membership and increasing secularization, Canadian synagogues are suddenly re-asserting their moral leadership and dynamism. The reason for this unexpected change? Caring for non-Jews.

Of course, caring for non-Jews is nothing new. From Ve'ahavta's role serving the homeless on Toronto's streets to IsraAID's emergency relief efforts in the most pressing humanitarian crises, there are countless examples of our community executing that most Jewish of imperatives, tikkun olam.

But while Jews routinely come together to act on moral issues through community organizations and charities, they act less often through their shuls. And yet, by one measure, one-third of the larger Canadian Jewish congregations are privately sponsoring Syrian refugees. What explains this sudden explosion of shul-driven social action?

The answer lies, in part, in the mechanics of sponsoring Syrian refugees. The Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship permits groups as small as five people to sponsor refugees privately. With potential sponsors coming together pell-mell across Canada, shuls are well placed to be the forums where community activists find each other.

But the answer is much deeper than that. Welcoming refugees to Canada has become a mass exercise in nation-building, engaging Canadians from coast to coast to coast. There is a sense that this is a defining moment for Canada, one that will shape our national culture for years to come. And Canada's Jewish community, which remembers the wartime "none is too many" period all too well, is as captivated by this rallying cry as anyone. We see our engagement in this national project as a direct expression of our core Jewish values.

In other words, many Jews today yearn for a spiritual outlet for their social values. A new generation is not content with davening in a minyan or writing a cheque for tzedakah. They are hungry to take action on the central moral struggles of our day, and they want to do so Jewishly. Shuls are the logical Jewish institution to help them organize.

In fact, because Jewish refugee sponsorship is inherently a spiritual and grassroots-led initiative, larger Jewish organizations, which overwhelmingly are neither spiritually focused nor grassroots oriented, have been generally uninvolved in this massive, national project. Outside of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, a federation-funded agency that has been quietly undertaking this yeoman's work for nearly a century, the heavy lifting is being done by local groups gathering in social halls and rabbis' studies. Rabbis themselves have also lent their voices and moral authority to this issue, adding a note of spiritual leadership and reminding us all that our moral actions today are inherently rooted in our rich and ancient religious tradition.

These organic, shul-led refugee sponsorships are having ripple effects. While some congregations already host longstanding soup kitchens or lead riverbank cleanups, others are stepping up. Most famously in recent memory, when a suspicious fire damaged the only mosque in Peterborough last fall, the city's Beth Israel Synagogue immediately took in their Muslim neighbours, offering a welcome and safe place to pray and to be at home as a community. At one and the same time, the Peterborough congregation expressed the very best of Canadian and Jewish values.

The critical issues we face aren't going away: reconciling with our indigenous neighbours, eliminating child poverty and fighting for human rights are just some of the moral challenges calling us out for Jewish-led social action. Beth Israel's action-oriented spiritual responses to a pressing moral challenge can help re-situate our shuls in the centre of our communities.

And with our synagogues and our rabbis at the forefront of these struggles, they may just find themselves leading our community to greater things. ■

Benjamin Shinewald lives in Toronto and serves on a variety of Jewish communal boards.

WILLIAM ASHLEY
TABLEWARE • KITCHENWARE • HOME DÉCOR
GIFT REGISTRY
SALE
STOREWIDE SAVINGS
FINAL 10 DAYS - SALE ENDS JAN. 31ST
Resolve to Spend More Time Around the Table...
IDS
Interior Design Show
VISIT US THIS WEEKEND JAN. 23 & 24
Booth 1018
At the Metro Toronto Convention Centre
2 Hours Free Parking in the Manulife Centre with Purchase. Delivery Available Across Canada.
FREE Delivery on Orders Over $199 in the GTA (L&M Postal Codes)
55 Bloor St. West, Toronto • 416-964-2900 • Toll-Free 800-268-1122
*Our policy is to usually sell for less than the National Suggested Regular or Comparable Value. Items are subject to stock availability. NEW ORDERS ONLY. Some restrictions may apply. All sales final. Excludes credit notes. Please see store for complete details.

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks free.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview, North York
Amica at Bayview Gardens, North York
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill
1.855.738.7248
AMICA

Reuben Cipin HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

- Newly upgraded suites
- 24-hour concierge
- Secure underground resident and guest parking
- Large social hall with a private dining room
- Fitness facility with complimentary classes
- Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
- Library with computer access
- Membership to the Wagman Centre
- Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations

One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

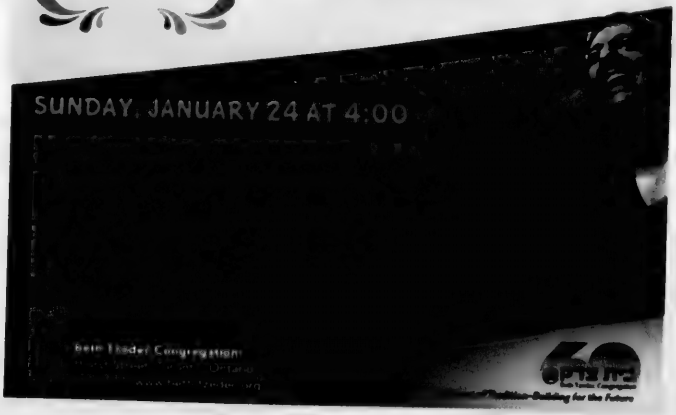
SHABBAT SHIRAH
Community Concert

Saturday evening, January 23 at 8:00 PM
Sam Glaser joins Cantor Simon Spiro and friends for a fabulous evening beginning with a musical Havdalah.

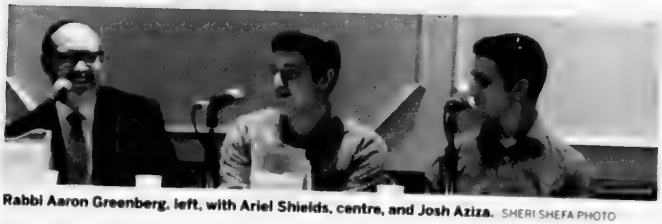
- A concert of hits from around the world, featuring Toronto's finest vocalists and musicians
- Dessert reception following

Tickets: $25 in advance; $36 at the door
The Faye and Joseph** Firestone Annual Concert

"ROCKIN' WITH SAM"
YOUTH CONCERT



Panel discusses challenges facing Jews on campus



Rabbi Aaron Greenberg, left, with Ariel Shields, centre, and Josh Aziza. SHERI SHEFA PHOTO

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Orthodox students say it's possible to maintain a Jewish identity at university and prepare for anti-Zionist agitation, but Jewish campus professionals say there are still challenges to overcome, attendees to a Jan. 16 panel event titled "Jews on Campus" heard.

About 40 people came out to Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation Saturday night to hear from Rabbi Aaron Greenberg, director of the Jewish Learning Institute on Campus (JLIC) – Canada; Zac Kaye, former executive director Hillel of Greater Toronto and the interim executive director of Hillel at Cornell University; York University students Josh Aziza, Leora Karon and Shaili Perez; and Ryerson University student Ariel Shields.

Each of the students, who all graduated from Jewish high schools, said it isn't hard to maintain a Jewish identity on campus if someone decides to do so.

"The extent to which somebody chooses to remain involved in their Jewish identity is a personal decision," Aziza said.

"Whether they are in a dorm with a bunch of non-Jewish roommates in Maryland or they are at York University or Yeshiva University, if they are involved and they chose to go to shul, or they choose to go to a shiur, that's going to be a personal decision."

But Kaye said he's witnessed first hand "the erosion of Orthodox Jewish life on campus" and said students are generally not prepared for their new reality.

"We probably have at Cornell something like 300 or 400 students who describe themselves as Orthodox, yet the Orthodox minyan is probably about 40 or 50 people." He said students' practice levels tend to decline when they live on campus.

But Rabbi Greenberg said, "I have yet to meet a student in the 14 years I've been on campus who all of a sudden took some religious studies class and stopped keeping Shabbat and eating non-kosher. That usually doesn't happen."

Rabbi Greenberg, who taught at the Bnei Akiva high schools for about 10 years and currently teaches a course at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, said Jewish high schools are working to better prepare students for life outside of the Jewish bubble, though there's always more that can be done.

"Just like the Jewish community has to provide different entry points and opportunities, whether it's social or whether it's learning, we have to provide those opportunities to students," Rabbi Greenberg said.

Elliott Malamet, Torah in Motion co-founder and the panel moderator, pointed to a recent *Times of Israel* article by York student Ben Shachar, who wrote about "a concerted campaign to vilify and intimidate Jewish students and institutions on campus."

Karon said students mostly turn a blind eye to the few people who protest against Israel on campus.

"People just want to go about their lives and go to class and go home, but it is important that people know how to answer a question [about Israel] if people ask about it. If you're not knowledgeable, you should know how to respond to it," she said.

Shields said debating about Israel is "an unwinnable battle."

"[Anti-Israel students] are not educated and frankly… they're not going to change their minds, so it's not worth getting into a fight with them," Shields said.

But Aziza said the battle shouldn't be for those who've already formed strong opinions, but to inform people who are unaware of the conflict and educate them about the issues.

"The strategy should be to get involved and… put what you want to say out there, so that the vast majority of people who aren't educated and don't have any prior political convictions on the matter will hear what you have to say."

Kaye recalled student leaders who wouldn't come to campus on a day there was going to be an anti-Israel demonstration.

"These are things that students shouldn't have to fear. The only way to resolve it was to open a dialogue with the administration to change the atmosphere that made it uncomfortable for Jewish students to be there… I think we've done a lot to change the way the administration saw that Jewish students were intimidated and challenged by what was going on there." ■

City budget shortchanges Jewish residents, critics say

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Coun. James Pasternak

Esther Kin is a little puzzled by the decisions made by city bureaucrats. Fifteen years ago, as a volunteer mom, she was able to secure municipal and provincial funding for a snack and meal program for the girls at Bais Yaakov Elementary School. The program, which now receives more than $50,000 a year in funding, proved so successful it grew over the years from providing small snacks to serving 800 students with nutritious lunches and healthy snacks.

For the last 10 years, however, she's dutifully filled out the application forms on behalf of other Jewish day schools, offering to organize the moms into running the nutrition programs. The schools – Beth Jacob High School, Yeshiva Gedola, Yeshivas Nachalas Zvi and Bobov – have repeatedly been turned down.

Kin said hungry students can't concentrate properly and a lack of food affects their behaviour. She has been in contact with Coun. James Pasternak, a member of the city's budget committee, about the issue.

Pasternak told *The CJN* that Jewish schoolchildren aren't the only community members being shortchanged by city staff. Residents of city-run long term care (LTC) facilities have also seen their request for kosher food go unheeded, he said.

Late last week, correspondence between *The CJN* and city spokespeople revealed that only public schools are now eligible to apply for nutrition funding. (It appears Bais Yaakov has been grandfathered.)

Toronto Public Health spokesperson Carol Timmings said in an email that the "municipal and provincial government funding for new student nutrition programs is allocated to publicly funded schools in the City of Toronto. Privately funded schools, including privately funded faith-based schools, do not qualify for this expansion funding."

That response surprised Pasternak.

"We have no official policy to restrict nutrition programs to publicly funded schools. They seem to making it up on the fly," he said.

Pasternak said Toronto allocates $9.9 million to health programs. To restrict that to public schools defeats the purpose of the programs, which is to ensure all children have access to healthy foods and are taught about good nutrition.

"The problem is not the money, it's the policy," he said. "It will be my goal when the budget vote is taken [this] week and into February to make it clear that the health of all students is important, regardless of where they go to school."

Regarding kosher meals at LTC facilities, Pasternak pointed to two compliance orders by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) instructing Cummer Lodge and Carefree Lodge to meet the dietary requests of their residents at no additional cost.

He said 42 Jewish Cummer Lodge residents have requested kosher food, as have a smaller number at Carefree Lodge.

COR, the Kashruth Council of Canada, has taken up the issue. For three years, it has lobbied the city to fund the kosher food needs of LTC residents.

Earlier this month, it filed a complaint with the city ombudsman, stating, "In multiple compliance orders, the Ministry of Health has noted that the city is in violation of [legislation], most notably with respect to Cummer Lodge and Carefree Lodge."

Asked to comment, city spokesperson Jennifer Wing said, "The two compliance orders received by the City of Toronto's long-term care homes over the past number of years that related to kosher meals were both quickly and fully addressed."

She added the city gets $8.03 per day from the province to provide meals and snacks at LTC residences, while the daily cost of kosher meals is $23.

"The MOHLTC does not provide additional funding for ethnic, cultural or religious meal requirements for residents in long-term care homes," she added.

In a separate response to a *CJN* question, John Gosgnach, communications manager for the City of Toronto, stated, "As none of the city's long-term care homes have a kosher kitchen, we work in partnership with families and community agencies to facilitate kosher catered meals for residents.

"The additional cost is covered by families and community agencies."

Responding to Gosgnach's statement, Pasternak said he believes the city is providing "kosher-style" food, while COR said that to its knowledge, the compliance orders haven't been implemented.

As to asking families and community agencies to cover the additional cost of kosher meals, the MOHLTC compliance order regarding Cummer Lodge, states that "kosher meals and other assessed dietary needs must be provided at no charge to the resident."

Similar language was used in the Carefree Lodge compliance order. ■

On January 21, we're inviting everyone over!

MAX & MAY APPLEBAUM, AT CHARTWELL SINCE APRIL 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTwell | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. 289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Breaking the Stigma

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 • 7–9 P.M.

LOCATION: **Shaarei Shomayim Congregation**, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto
MODERATOR: **Dr. Molyn Leszcz**, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Mount Sinai Hospital
PANEL: **Danielle Berman**, Founder of www.rideawaystigma.com
Dr. Marshall Korenblum, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Hincks-Dellcrest Centre for Children and Families
Dr. Lesley Wiesenfeld, Deputy Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Mount Sinai Hospital
SUPPORTING RABBIS: **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Rabbi Adam Cutler, Rabbi Noah Cheses**

Join us for an important community conversation about mental illness, with experts in the area of adolescent, adult and geriatric psychiatry, together with your spiritual and community leaders. The program will be introduced by Rabbis and concluded by a member of Jewish Family & Child.

PARTNERS:
Camp Ramah in Canada Beth Tzedec Congregation Shaarei Shomayim Mount Sinai Hospital

Historians will rarely proclaim 'the lessons of history'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

When I tell people that I am writing about lessons of the Holocaust, they pause, wondering how I can possibly add to what is so regularly alluded to. They may also feel that the topic is hackneyed. Don't we already know the lessons of the Holocaust?

But what *are* these lessons of the Holocaust, after all? Is there general agreement about them? Do the lessons differ from one place to another? And do they change over time?

I believe that these questions go to the heart of Holocaust history and even history in general – in particular why we care about studying the past and what we expect to learn from it. There are many purported lessons out there, and they cannot all have the same transcendent significance or validity. Moreover, the lessons vary a great deal depending on when, where, and by whom they were formulated, and they derive crucially from often-contested interpretations of the Holocaust.

For example, some contend that the lesson of the Holocaust is that Jews are always hated, in one way or another, and can only count on themselves. Others claim, that the lesson of the Holocaust is that all seemingly well-integrated minorities are vulnerable and require special protection. Which is correct? Can they both be right? And even more important, is there something wrong with formulating in this way what we are supposed to learn from the Holocaust?

> *But what are these lessons of the Holocaust, after all? Is there general agreement about them? Do the lessons differ from one place to another? And do they change over time?*

I think it is interesting that those who are most intensely and systematically involved in the subject have the keenest sense of difficulties in establishing such lessons. That is why, sensing that their competence does not extend to the formulation of such matters, specialists often feel so uncomfortable with them.

With non-Holocaust fields, such respectful caution is widely accepted as appropriate. Few historians nowadays will presume to proclaim "the lessons of history" or the capacity to predict the future deriving from a study of the past. And yet, the public at large seems to be firmly committed to the notion that the Holocaust is different. Overwhelmingly, people seem to believe that there *are* lessons of the Holocaust that can be reduced to explicit propositions and that Holocaust scholars should not shrink from proclaiming them.

• • •

Perhaps one reason for this is that the Holocaust is not like other subjects. The historian Arno Mayer once referred to it as "a fundamental touchstone of the depth and extremity of the dislocation of Western civilization during the first half of the 20th century." It is probably the one case of genocide most people can identify. And similarly, as columnist Jonah Goldberg observes, World War II may not seem so much like history, because in fact it is the only history about which many people know – or think they know. People may feel more comfortable hearkening to it for lessons even while they may be wary of applying the unfamiliar experiences of far-off times and places.

To those who work on the Holocaust in particular, given the sheer, unmitigated horror of the events themselves, there may also be irresistible pressures to find redemptive outcomes – conditions that restore one's faith in human decency, or provide illustrations of exemplary human resilience.

And sometimes these can be fashioned into lessons that can be digested and followed. The American writer Susan Jacoby argues that the search for Holocaust lessons may have a religious origin: "the idea that there are some sort of general moral lessons to be derived from the Holocaust is rooted in the religious concept that something good must come out of something bad – that everything, however terrible, is part of a greater plan wrought by an intelligent Designer.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

For Canada's highest level of Alzheimer's and dementia care, it's the One.

One goal, one mission, one purpose. To provide the highest level of care in the world. One Kenton Place is a state-of-the-art residence built to provide unparalleled levels of care, service, and innovation for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. It's where personal, loving care combines with a customized full day activity schedule and leading edge programs at the forefront of Alzheimer's research to provide the highest level of care anywhere.

- Person centered care tailored to individualized needs
- 24-hour registered nurses and supervision
- Customized full daily activity schedule
- 24-hour call bell emergency response and resident location systems
- COR certified Kosher meals
- Daily housekeeping

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one

1 Kenton Drive, North York, ON

» BOOK A TOUR TODAY: 647-932-7913 • ONEKENTONPLACE.CA

We are a faith-based organization that provides both long term care and community support services seeking:

The Director of Fundraising in Ottawa, ON

The Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care (LTC) Foundation's mandate is to provide funding to Hillel Lodge, an accredited 121 bed charitable long-term care facility, providing a full range of long-term care programs and services as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care.

POSITION OVERVIEW:
Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director of the Hillel Lodge and with reporting responsibilities to the Board of Directors of the Hillel Lodge Long term Care Foundation, the Director of Fundraising is responsible for developing and managing all fundraising operations of the LTC Foundation. He/she will oversee the day-to-day management of the LTC Foundation and will be responsible for the hiring, supervision, termination and discipline of LTC Foundation staff. The Hillel Lodge LTC Foundation exists solely for the benefit of the Lodge and its residents.

KEY RESPONSIBILITES:
Working collaboratively with the Executive Director of the Lodge and the LTC Foundation Board of Directors, the Director of Fundraising will determine key development and communications strategies such that he/she:

- Directs all fundraising operations and activities for the Lodge and the LTC foundation through the LTC Foundation.
- Oversees and manages established fundraising programs and events of the Lodge and the LTC Foundation, both operating and capital.
- Develops creative approaches and messages to encourage additional donations and other contributions, initiates new fundraising programs and builds the LTC Foundation brand.
- Develops ongoing relationships with existing and potential contributors.
- Develops and maintains close relationships with Lodge residents and their families.
- Participates substantively in setting annual budget including objectives and performance measurement indicators.
- Implements and maintains an effective donor stewardship program.
- Oversees critical and statistical analysis of the donor database to ensure optimal and appropriate extractions.
- Builds a prominent profile of the LTC Foundation in the Jewish, general and health care communities.
- Ensures that the LTC Foundation and the Lodge reflect Jewish cultural practices and traditions in all programs and activities.
- Assists in the recruitment of Board members for the LTC Foundation Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Post-secondary diploma from a community college and/or university.
- Familiarity with the Ottawa Jewish Community and experience in Long Term Care is preferred.
- Knowledge of accounting software packages (Sage 50/Simply Accounting), spreadsheet programs (Excel etc.), and word processing programs (Word etc.). Knowledge of Income Manager would be considered a strong asset.

Please apply in confidence by Jan. 29/16 to the Executive Director c/o:
Stephen Schneiderman at sss@hillel-ltc.com
Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Otherwise, how could anyone justify continuing to believe in a benevolent supreme being after such a cataclysm?"

Consequently, authorities on the Holocaust may feel that they are expected, even if not in so many words, to present lessons to be derived from their studies. Indeed, to the extent that I participate in civil society, I myself may engage in Holocaust-related public education, commemoration, memorialization, and civic commitments that sometimes associate the Holocaust, for heuristic purposes, with particular causes –tolerance, anti-racism, humanitarian responsibilities in public affairs, and the like.

Might it also be that audiences are intimidated by claims of lessons of the Holocaust because proponents wrap themselves in the authority that comes from exposing terrible wrongs, to the point that critics dare not push back? We need to remember that those who advance Holocaust lessons often assume great moral authority. And they sometimes do so in an environment facing desperate dilemmas and challenges, including some that entail quite calamitous implications. Does the growth of anti-Semitism prefigure mass violence against Jews? Should we read particularly violent political rhetoric as prefiguring genocide? How far should we go to aid victims in distress? Should one's country intervene militarily in conflict X or in country Y? An appreciation of Holocaust history can be adduced as a key to resolving such questions. The idea seems to be that guides to correct courses of action lie just beneath the surface of Holocaust narratives, and that familiarity with such material, fortified with moral stamina, will reveal the right path to follow.

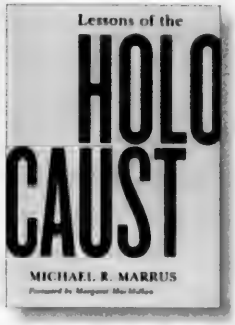
Naysayers, one can appreciate, hardly feel in a strong position.

• • •

I sometimes think about lessons when I see, as I do several times a week at Massey College of the University of Toronto, a lengthy academic injunction that ends, "To be happy, you must be wise." This quotation from the writings of the Spanish-American philosopher and essayist George Santayana completes a lengthy passage inscribed along the perimeter of Massey's dining hall, where gowned students and professors file in regularly, for dinner.

To the extent that those present gaze up at this quotation, they may connect not only with its encouragement to learning but also with a related notion, so often applied to the Holocaust that it has come to be taken as one of its core lessons. I am referring to what is probably the best known among Santayana's observations, "Those who cannot remember history are doomed to repeat it."

In some quarters Santayana's dictum has come to be thought of as a Holocaust lesson in itself, a warning that a comparable cataclysm might recur if events like the destruction of European Jewry were not "remembered" and its lessons were to go unheeded. Note that, according to the quotation, what is necessary is not to understand, but to "remember" what has happened – although by remembrance is usually meant acquaintance or re-acquaintance with terrible injustices and suffering. Moreover, claims of the existence of such lessons are often accompanied by a sense that promoting them is *urgent* – indeed, that inattention to such lessons is likely to prompt terrible consequences. History has spoken, and we ignore her voice at our peril.



This is another, less explicitly descriptive kind of lesson – a suggestion that a close acquaintance with atrocities that happened during the Holocaust constitutes a lesson that should prompt people to behave more wisely or humanely. In Washington, groups of military personnel and police officers constantly tour the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum precisely with this object in mind. I admit to being puzzled about the rationale that is assumed to be operating here. After all, those who are most familiar with the outrages of the Holocaust were the perpetrators themselves – and there is no evidence that a full knowledge of their own wrongdoing ever generated their revulsion against it.

In his memoirs, the historian and essayist Walter Laqueur reflected on this theme while discussing how a great part of his life had been exposed to totalitarian regimes in Germany and the Soviet Union. There is no guarantee that such "lessons of history" – that is, persistent acquaintance with cruelty to others – will clarify things one way or another, he observes. In his view, some will emerge from such exposure with a more acute sense of the possibilities of wrongdoing, but some will do the opposite. The lessons of history, like all lessons, "can be misunderstood and misapplied."

Since I have devoted so much of my professional life to the study of the Holocaust, my commitment to its study should be clear. I do not disparage deep reflection on the knowledge we accumulate on this topic, which I believe is one of the foundational events of our age. I believe that the Holocaust is a moral signifier for thinking about good and evil and, perhaps even more important, for pondering what has been called the grey zone, the great space in between. And I also believe that studying the Holocaust contributes to the public good.

But I contest the idea that there exist some formulae that constitute lessons of the Holocaust – or even worse, *the* lessons of the Holocaust. In a nutshell, the problem with such lessons is that, unfortunately, history does not speak to the present with so clear an admonitory voice. Looking critically at the lessons of the Holocaust, I believe that, like all history, the Holocaust nevertheless has much to teach us, even when it does not direct us how to solve the problems of our time. ■

Michael R. Marrus is the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto. This essay is adapted from his new memoir Lessons of the Holocaust, *published by University of Toronto Press. For more information, visit utppublishing.com.*

Headstone maker recruits pair to help serve Jewish clients

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Eden Memorials – which until three years ago was Winnipeg's last Jewish-owned memorial stone maker – is closing at the end of this month, but a non-Jewish company is confident it can serve the community with the help of two former Eden stalwarts.

With the addition of Clare Walters to its staff along with Lorne Raber as a consultant, Larsen Memorials, one of Winnipeg's oldest memorial stone makers, is looking forward to attracting most of the Jewish clients who would otherwise have patronized Eden.

"For almost 50 years, Eden Memorials was the only Jewish-owned memorial company in Winnipeg and the only memorial company specializing in Jewish memorials," said Raber, who owned of Eden until three years ago and was the face of the business.

The company was started by the Juravsky family in 1967. In 1995, Lorne Raber, who was related to the family by marriage, bought the company and continued its tradition of serving the Jewish community, as well as the wider Winnipeg market.

The personable Raber was well known in the Jewish community and was a leader and innovator in the memorial industry. He served a term as president of the Monument Builders of North America.

Also instrumental in Eden Memorials' success during the latter years of his ownership, Raber said, was his office manager, Walters. She started working at Eden shortly after moving to Winnipeg from South Africa in 2001.

"Clare is one of the most detailed people I have ever met," Raber said, "and she is very good at dealing with people."

Three years ago, Raber, who was facing some health issues and aged in-laws, sold his business to a non-Jewish couple and

Shelly, David and Dennis Bohn, co-owners of Larsen's Memorials, with Lorne Raber, right

continued to make himself available to the new owners to meet with Jewish clients by appointment.

In December 2014, Walters left Eden to work from her home in Winnipeg with a cousin who operates a software company out of Vancouver.

While Raber doesn't know why the business ultimately failed, he said demand for Jewish headstones isn't what it used to be.

"When I started in this business 20 years ago, the number of Jewish burials was between 190 and 215 annually," he said. "Last year, there were only 135 to 140 Jewish burials here.

"People are living longer, and the Jewish community is skewing younger."

Last summer, Walters was looking to get back into the memorial business and put out some feelers. She knew all of Eden's Jewish clients going back more than 10 years, so Larsen Memorials snapped her up.

"We thought that Clare would be a real asset to our firm," said David Bohn, who along with his brother Dennis and sister Shelly acquired the company from the Larsen family 15 years ago. " A lot of people know her."

Shelly Bohn added that "with our design system... we can produce Jewish letters."

And like he was at Eden, Raber will be available at Larsen to meet with former and current clients to help provide for their memorial needs.

"This is a win-win scenario," he said. ■

Israeli envoys plug trade on visit to snowy Fredericton

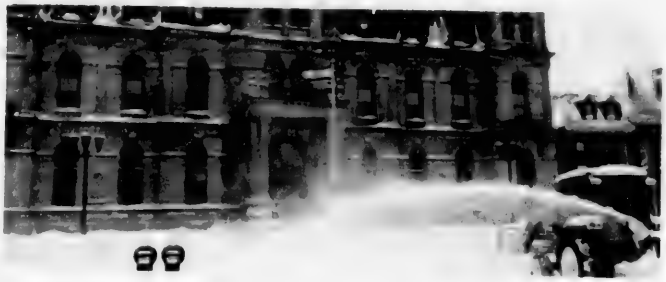
JOEL JACOBSON
ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT

Despite a day that started at 8:30 a.m. in the midst of a snowstorm and didn't end until 9 p.m., after the storm passed, Israel's ambassador to Canada, Rafael Barak, termed his visit to Fredericton, N.B., "tiring, but successful."

Accompanied by Ziv Nevo Kulman, Israel's consul general to Quebec and Atlantic Canada, Barak said the one-day whirlwind trip to the provincial capital Jan. 13 aimed to "discover trade opportunities between New Brunswick and Israel in technology and science.

"Cyber security was a major focus of our talks with people at University of New Brunswick and provincial government officials," Barak said after his return to Ottawa Jan. 14. It was the first visit to Fredericton for both men.

"Deputy Premier Stephen Horsman and David Burns [UNB's vice-president of research] both stressed that the university is working hard in the cyber security field along with IBM, which has a Canadian centre for cyber security established in Fredericton. IBM is a major player in the field at Ben-Gurion University in Be'er Sheva, Israel's centre for cyber security."



An Israeli flag flies in front of the New Brunswick provincial legislature. ISRAELI EMBASSY PHOTO

Barak and Nevo Kulman paid a protocol visit to N.B. Lieut.-Gov. Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, and they also visited with the director and associate director of UNB's Security Centre of Excellence as well as the university's chief information officer; IBM representatives; Stephen Lund, CEO of Opportunities New Brunswick; and Matt Decourcey, Liberal MP for Fredericton, who "expressed his eagerness to co-operate with Israel," Barak said.

"Except for Stephen Lund [who visited Israel as part of a Nova Scotia delegation a few years ago], the majority of those we met have never been to Israel, so it gave us a chance to introduce what is happening in the business and development side of our country," added Barak, Israel's ambassador to Canada since January 2014.

"We even had the Israeli flag raised in front of Province House, which was closed at the time because of the snowstorm."

The storm prevented Premier Brian Gallant from returning to Fredericton from a business trip to Moncton to meet with the Israeli delegation.

"I found affinities between Israel and New Brunswick," said Barak, "particularly between Fredericton and Be'er Sheva. We invited UNB officials to a cyber conference in Israel later this year and will suggest the director of the Cyber Park in Israel come to Fredericton to meet with local officials."

The envoys concluded their day with a two-hour session at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, where they met close to 30 members of the Fredericton Jewish community.

Synagogue president and Atlantic Jewish Council management committee member Marilyn Kaufman welcomed the visitors, who spoke about the purpose of their trip and reflected on its benefits. They also talked about Israel's current situation with its Middle East neighbours and spoke about many aspects of economic connection with Canada.

"Mr. Barak told how the Canadian Space Agency is sharing with Israel the launch of the Amos 6 satellite in 2017 and stressed how 25 multinational companies are taking part in cyber security development in Israel. He said Israel was the fourth country to have a free trade agreement with Canada while stressing Israel doesn't 'take the relationship of Canada's Jewish communities with Israel for granted.'"

Answering an audience question about Canada's support for Israel under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Barak said Trudeau met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a few weeks ago and will meet with him again soon. He said Trudeau assured him good relations with Israel will continue and Canada will support Israel at the United Nations. ■

CJC name gone as national Jewish archives 'rebranded'

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

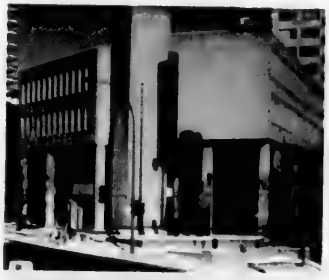
The repository of much of the documentation of the history of the Canadian Jewish community has a new name and administrative structure.

The Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives is now called the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives. The "rebranding" follows the formal cessation of the operations of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and its charitable trust in late November.

CJC was officially shuttered in 2011 when its responsibilities were taken over by the organization today known as the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

The archives will remain in Montreal, but the national archives program now operates "directly under the auspices of Jewish Federations Canada-UIA (JFC-UIA)," according to a Jan. 12 press release.

Established in 1934, the archives have been housed for many years on the lower level of the former CJC national headquarters on Docteur Penfield Avenue. That building, now owned by Concordia University, is also the home of its Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.



Concordia University's Samuel Bronfman building remains the archives' home. FILE PHOTO

For the average person, the change will have little or no effect, archives director Janice Rosen said. "Absolutely no different from the public's point of view, and even not internally, as [the Toronto-based] JFC-UIA was already responsible for managing our accounting functions and payroll," she wrote. "We began receiving the Dworkin funding in 2011, so this change of name is fitting and appropriate…"

Linda Kislowicz, JFC-UIA president and chief executive officer, said the organization "is committed to ensuring the long-term preservation of this historic home for archives and archival research. We will provide the necessary support and oversight so that this venerable institution continues to serve as an invaluable resource for researchers and historians."

Alex Dworkin, who died in 2004, and his wife, Ruth, were major philanthropists in the Montreal Jewish community and beyond, and their legacy continues to benefit many institutions.

One branch, the Alex Dworkin Foundation for Jewish Archives, under the administration of the Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal (JCF), also supports Montreal's Jewish Public Library Archives.

The two archives have a close collaboration and jointly conceived and manage the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, an online platform that encourages national partnerships in this field and is sustained by the Dworkin fund.

The archives' mission remains essentially what it was at its founding more than 80 years ago. "We will continue to fulfil the aims of the resolution 'On Canadian Jewish Archives' set out at the CJC plenary assembly in 1934," Rosen said, which is "to collect, store and preserve historical material related to Canadian Jewry and make it accessible for the purpose of study and reference."

JCF executive vice-president Robert Kleinman added that "the Dworkin fund has been a key supporter of the archives since 2011 and is very pleased to continue to serve as a critical partner in the management of its evolution." Since 1992, the archives has also benefited from a program of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

The archives is home not only to the records of CJC, but to hundreds of collections received over the years from individuals and groups. Norma Joseph, a Concordia religion professor and *CJN* columnist, is chair of the archives' advisory committee. ■

Correction

The Jan. 14 story "Can Tories hold on to Jewish voters?" incorrectly stated the proportion of the vote Liberal MP Anthony Housefather received in Mount Royal riding in last fall's federal election. He got 50.3 per cent of the vote. *The CJN* regrets the error. ■

INTERNATIONAL

Stabbing victim Dafna Meir buried in Jerusalem

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Dafna Meir was buried in Jerusalem on Monday, a day after she was stabbed to death at the entrance to her home in the West Bank settlement of Otniel.

Hundreds joined the funeral procession for the mother of six, two of them foster children, which set out from Otniel toward the Har Hamenuhot cemetery in Jerusalem.

Meir, 39, a nurse, wrestled with the attacker with three of her children in the house. She was stabbed and left for dead as the attacker fled.

Media reports said her daughter Renana, 17, witnessed the attack, which took place at around 5 p.m., and described the terrorist to authorities.

Delivering a eulogy at the cemetery Monday, Renana said: "You left us with an enormous vacuum. We won't drink tea at midnight any more… You won't come with me to my wedding, to the army, to the delivery room. I'm sorry I couldn't help you during the hardest moments."

Her husband, Natan, who recited the Mourner's Prayer with son Akiva, 15, said he had met Dafna during military service in southern Lebanon. "It took a moment to fall in love, and as I said then, 'Welcome.' Now, I'm saying 'have a good journey,'" he said.

As family and friends gathered for the start of the funeral procession, the assistant director of the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba, Prof. Yohanan Feizer, said: "Dafna dealt in saving lives and her life was plucked from her in front of her children."

She had always performed above and beyond what was expected of her, with "endless generosity," he added, according to *Haaretz*.

Efrat Dahan, who met regularly with Meir, said she and others had lost "a sister, not only in her profession, but in the heart and soul."

"Beloved Dafna, we met four years ago, when I came to the community," she added. "I sat for a while at the playground and we started to talk about the most personal of things. I was so pleased that we became good friends, right away and for always. One could speak to you about anything, you knew so much."

Among those present at Har Hamenuhot were Education Minister Naftali Bennett, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and Deputy Defence Minister Eli Ben Dahan – all from the pro-settler Jewish Home party – as well as Minister of Culture and Sport Miri Regev (Likud) and opposition leader Isaac Herzog (Zionist Union).

Bennett eulogized Meir as a "special soul," saying she "brought life to every place."

"Even in your last moments," he said, "you brought light and love. You fought a terrorist and defended your children." He added, "To a people like that that murders a mother in front of her children, there will not be a state. There is no state for hatred."

People cry over the grave of Dafna Meir during her funeral on Jan. 18 . Meir, a mother of six, was stabbed to death at the entrance to her home. YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90 PHOTO

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday morning that he had promised the head of the Otniel municipality, Yochai Damari, that the settlement would be strengthened. He pledged that Israel would find anyone who tried to harm Israelis and that he would pay "the full price" for his actions.

As the buses in the funeral procession approached Jerusalem, another woman, Michal Froman was stabbed by a teenage Palestinian attacker in the West Bank settlement of Tekoa. She was moderately wounded.

Otniel, which lies 56 kilometres (35 miles) south of Jerusalem, has an early-warning system and the terrorist's exit was filmed on a security camera. However, after combing villages in the south Hebron Hills area for hours, security forces had yet to close in on the killer, and he remained on the loose by *The CJN's* Monday deadline.

Assuming that he had been a worker in the settlement, investigators were checking building contractors and a transport contractor in the area, Israel Radio reported. ■

The Times of Israel
The Timesofisrael.com

PA collapse will lead to 'anarchy' minister says

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

In a rare, candid interview about Israeli thinking on the condition of the Palestinian Authority (PA), a member of Israel's security cabinet warned that the authority is already collapsing, and what follows will be "anarchy."

"This is a reality we may wake up to tomorrow morning, within months or perhaps after a year or two of collapse," Absorption Minister Ze'ev Elkin, a member of the security cabinet and considered close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told the right-wing *Makor Rishon* newspaper for its weekend edition.

"In my view, the train has already left the station, and it's important to understand that the post-Abbas era is around the corner. He's grown tired and weak, and there are forces working against him," Elkin said.

"In the [Palestinian] street, he is treated as a dead horse, and that's part of the reason for the security situation we are going through," Elkin added. "He himself now understands that his threats to resign threaten his own rule first and foremost, so he now suddenly declares, 'I'm here.'"

Meanwhile, the Palestinians are not immune to the influence of the Arab Spring, which has felled unelected leaders across the Arab world, and led to bloody civil wars in several countries, Elkin said.

Palestinians "see the same television and are susceptible to the same spirit as elsewhere in the region. It's only a matter of time before the Arab Spring gets to them. It's only natural that this will happen."

A former chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and one-time deputy foreign minister, Elkin believes the Israeli defence establishment is not planning for what is to come.

"It's not a question of understanding, but of internalizing. There is a basic mistake here of sticking one's head in the sand and clinging to the existing situation, and this leads to blindness. But the writing is on the wall, and the Palestinian Authority will collapse in any case, without any connection to us."

Of the many possible scenarios that may ensue from this collapse, he told *Makor Rishon*, the most likely is "anarchy."

"There is almost zero chance that an heir will arise as [Abbas] did after Yasser Arafat. There isn't anyone who can take the keys by consensus."

Marwan Barghouti, the popular Fatah leader currently serving five life terms in an Israeli prison for murders committed during the second intifadah, is unlikely to be released by Israel – "I hope," Elkin added.

That leaves shared rule among many contenders to Abbas' rule, which would be unprecedented in Palestinian history; a takeover by Hamas, which would be prevented by Israel; or the most likely scenario: "a war of all against all, a battle to inherit, and everything that flows from that."

The collapse is certain, Elkin argues; its ramifications, for the moment at least, "are unknowable." ■

The Times of Israel
The Timesofisrael.com

Bibi says Israel kept nukes out of Iran

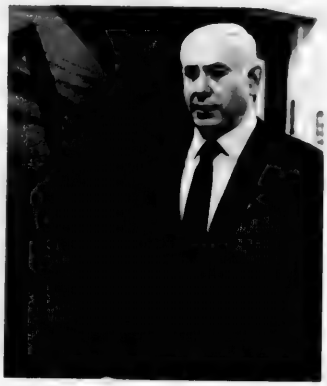
TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Jan. 17 that the Jewish State's efforts had put a nuclear bomb out of Iran's reach for the time being.

"If it weren't for our efforts leading the way in enforcing the sanctions on Iran's nuclear program, Iran would have had a nuclear weapon long ago," the prime minister said at the opening of the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, a day after the implementation of the landmark accord and the removal of sanctions from the Islamic Republic was announced.

"Israel's position is, and remains exactly as it has always been – to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. What's clear is that Iran will now turn its resources toward its terrorist activity in the region and rest of the world, and Israel is prepared to handle that threat," he said.

The premier, who has been perhaps the most vocal opponent of the deal on the global stage, reiterated remarks he made in a statement the day before, and called on world powers to reinstate "severe" sanctions on Iran if it breaches the terms of the nuclear agreement.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu FLASH 90

Netanyahu said that Israel would continue to monitor the implementation of the deal and would notify the international community of any Iranian violations.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, Netanyahu warned that "without an appropriate response to every violation, Iran will surmise that it can continue to develop nuclear weapons, to destabilize the region and to spread terrorism." Israel, he said, "will do everything it takes to maintain its security and defend itself."

Earlier on Saturday, an Israeli official said that Iran's first priority once the deal is implemented would be to spend its newly freed-up funds on military acquisitions, and not on civilian investments, Army Radio reported. Furthermore, the unnamed source said, the implementation of the agreement would have a direct impact on the region, as terror groups Hezbollah and Hamas – both recipients of Iranian largesse – would find themselves in possession of new and modern weaponry.

"The world powers are mistaken if they see Iran as a solution to regional stability, and not the source of the problem," a second unnamed official said, according to the radio. ■

Times of Israel staff contributed to this report. Timesofisrael.com

ANALYSIS

A dark day for the Middle East

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Jan. 16 that "it's now time for all – especially Muslim nations – to join hands and rid the world of violent extremism. Iran is ready."

That assertion coincided with the latest report that another resident of Madaya, the Syrian city besieged by the forces of (Iranian ally) President Bashar Assad, had died of starvation. It also came amid the ongoing daily news of the killing of civilians in Syria by Assad's forces, backed by fighters from Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the Iranian-armed Hezbollah. About 250,000 people have been killed in the Syrian civil war, the vast majority of them by Assad's Iran-assisted forces.

The Islamic State's (ISIS) contribution to the relentlessly rising Syrian death toll cannot be ignored. Just this weekend, its forces reportedly perpetrated another massacre of Assad forces and their families in the Deir el-Zour area.

But if anyone in the Obama administration or the European leadership believes that the Syrian fighting is a case of "good guys" (Assad, Iran, Hezbollah) against "bad guys" (ISIS), they need to check the facts.

The removal of sanctions from Iran is not a festive day for the Middle East. It is, rather, a grim day for the region, which will see billions flowing into the Iranian regime's coffers, part of which will lead to a great deal more weaponry, conflict, bloodshed, and death throughout this area.

To Iran's great benefit, ISIS is devoting a huge amount of money and resources in order to ensure that it is perceived as a force of absolute evil. One consequence is to create the impression that the Iranian regime, by comparison, is relatively pragmatic, an entity with which one can negotiate. But then comes the news from Madaya – as well as many, many places beyond – to remind us about the true face of the Iranian regime. A glance at the numerous areas of conflict in our region underlines Iran's ubiquitous involvement in the bloodshed – everywhere from Yemen, to Iraq, to Syria, Lebanon, and even the Gaza Strip.

This should have long since set alarm bells ringing in the White House. But the likes of Susan Rice and Ben Rhodes are locked into the delusion that Iran will save the world from Sunni Islamic extremists. It would be amusing if it wasn't so tragic.

Apart from Iran's citizens, of course, those who are about to benefit from the lifting of sanctions on Iran include: Hezbollah, which already has some 150,000 rockets and missiles of various ranges and accuracy, and which is now set to receive much-increased financial assistance from Iran; the popular militias in Iraq; the Houthis in Yemen; and Hamas in Gaza (as well as Islamic Jihad there, should Iran feel so inclined).

For relatively moderate Sunni states, this is a grim day, indeed – a day on which Iran is welcomed back to the international community and is simultaneously assisted in deepening its capacity to back terrorist and destabilizing forces in those Sunni states and beyond.

True, the Arak heavy-water plant is unlikely to produce a plutonium bomb in the near future. But the nuclear deal and the removal of sanctions will only exacerbate Shiite terrorism, and it won't do anything for the starving people of Madaya. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Pope calls for end to violence during visit to Rome synagogue

JTA
ROME

Making the third visit ever by a pope to Rome's Great Synagogue, Pope Francis and Jewish leaders condemned violence in the name of religion and said the extraordinary rapprochement between Jews and Catholics over the past 50 years should serve as a model for other faiths.

"Conflicts, wars, violence and injustices open deep wounds in humanity and call on us to reinforce the commitment to peace and justice," Pope Francis said Jan. 17.

"The violence of man against man is in contradiction with any religion worthy of the name, and in particular with the three great monotheistic religions," he said. "Every human being, as a creature of God, is our brother regardless of his origins or religious belief."

Rome Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni described "fanatic visions inspired by religion" that are used to justify violence and terrorism in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere in the world.

"A meeting of peace between different religious communities, as the one that is taking place today here in Rome, is a very strong sign against the invasion and abuse of religious violence," he said.

Pope Francis' visit comes half a century after the Vatican's landmark *Nostra Aetate* declaration, which opened the way to formal Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Pope John Paul II became the first reigning pope to visit a synagogue, in April 1986, a watershed event where he embraced the then-chief rabbi and called Jews Christianity's "elder brothers." The Jewish presence in Rome stretches back more than 2,000 years, and the community is considered the oldest in the Diaspora.

Pope Benedict XVI followed up with a visit to the Rome synagogue in January 2010.

"According to the juridical rabbinic traditions, an act repeated three times becomes *chazakah*, a habit," Rabbi Di Segni said. "Clearly this is a concrete sign of the new era, after all that happened in the past."

During his speech to a sanctuary packed with Jewish community members and representatives of the government, international Jewish organizations, the State of Israel and other faiths, Pope Francis stressed that Christianity is rooted in Judaism.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Holocaust serves as a lesson for past and future: pope

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

"You are, in fact, our older brothers and sisters in faith," he said. Christians, he added, "to understand themselves, cannot fail to make reference to the Jewish roots, and the Church, while professing salvation through faith in Christ, recognized the irrevocability of the Ancient Alliance and constant and faithful love of God for Israel."

The pope said the experience of the Holocaust must serve as a lesson for the present and the future.

"The Shoah teaches us that we always need the greatest vigilance to intervene promptly in defense of human dignity and peace," he said.

Pope Francis also addressed his personal feeling of closeness to Holocaust survivors, a group of whom were seated in the first row of the sanctuary.

"Tonight's visit was warm, direct and clear on both sides. There was agreement over common roots with diverse paths leading to the achievement of common ideals, involving closer co-operation to combat the major evils of our times," Lisa Palmieri Billig, the American Jewish Committee representative in Rome, told *JTA*. "I believe the main message of Pope Francis' visit is that both Jews and Catholics today are discovering that our special relationship is a gift to be treasured and used constructively."

She said the pope's visit could be described as a confirmation of all the advances in Jewish-Catholic dialogue to date.

These included highly significant statements contained in a new document on Catholic-Jewish relations issued by the Vatican on Dec. 10, plus those made by Pope Francis himself. They are, for example, no Christian can be anti-Semitic; all Christians have Jewish roots; salvation is possible for Jews even without their belief in Christ; the Torah is to Jews what Christ is to Christians; Christians must not try to convert Jews; and that Judaism and Christianity have a unique relationship.

In her speech during the pope's 90-minute visit to the synagogue, Ruth Dureghello, the president of the Rome Jewish community, recalled the pontiff's visit to Jerusalem in 2014, and his hope that Israel "will be able to live in peace and security."

She said,"In order to make this dream come true, we have to remember that peace cannot be conquered through

Pope Francis

stabbing and terror. It cannot be achieved through bloodshed in the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Itamar, Beth Shemesh and Sderot. It cannot be obtained by digging tunnels nor by launching missiles. Can we work on the peace process by counting the number of victims of terrorism? No, we can't. We must all call for a stop to terrorism. Not only the terrorism in Madrid, London, Brussels and Paris, but also the daily terrorist attacks in Israel. Terrorism is never justified."

While the pope's visit was taking place, in the latest terrorist stabbing attack, 39-year-old Dafna Meir, was killed in her home on Sunday evening in the West Bank settlement of Otniel.

Dureghello also recalled the anti-Semitic terrorist attack in the pope's native city, Buenos Aires, on July 18, 1994, which claimed 85 lives and wounded over 200 people.

She noted that Rome had already been hit by anti-Semitic terror attacks decades ago, including an attack on the Great Synagogue on October 9 1982, when Palestinian terrorists killed a toddler and injured scores.

She said, "Pope Francis, today we have a great responsibility vis-a-vis the world for the bloodshed by terrorists in Europe and in the Middle East, for the blood of persecuted Christians and for the attacks against unarmed civilians even within the Arab world, for the heinous crimes against women. We cannot sit and look. We cannot remain indifferent. We cannot make the same mistakes of the past, when we remained silent and turned our backs."■

The CJN Prize (FOR YOUNG WRITERS) Awards Ceremony

Come support and celebrate great writing!

Honouring the literary achievements of young Jewish writers from across Canada. Enjoy the stories read by their authors.

Special Guest Speakers:
Barbara Kay *(Renowned Journalist)*
Sara R. Horowitz *(Professor of Literature, York University)*

February 10, 2016
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m.

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
York University Keele Campus
Accolade East Building, Main Floor
(Paid parking is available at the student services parking garage at James Gillies Blvd. and Fine Arts Rd.)

Free tickets available at CJNews.com
Register by February 5

Sponsored by
Presenting Sponsor
Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

Encore

CJN

SUPPORT NEONATAL CARE

FABRICLAND

Presents

On the Slopes for Candy

in support of

The Canadian
SHAARE ZEDEK Hospital Foundation
a hospital with a heart

Alpine Ski Club
in Collingwood

Thursday, February 25, 2016
Early bird ticket price: $185
After January 31, 2015 ticket price: $225

Benefits:

- Ski lift ticket or spa credit
- Complimentary ski and snowboarding lessons
- Demo new ski and snowboarding equipment
- Guided snowshoe activities
- Fun races
- Kosher breakfast and lunch buffet, open bar
- Luxury coach bus service to and from Collingwood
- Live Entertainment
- Candy's dessert mountain
- Complimentary massages

Purchase your tickets at: www.ontheslopes.ca

Proceeds from Slice the ICE will be used to purchase clinically needed medical equipment in support of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

OPINION

On foreign agents, NGOs and Israeli politics

Gerald Steinberg

> *If passed (law) would require NGO recipients to register as foreign agents.*

For almost 20 years, the European Union and individual states have together pumped more than one billion euros ($1.3 billion Cdn) into a small group of Israeli and Palestinian non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, with a few million more from the United States, Canada (before Stephen Harper became prime minister) and elsewhere. The nature and scale of this outside interference is unique, and the impact is magnified by the use of this money primarily to oppose government policies and promote boycotts of Israel. Instead of representing "civil society" in the democratic process, these organizations are waging a dangerous war of demonization, using terms such as "war crimes" and "apartheid" under the façade of human rights.

The issue has recently dominated headlines in the Israeli media and urgent Knesset sessions, including the introduction of legislation that, if passed, would require NGO recipients to register as foreign agents. In response, the NGO officials and their allies at the New Israel Fund, *Ha'aretz* and among left-wing politicians attacked the critics as McCarthyite fascists intent on destroying democracy.

This battle has been simmering since the publication of the discredited UN Goldstone report on Gaza in 2009, which was based on hundreds of NGO allegations, many of which were false or unverifiable. Their claims fed boycott campaigns and attempts in Britain and elsewhere to arrest Israelis as alleged "war criminals," including former foreign minister Tzipi Livni and military officers. In response, Israeli criticism of these groups and their funders increased significantly. A number of politicians on the right introduced legislation to punish the NGOs, but these proposals were designed primarily to gain votes and did not get far.

In late 2015, the NGO issue resurfaced after Breaking the Silence (BTS), an NGO run by 10 activists but with a $1-million budget, attacked the IDF in a number of venues around the world. Their events in churches, universities and national parliaments featured "anonymous testimony" alleging systematic immorality by soldiers, but with no confirmation. BTS appearances in Ireland, Scotland and South Africa, partnered with vicious anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic groups, were heavily criticized in the Israeli media.

In response, hundreds of IDF reserve officers petitioned the minister of defence, demanding that these radical activists be barred from speaking on military bases. In parallel, relatives of soldiers killed in war and of terror victims demanded that Education Minister Naftali Bennett prohibit BTS members from speaking to high-school students. These developments fuelled support to the NGO "foreign agent" registration legislation proposed by Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked.

Another layer was added in two television broadcasts on Israel's Channel 2 in a program that is generally considered to be sympathetic to the left. The hidden cameras focused on a far-left anti-occupation group known as Ta'ayush, run by Ezra Nawi. He is shown discussing how to turn over an Arab involved in selling land to Jews to Palestinian counter-intelligence forces, viewed as equivalent to a death sentence. In this plot, Nawi (who was later caught at the airport trying to flee) is joined by a Palestinian employee of B'tselem, a prominent human rights NGO.

In a second segment, Nawi receives cash from BTS in what seems to be a plan to pay Palestinians involved in violent riots against IDF troops. In addition, the video showed a check to Nawi issued by Rabbis for Human Rights (RHR), ostensibly for transportation services. B'tselem, BTS and RHR are all funded in large part by the European Union and individual governments, adding to demands for legislation to limit these transfers.

Europe's money, and the contrast between high moral rhetoric and less-than-moral behaviour, ensures that this issue will remain high on Israel's agenda. The fight will be long and bitter, but after 20 years of unlimited access to money and influence, the central role of unelected and radical NGOs inside Israeli politics, and in waging war outside the country, is likely to fade. ■

Jewish Life

Pictured, from left, are Anna Shternshis and performers Psoy Korolenko, Isaac Rosenberg and Sophie Milman.

Buried Soviet-era Yiddish tunes come to life

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Thousands of Yiddish song lyrics, stored for decades in sealed boxes in the basement of the Ukrainian National Library, have given us the rare opportunity to look into the world of Yiddish-speaking Soviet Jewry during the Holocaust era.

Some 2.7 million Soviet Jews died during the Holocaust years, but until the boxes were discovered in the 1990s, the only information about Soviet Jews in the Holocaust came from the perpetrators rather than Jews, said Anna Shternshis, the Al and Malka Green associate professor in Yiddish studies at the University of Toronto.

Although the boxes were labelled, few people had paid attention to their contents until 2005, when Shternshis, on a grant, dove into them and retrieved a treasure-trove of handwritten and typed Yiddish documents, including song lyrics, stories and letters from Jewish Red Army soldiers.

The documents were collected in Ukraine from 1943 to 1947 by several ethnomusicologists, including Moisei Beregovsky, then head of the Cabinet for Jewish Musical Folklore of the Institute of Jewish Proletarian Culture in Kiev.

> *Like a time capsule from 1945.*

Shternshis said it would have been dangerous for Holocaust survivors and Jewish Red Army soldiers to talk about, or for even for scholars to ask them about their wartime experiences. Paranoid, Stalin considered anyone who survived the war under German occupation a traitor, especially if they were Jewish.

"They would say, 'How could you survive if you're a Jew? You must have collaborated with the Germans. Songs were OK because there was no way to know where the song was written and who was singing it."

In 1949, Beregovsky and his team were arrested and accused of being Jewish nationalists. With the creation of Israel, policies toward Jews changed and the Soviet government had adopted a policy of state anti-Semitism. The Yiddish archive was seized as proof of their nationalist activity.

The songs Shternshis found in the archive are "like a time capsule from 1945," she said. Some are funny. Others are about fighting Hitler and getting revenge. The "guilt" songs document the experiences of soldiers who returned home to find their entire families dead. A Jew enlisted in the Red Army was more likely to survive the war than a Jewish civilian, she said.

Women also have a voice in the collection, with songs about waiting for their husbands and children to return from the war. "They tell them, 'You go and fight the Germans and I will make you a burial shroud for Hitler,'" Shternshis said.

In 2014, Shternshis worked with Psoy Korolenko, a poet, philologist and performer of Yiddish music who matched the song lyrics with tunes from Soviet musicals of the 1940s and '50s. Some of the songs – currently being recorded will receive their world premiere in Richmond Hill, on Jan. 27.

The performers include Korolenko and Trio Loyko, accordionist Alexander Sevastian, trumpeter David Buchbinder, clarinetist/conductor Shalom Bard and vocalists Isac Rosenberg and Toronto jazz singer Sophie Milman, one of Shternshis' former students.

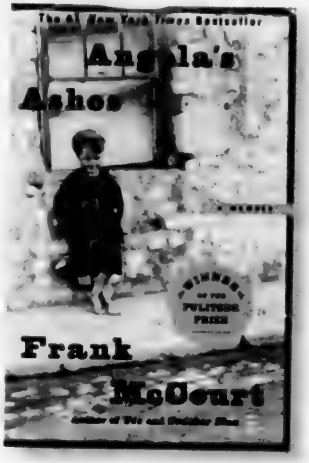
Born in Russia, Milman immigrated to Israel and then to Canada with her family. Her two grandfathers, both from Ukraine, came home after the war, to find their families – parents, siblings, nieces, nephews – had perished, she said. "I feel like the world is aware of what happened in concentration camps, but not of what Soviet Jews endured and overcame."

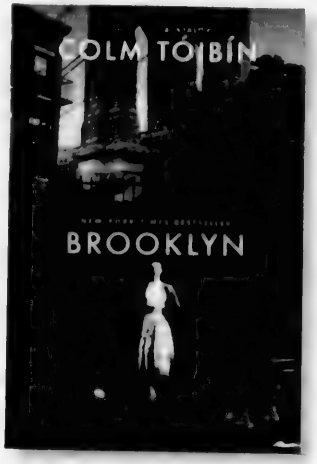
About the songs, Milman said, "There's something very special about the efforts of these impressionable, mostly young people – unlucky enough to be caught in one of the ugliest chapters of human history – to express themselves through song." ■

Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of Life and Fate, will be performed at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. www.showone-productions.ca or call the box office 905-787-8811.

The immigrant saga, from Brooklyn to Boston

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN





First, a bit of movie trivia: what New York-born Jewish actor plays an Italian-American in love with an Irish immigrant plumber in what recent film? Hint: most of it takes place in 1950s Brooklyn. The answer is Emory Cohen, who plays Tony Fiorello opposite Saoirse Ronan's memorable Eilis Lacey in the Oscar-nominated film *Brooklyn*.

Scripted by Nick Hornby and directed by John Crowley, *Brooklyn* is closely based on Colm Toibin's masterful novel of the same name, but actually improves upon a few key plot-points in the story.

Toibin's *Brooklyn*, rendered with an Austenesque clarity and a satisfying depth beneath the pale outward forms of his characters, is a wonderfully realized immigrant saga involving the sleepy Irish coastal town of Enniscorthy and the bustling metropolitan New York suburb in the postwar era.

Immigrant sagas tend to make good literature and cinema, because their protagonists are shown making important decisions that affect not only themselves, but also future generations. They take or do not take the fabled road through a yellow wood, a turning that will make all the difference in their lives and those of their children and children's children.

Another riveting family tale that stretches between Ireland and Brooklyn (and back to Ireland) is the bestseller *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, which, however, did not fare nearly so well on the big screen: in this case, the book is much better than the movie. I read *Angela's Ashes* when it first appeared some 20 years ago, and its depiction of truly pathetic characters caught up in bleak fate made an indelible impression. Funny, that I think of it as a novel when it is actually an autobiography-memoir: these genres are close cousins that often seem to meld into one another.

Another bestselling immigrant saga – this time Jewish-themed – that also marks its 20th anniversary this year is *The Color of Water, A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, by James McBride. This, too, is an autobiography-memoir that is so powerful and so well put together that one might easily remember it as a novel.

The white woman referred to in the subtitle is the former Rachel Deborah Shilsky, who escapes an abusive Jewish home in Suffolk, Va. converts to Christianity, marries a black preacher, and has 12 black children by two husbands. As Ruth McBride, she never says a word about her own painful upbringing while her children are growing up. She tells them she is a "light-skinned" black when they ask why she is a different colour than they are.

"And God? What colour is God?" the children invariably ask.

"God has no colour," she replies. "God is the colour of water."

To their children, their energetic and faith-oriented mother is a mystery. Eventually her son, author James McBride, gets her to talk in depth about her early life. She tells him about her father, a mean-spirited rabbi and shopkeeper, and her mother, a passive, crippled woman with a heart of gold – Polish-Jewish Americans whose stories are heavily inflected with Yiddish and the flavours of the immigrant experience.

McBride's well-crafted, uplifting and, at times, heart-breaking memoir switches in alternating chapters between his own voice and that of his outwardly ordinary yet tremendously inspiring mother. It's true that Jewish characters are painted darkly here but, sadly, it's all in service of the truth – at least as subjectively remembered by Ruth McBride and then filtered into narrative by her son.

Since its publication, *The Color of Water* has won numerous awards, been translated into 16 languages and sold more than 1.5 million copies. The book made Ruth McBride a celebrity, so much so that the *New York Times* published a feature obit on her when she died at age 88 in 2010. However, despite the book's popularity, I don't imagine that it would make a good film. Not every story can survive a transplant from the medium of literature to the medium of film.

Another memorable Jewish-themed memoir that fits into this company is *The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein; its subtitle is "A Love Story That Broke Barriers." Some 10 to 15 years ago, while in his mid- to late-90s, Bernstein wrote a remarkable quartet of memoirs, the first of which, *The Invisible Wall*, appeared in 2007, when he was 96. (Yes, there is hope for late bloomers who leave their literary aspirations to the last minute.)

Set in a Cheshire mill town on the eve of World War I, *The Invisible Wall* paints a grimly realistic portrait of his Jewish family, including a father who often drank and gambled away his wages. The Jews live along one side of a street in which an imagined barrier or "invisible wall" separates them from their Christian neighbours on the other side.

Bernstein narrates the story in the first-person as a young child. He recounts how his sister conducts a secret love affair with a Christian boy across the great divide and the immense ramifications of their dramatic Romeo-and-Juliet relationship. It's yet another instance of how an episode from an ordinary family history can become the stuff of great literature.

A more recent title of note is *The Boston Girl*, a novel by Anita Diamant, author of the popular feminist biblical saga *The Red Tent*. *The Boston Girl* focuses on Addie Baum, a child of immigrant parents born in Boston in 1900.

Addie is an 85-year-old narrator who tells her story in the first-person as she looks back on her life. The book describes how a literary-minded American Jewish woman gets educated and finds her own voice and independence.

The Boston Girl is an impressive work, but one in which modern values and sensibilities somehow manage to seep onto the page. That is always the danger when a narrator looks back to a distant past: the sense of immediacy and authenticity may suffer as a result. ■

BUY • SELL • TRADE

• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver

90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com

VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS

VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

High School looking for a qualified, experienced and punctual Biology and Science teacher that could teach Ontario High School level.
Must have experience and references.
High School is located in North York.
Salary based on experience.

Please send resumes to highschoolteachingposition@gmail.com.
If applicable, we will contact you for an interview.

If you are having a gala, The Socialite wants your photos.

Email thesocialite@thecjn.ca for submission details.

CJN

A celebration of Jewish music for Shabbat Shirah

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Sam Glaser, one of the most recognized names in the North American Jewish music scene, will be in Toronto next weekend as part of Jewish Music Week's Shabbat Shirah celebrations throughout the city.

Since 2011, Jewish Music Week has brought concerts, recitals, lectures, films and other musical events to Toronto to celebrate Jewish music.

Aliza Spiro, artistic director and founder of the non-profit cultural organization, said the weekend-long event, running Jan. 22 to 23, will offer the community some of Toronto's rich cantorial and Jewish musical talent.

The event is organized in honour of Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath during which the Torah portion tells the story of Moses singing *Shirat HaYam*, the Song of the Sea, after the Jews crossed the Red Sea to leave Egypt. In honour of the *Song of the Sea*, this Shabbat is called Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song.

Spiro, who is married to Beth Tzedec Congregation's Cantor Simon Spiro and has an extensive musical background as a singer and a classically trained pianist, said this event targets anyone who appreciates Jewish music.

"Our audiences are really half and half. They are by no means only Jewish audiences. We extend to every age, every background, every race, every religion – and that has been very nice for us," she said.

"We have a lot of local talent that's really nice to showcase."

There are seven shuls participating in next week's event: Holy Blossom Temple, Beth Tzedec, Temple Kol Ami, Danforth Jewish Circle, Am Shalom Congregation, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and Adath Israel Congregation.

In addition to special Shabbat services at each of the participating shuls, there will be three upcoming concerts, two of which are free to attend.

For $25 a ticket in advance, people can come to Beth Tzedec on Saturday night to see California-based musician Sam Glaser join Cantor Spiro on stage.

"They'll have on stage the finest vocalists in Toronto, a live nine-piece band, and a special appearance by the Voices of Tomorrow, a children's choir," Aliza Spiro said.

"[Glaser] is a fabulous musician... There is a lot of crap out there, but he is a really good musician," she said with a laugh.

"The whole Shabbat Shirah thing has grown every year. Because I'm married to a cantor, I was aware of all the Shabbat Shirah things that he did at his shul. He always did a full, jam-packed weekend."

Sam Glaser

She said she reached out to other GTA synagogues and offered to help promote related events with the goal of making Jewish music more accessible to more people throughout the city.

"There's a problem that when people think of Jewish music, everyone pigeonholes that term – for some people, Jewish music is all chazzanut, for some people, it's all *Hava Nagila*, but there are so many different styles available."

Jewish Music Week programs include Sephardi and klezmer music, Holocaust music, Israeli pop, Yiddish theatre, jazz and big band music, as well as cantorial, folk and gospel music.

The following week, on Jan. 28, Jewish Music Week is presenting a free concert called A Night of Broadway and Israeli Music, featuring two local cantors, David Edwards from Beth Emeth and Alex Stein from Adath Israel.

She said in addition to Israeli and Broadway tunes, they'll play some opera and classic rock, and "a little of everything.

"We're really glad that we're able to expose the entire community to this weekend that celebrates Jewish music... It is a really good opportunity for people who are not necessarily synagogue goers, to come to a synagogue... Each one of the performances is about community building. It's bringing people together, and we're happy about it because that really is the goal of Jewish Music Week – to bring people together to celebrate Jewish music." ■

For more information, visit www.jewishmusicweek.com.

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service
• Made in Canada
• Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO..... 416-283-2508
HAMILTON..... 905-383-1343
OTTAWA..... 613-247-3334
MONTREAL..... 514-943-0383
CANADA/USA..... 1-800-668-7439
PtP www.ptpads.com

CJN Snowbirds
GOING SOUTH?
TAKE THE CJN WITH YOU!
Read the eCJN online and put your delivery on hold until you return.
OR
Arrange delivery to your destination for $10/month.
(Payable by cheque, or major credit card)
AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE, CONTACT SUBSCRIBER SERVICES
416 932 5095 / 1 866 849 0864
or Go to bit.ly/CJNContact
and complete the online form
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN

Anthony's from shops at Don Mills
now opened at the Promenade Village Shops
Anthony's on the Promenade Restaurant
7700 Bathurst St., Thornhill ON L4J 7Y3
905-764-2525
BREAKFAST SPECIAL
9-11 am, 7 Days a Week
2 Eggs Any Style – Bacon or Sausage, Toast, Home Fries and Coffee ... *5.95
French Toast or Pancakes with Orange Juice and Coffee *5.95
LUNCH SPECIAL FROM $8.95
With coffee included
DINNER SPECIAL
4 Course – Fillet of Salmon, Raspberry Chicken, Rack of Lamb, Seafood Linguine, Veal Parmesan, BBQ Ribs and more (Soup or Salad, Dessert and Coffee) ..... from *15.95
PRESENT THIS AD FOR SPECIAL PRICING!
MONDAYS
LUNCH $5 DINNER $8
TUESDAYS
LUNCH $5 DINNER $7
WEDNESDAYS
LUNCH $4 DINNER $6
THURSDAYS, FRIDAY, SUNDAYS
LUNCH $3 DINNER $5
Expires February 29th, 2016
Minimum 2 people per table
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. One coupon per table.
Not Valid Valentine's Day

Eva Goldfinger
Rabbi & Psychotherapist
Meaningful Personal Ceremonies
Jewish, Interfaith, Secular Humanistic and Same Sex
Baby Namings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Funerals/Memorials, Unveilings, Conversions
Professional Counselling & Therapy
416-494-7450 | www.crayon.org | evagoldfinger007@gmail.com

ha ha!
An old Jew telling really old jokes!
416-505-9605
Jack Markle jack.markle@rogers.com

Toronto hockey player coveted by U.S. and Canada

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

If you check Jake Walman's hockey profile on EliteProspects.com, you'll find his name flanked by the flags of Canada and the United States, each given equal prominence.

Born in Toronto, Walman is also an American citizen through his U.S.-born mother, giving him, like Brett Hull before him, the option of choosing which country to play for.

Of course, only a handful of the very best players ever have to make that kind of decision. Walman, a smooth-skating, high-scoring defenceman with Providence College Friars of the NCAA, was put in that position last summer when the hockey programs from both countries expressed an interest in recruiting him to play at the World Junior Championship in Finland.

"It was a tough decision," Walman acknowledged on the phone from Providence.

He ended up choosing the American team, but the IIHF, the sport's governing body, had other ideas. The IIHF ruled that Walman hadn't played two consecutive years in the United States and was thus ineligible to skate for the American team.

That unfortunate circumstance didn't end Walman's World Junior saga. The Canadian team, looking for a talented, puck-moving defenceman, happily turned to Walman to compete for a spot on the blue line.

"I was just excited to get the call from Canada," Walman said.

He might also have mentioned that the call was unexpected. Very few NCAA players have ever played for the Canadian junior team, which relies almost exclusively on skaters from one of the three Canadian major junior leagues.

But only days before he was set to join 10 other defencemen vying for seven roster spots at a pre-tournament selection camp, Walman suffered a shoulder injury. It wasn't season-ending bad, but it was enough to force the 19-year-old to miss the event.

Meanwhile Canada, which could have used him, finished sixth in the tournament while the United States earned a bronze medal.

If you examine Walman's hockey pedigree, it's no surprise he was courted by the hockey programs of two countries.

So far in 16 games with Providence, he's scored 12 goals and added nine assists for 21 points, tops among NCAA defencemen. With an average scoring rate of 1.31 points per game, he's 16th overall.

Last season, in his first year with the Friars, he scored one goal and added 15 assists, good enough to get him selected by the St. Louis Blues in the third round of the 2014 entry draft, 82nd overall.

A veteran of the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Walman advanced through the ranks playing at various times with the Toronto Junior Canadiens, the North York Rangers and the Toronto Red Wings. As a kid, he played on the same team as Connor McDavid, considered a generational player, as well as other high NHL draft picks like Robby Fabbri, Michael Dal Colle, Brendan Lemieux and his buddy and fellow Jew, Joshua Ho-Sang, an Islanders first round pick.

Jake Walman

Walman attended two of the Blues' summer orientation camps, but can't attend their rookie or regular camp without losing his NCAA eligibility.

And with a defence loaded with the likes of Alex Pietrangelo, Jay Bouwmeester and Kevin Shattenkirk, plus highly-touted youngster Colton Parayko, he knows cracking the Blues' lineup will prove a formidable task.

He's up for the challenge. Good as he is, he's constantly trying to improve his game. He considers himself a strong skater who sees the ice well. But to crack a pro lineup, he knows he'll have to get better in his own zone – "having a strong stick, working in the defensive zone before jumping to the offence," he said. And he's been working on his shot for the last year and a half.

"I used to say I like to emulate Erik Karlsson and Morgan Rielly. I might have to switch it up and play a more complete game," he said.

Scoring points has always been one of Walman's strengths. In 2013-14, his first season in the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL), playing for Toronto Jr. Canadiens, he scored 33 points in 43 games. He was named the OJHL rookie of the year and was a co-recipient of the Canadian Junior Hockey League national Rookie of the Year Award.

In 2014, he represented Team Canada East at the 2014 World Junior A Challenge and then played for the OJHL's South-East Conference all-star team, which finished second at the 2013 Central Canada Cup All-Star Challenge.

When he's asked to name the highlights of his hockey career, none of that comes up. But two other memories do. First was his participation in the 2013 Maccabiah Games in Israel, when he was part of a gold medal-winning junior team.

"That was probably one of the best experiences of my life," he said. "I didn't know much about Israel. I knew that's where my roots were. To play hockey there was a pretty special experience."

Still, he continued, it was eclipsed by "a special moment" in Philadelphia, when St. Louis selected him in the entry draft, a moment that recognized all he had accomplished in hockey.

With his injury now behind him, Walman is back on the ice, focusing on becoming a better defenceman so he can advance to the next level. A sophomore, he has two years of NCAA eligibility remaining after this season, but he admits his ultimate goal, like the other high-end talents he played with in the GTHL, is to play in the NHL.

Talent and skill are important, he said, "but it's really the compete, the heart, the determination that get you to the next level."

Looking in the mirror, he sees a guy who "never backs down, is relentless, who never gives up," he said.

And at this point, it really doesn't matter which country's flag flies beside your name. ■

The partners of

ROSE, PERSIKO, RAKOWSKY, MELVIN LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

are delighted to announce that

Jonathan Burshtein and **Ronald Davidzon**
(formerly of Davidzon Burshtein LLP)

have joined the firm as partners effective January 1, 2016
and will continue their respective law practices in the areas of specialty described below

Rose Persiko Rakowsky Melvin LLP is a boutique law firm specializing in real estate and commercial law, including real estate acquisitions and development, commercial mortgage lending and other secured transactions, commercial leasing, mortgage remedies, general corporate and commercial law, commercial litigation, wills and estate planning.

Allan A. Rakowsky	Direct Line: 416-868-1905	Email: alrak@rprlaw.com
Ronald B. Melvin	Direct Line: 416-868-1908	Email: rbmelvin@rprlaw.com
Jonathan Burshtein	Direct Line: 416-868-1913	Email: jburshtein@rprlaw.com
Ronald Davidzon	Direct Line: 416-868-1914	Email: rdavidzon@rprlaw.com

Counsel: Marvin Arnold, Q.C.

390 Bay Street, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2Y2
Phone: 416-868-1900 Fax: 416-868-1708
www.rprlaw.com

FLORIDA, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, CANADA
WE SEND YOUR CAR & CONTENTS (and return)
CALL 416-225-7754
www.torontodriveaway.com
TORONTO DRIVEAWAY AND TRUCK SERVICE
5803 Yonge St., #101
North York M2M 3V5
Since 1959

Canadian documentary nominated for an Oscar

CJN STAFF AND JTA

A self-financed Canadian documentary, made by first-time, Toronto-based filmmaker Adam Benzine, has been nominated for an Academy Award.

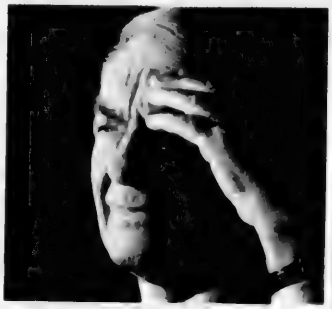
Benzine's 40-minute film, *Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah*, has been nominated in the best documentary short subject category, marking an incredible 12 months for one of the most successful Canadian films of 2015.

Benzine served as the film's writer, producer and director. In addition to its Oscar nomination, the film has been the subject of multiple North American bidding wars, resulting in sales to the CBC and other major broadcasters internationally. The film had its world premiere at Toronto's Hot Docs film festival in April 2015, where it received an honourable mention in the best mid-length documentary category.

In other Oscar news, the Hungarian Holocaust film *Son of Saul* was nominated for best foreign film.

Son of Saul, which tells the story of a Jewish concentration camp inmate forced to help cremate his fellow prisoners, won the Golden Globe on Jan. 10 for best foreign language film.

Other Jewish Oscar nominees include Steven Spielberg, producer and director of *Bridge of Spies*, which made the short list for best picture. The film, which tells the story of a Cold War prisoner exchange, is based on a screenplay by filmmaker brothers Joel and Ethan Coen.



Claude Lanzmann is the subject of Adam Benzine's Oscar-nominated documentary.

Also in the running is Israel-born super producer Arnon Milchan, whose Leonardo DiCaprio thriller *The Revenant* is in contention for best picture.

Jennifer Jason Leigh was nominated as best supporting actress for her role in the *The Hateful Eight*, about eight strangers seeking refuge from a blizzard during the American Civil War.

The documentary *Amy*, about the British Jewish singer Amy Winehouse, was nominated for best documentary.

The announcements were made last week in a ceremony in Los Angeles. The 88th Academy Awards ceremony will be held Feb. 28 in Los Angeles. ■

Phyllis Lambert wins 'Israeli Nobel'

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Montreal architect and urban heritage activist Phyllis Lambert is this year's winner of Israel's $100,000 (US) Wolf Prize for the Arts. She was cited for her six decades of championing innovation in building design and preservation of properties of patrimonial significance, as well as invigorating the profession and research into architecture.

Lambert, founder of the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in 1989, is among seven recipients of the 2016 Wolf Prizes, working in five fields, mostly the sciences and medicine.

The prizes will be presented in June by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in a ceremony at the Knesset.

In announcing the laureates on Jan. 13, the Wolf Foundation described Lambert's fearless and multi-faceted role over a long period.

"Playing all possible roles of designer, planner, artist, writer, photographer, curator, museum director, patron and philanthropist, she ultimately stands for professional rigour and esthetic elegance, but also for intellectual doubt and political critique.

"From the mid-1950s to the present, she has been vigorously involved in the realization of seminal innovative buildings, exemplary urban preservation and regeneration projects and leading architectural research institutes."

Lambert, now founding director emeritus of the CCA, said, "I am thrilled to be the recipient of the highly esteemed Wolf Prize for the arts. It is a superb consummation for decades of passionate work."

Phyllis Lambert

Lambert, 88, launched her career in the 1950s when her father, distiller Samuel Bronfman, entrusted her with overseeing the design of the Seagram building in New York, whose chief architect was the famous Mies van der Rohe.

The awards have been dubbed the country's Nobel Prize or the "pre-Nobel" because a significant number of laureates have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

Lambert is the 11th Canadian to win a Wolf Prize, and only one other, Frank Gehry, has been for architecture, an arts category that rotates every four years among music, painting and sculpture.

"Every day from my office window at Westmount Square – a modernist gem designed by Mies van der Rohe, an architect introduced to North America by Ms. Lambert – I thank her for her outstanding contribution to Montreal's architectural heritage," said Consul General Ziv Nevo Kulman. ■

AUTHORS & POETS

The CJN is pleased to announce its

Annual Passover Literary Supplement

CJN

We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.

Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:

cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com

We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

La TRAVIATA
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA

Minestrone soup, the other Jewish penicillin at La Traviata

Buy 1 entrée, get 1 FREE!

With the purchase of any appetizer. The free entrée must be of equal or lesser value. Not valid with any other offer. This coupon has no cash value. Expires Feb. 20/2016. Not valid on Saturdays

Accepting reservations 7 days a week!

852 Wilson Avenue North York, ON
416 635 8891 www.latraviata.ca

WE PAY TOP PRICE FOR YOUR JEWELLERY AND YOUR TIME

Bring your Gold, Diamonds & Jewellery for a Free Evaluation & Get Paid $50.00 per hour for your Time*

Everything is done in front of you & your jewellery never leaves your sight

There is no obligation to sell, but we will *GUARANTEE HIGHEST PRICE IF YOU DO*

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

MCD JEWELLERY

BUY • SELL • TRADE

2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

*By Appointment Only Certain Conditions Apply Phone to Enquire

A kids' Holocaust story with a difference

CYNTHIA GASNER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The Last Train, A Holocaust Story, the latest book by Rona Arato, is based on the memories of her husband, Paul Auslander, about his family's horrific journey from Hungary after they were forced from ghetto to work camps to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and finally to the death train from which they were miraculously saved.

Arato, author of 15 fiction and non-fiction children's books, winner of the Norman Fleck Award for children's non-fiction and many other awards, told *The CJN* that Paul was five years old when the Nazis occupied his hometown of Karcag in Hungary in April 1944. For the next year, Paul, his 11-year-old brother, Oscar, and his ailing mother endured the atrocities of the Holocaust.

After the war, the family returned to Hungary, where Paul's father was a high school teacher. The country was then under Soviet rule, and the family name was changed from Auslander, which is German, to Arato, because the Communist government insisted that teachers have Hungarian names.

Paul escaped to Canada after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

Arato said her husband hesitated to speak about his childhood memories until the spring of 2008 when he stumbled upon photographs on his computer of the train from which thousands of Jewish prisoners, including his own family, were saved more than 60 years earlier.

"The picture on the screen showed a woman running toward a camera, arms outstretched, her face a mask of surprise. What caught my husband's attention was in the backdrop – the abandoned freight train," Arato said.

Two American soldiers were on a reconnaissance mission in Germany, she explained, when they drove their tank out of the forest and found the abandoned train filled with 2,500 prisoner-survivors from Bergen-Belsen.

"The German guards had dropped their guns and run off. The [American] men called for backup, and the soldiers in their division got the people off the train and took care of them."

Matt Rozell, a high school teacher in Hudson Falls, N.Y., posted the pictures on the computer when he started a living history project on the saving of the Jews on the abandoned train.

Rozell was planning a reunion of the soldiers and the survivors, and he asked them to contact him. The Aratos responded, and subsequently attended the reunion at Rozell's high school in Hudson Falls.

Arato, who lives in Toronto, is a sought-after speaker on human rights issues including discrimination, bullying, slavery, genocide and immigration. From 1994 to 1998, she interviewed Holocaust survivors for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

Recently, Arato did a presentation to Alberta schools in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Calgary. "I basically conducted my own Holocaust Education Week," she said. "Most of the students are Christian, and their reception to the book is amazing."

The Last Train is only the second non-fiction book to ever win a Rocky Mountain Book Award. The other was

Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine.

"I introduce these subjects to children in a careful way that they can relate to and understand in the context of their own lives," Arato said.

"Paul became ill while I was writing *The Last Train* and passed away three months after it was published. He was at the launch and was very proud of the book."

Although *The Last Train, A Holocaust Story* was written for children and students, it can be appreciated by adult readers who can visualize the events of the Holocaust through the eyes of young survivors. ■

For more information visit www.ronaarato.com.

Cooking and baking with fruit for Tu b'Shvat

SYBIL KAPLAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

It will soon be Tu b'Shvat – on Jan. 25, this year – and the fruits that are now in season in Israel are apples, persimmons, some strawberries (although beautiful, they are expensive) and several varieties of oranges.

One usually thinks of dates, figs and carob for Tu b'Shvat, the fruits of Eretz Yisrael, but for variety, here are some recipes using oranges and nectarines.

Orange juice salad dressing

- ❑ 3/4 cup oil
- ❑ 6 tbsp. orange juice
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. sugar
- ❑ pinch dry mustard

Combine oil, orange juice, sugar and mustard in a jar. Shake well. Good on salad with lettuce, avocado and grapefruit.

Syrian orange chicken

- ❑ 1 tbsp. margarine
- ❑ 1 tbsp. oil
- ❑ 1 cut-up chicken
- ❑ 1/2 cup orange juice
- ❑ 1 cup chicken soup
- ❑ 1 1/2 tsp. corn starch
- ❑ 1/2 chopped onion
- ❑ juice of 1/2 lemon
- ❑ 6-9 halved, pitted dates
- ❑ orange slices

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a baking dish. Heat margarine and oil in a frying pan and brown chicken. Place in the baking dish.

Add orange juice, chicken soup, corn starch, onion and lemon juice to frying pan and cook, stirring, until sauce thickens. Pour over chicken.

Cover and bake in preheated oven 45 minutes. Garnish with dates and orange slices, cover, and bake at least 15 minutes or until chicken is done. Good served with rice. Makes 4 servings.

Nectarine spice cake

- ❑ 6 seeded, peeled, cut-up nectarines
- ❑ 1/3 cup canola oil
- ❑ 3 eggs
- ❑ 1 cup brown sugar
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. ginger
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- ❑ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ❑ 1 3/4 cups flour
- ❑ 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- ❑ 1/2 cup non-dairy creamer

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a cake pan or two loaf pans, or place mini-papers in a mini-muffin pan and spray with vegetable spray.

Place nectarine pieces, oil, eggs and brown sugar in a mixer or food processor and blend a few seconds.

Add ginger, cinnamon, vanilla, flour, baking powder and non-dairy creamer and blend.

Spoon into baking pans. Bake in preheated oven 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.

For a larger quantity, you can double the recipe. ■

YIDDISH CORNER

פֿאַרוואָס האָט מענדעלע – דער זיידע פֿון אונדזער מאָדערנע יידישער ליטעראַטור– געשריבן אויף יידיש אַנשטאָט עברית?

GERRY KANE
yankele635@gmail.com

אידער מענדעלע מוכר ספֿרים זײַנען נישט געווען קיין דערהויבענע שרײַבער אויף יידיש. יידיש האָט מען נעהאַלטן אין אַ וויבערשע שפּראַך און וואָס מען האָט געדרוקט אויף יידיש איז נאָר געווען פֿאַר וויבער – נישט געלערנטע מענטשן. אָבער מענדעלע האָט פֿאַרשטאַנען אַנדערש. אָט דרוק איך איבער די סיבות פֿאַרוואָס ער האָט געוואָס מאַמע לשון.

"איך קוק זיך צו צום לעבן פֿון מײַן פֿאָלק און איך וויל אים געבן ספֿורים פֿון יידישן קולטור אויף דער הייליקער שפּראַך. דער רוב אָבער פֿאַרשטייט דאָך נישט די דאָזיקע שפּראַך, זי רײַדן אויף עברי־טײַטש, און וואָס קומט אַרויס דעם שרײַבער פֿון זײַן נאָכצער אַרבעט און פֿון זײַן דענקען, אויב ער ברענגט דערמיט נישט קיין נוץ זײַן פֿאָלק?

די דאָזיקע פֿראָגע: פֿאַר וועמען אַרבעט איך? האָט מיך נישט געלאָזט רוען און האָט מיך נעבראכט אין גרויס פֿאַרלעגנהײַט. וואָרום די יידישע שרפֿאך אין מײַן צײַט איז דאָן נעווען אַ פּוסטע כלי, נישט געווען אין איר קיין שום נוסע שיינע זאַך, אַחורן שפּעטערײַ, נאָרישקײַטן און פּלאָפֿלעריײַן, די אַרבעט פֿון נאָרישע לײַט, וואָס האָבן נישט געקאָנט רעדן וויִ מענטשן און האָבן קיין שום נאָמען נישט געהאַט. און די וויבער און די פֿראָסטאַקעס האָבן דאָס געלייענט און נישט פֿאַרשטאַנען וואָס זיי לייענען, און די איבעריקע פֿון פֿאָלק–כאָטש זיי האבן נישט געקענט קיין אַנדער שפּראַך, האָבן זיך שטאַרק געשעמט צו לייענען זי, כדי נישט אַריינצוווײַזן דערמיט זייער אָפּגעשטאַנענקייט.

און אויב איינער האָט נישט געקענט ביישטאיין דעם יצר־הרע און עפּעס געלייענט אויף יידיש, האָט ער אַליין געלאַכט און זיך פֿאַרענטפֿערט: אָט קוק איך אַריין אין די "וויבערשע ביכלעך", וואָס עס לייענען די נאָרישע נקבות, אָט מאַך איך מיר אַ שפּאָס. און אונדזערע שרײַבער, בעלי הלשון, וואָס האָבן נאָר אינזינען נעהאַט די הייליקע שפּראַך און זיך נישט אינטערעסירט מיסן פֿאָלק – האָבן נעקוקט אויף יידיש פֿון אויבן אַראָפּ און מיט גרויס שפּאָס. און אויב איינער פֿון צען האָט זיך אמאָל דערמאָנט אָן דער "פֿאַרשאָלטענער" און האָט עפּעס וואָס אָנגעשריבן, האָבן זיי עס באַהאַלטן אונטער זיבן שלעסער, כדי זייער שאַנד זאָל נישט אַנטפּלעקט ווערן און עס זאָל נישט שאַטן זייער גוטן נאָמען.

און ווי גרויס איז דעריבער געווען מײַן פֿאַרלעגנהײַט, אַז איך האָב זיך דערמאָנט, אז אויב איך וועל מיך אַריינלאָזן אין דער "אומוויסנדיקער שפּראַך וועט מײַן כבוד זיך באַדעקן מיט שאַנד. איך האָב אויך אויסגעהערט די שטראָף־רייד פֿון מײַנע פֿאַרערער די "חכמי הלשון העברית" פֿאַר דעם, וואָס איך וועל פֿאַרשווענכן מײַן נאָמען און כּבוד צוישן יידן, אָפּגעבנדיק מײַנע כוחות דער דאָזיקער פֿרעמדער שפּראַך. אָבער די ליבשאפֿט צום נצליכן האָט אין מיר מנצח געווען דעם פּוסקן כבוד און איך האָב זיך באשלאָסן: זאָל זײַן וואָס עס וויל, איך וועל זיך דערבאַרעמען אויף יידיש, די פֿאַרשטיסענע סאָכטער, און וועל טאָן פֿאַרן פֿאָלק."

וואָס וואָלט מענדעלע געסאָן הײַנט פֿאַרן פֿאָלק? עס זײַנען דאָ וויניק יידיש רעדנער און לייענער. מע לערנט נישט די יידישע שפּראַך אין די מערסטע פֿון אונדזערע שולעס. אָפֿילו אויב ער וואָלט געשריבן אין דער הייליקער שפּראַך וואָלט ער נישט געפֿונען קיין עולם. אונדזערע יונגע לײַט אין קאַנאַדע און אַמעריקע האָבן קיין נרע נישט פֿאַר אַן אַנדער שפּראַך ווי ענגליש. אַפֿשר איז ענגליש, אויסער ישראל, דאָס מאַמע לשון פֿאַר דעם היינטיקן ייִד.

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a **customized wealth management strategy** focused on consistent, long-term growth.

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise, CFP
Director, Wealth Management
Senior Wealth Adviser

416-945-4983
joshua.wise@scotiawealth.com
www.thewiseinvestmentgroup.ca

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management

Daniel Hope:

The Royal Conservatory

THURS. JAN. 28, 2016 8PM
KOERNER HALL

"Adventurous and brilliant"
(The New York Times violinist)
Daniel Hope honours the frontier
by performing Menuhin's signature pieces
including works by Bach, Mendelssohn
Walton, Ravel, Bartók, and more

Generously supported by Helen Sinclair & Ray Cahan

WWW.PERFORMANCE.RCMUSIC.CA

GUEST VOICE

Five things about raising older boys I didn't expect

Mayim Bialik

My boys are seven and 10, and so many of the troubles of being a mom of young kids are finally over now, thank goodness! But as they say, small kids small problems, big kids big problems.

Here are the top five astounding things I didn't realize older kids would end up doing:

Call You Out On Your Crap: When I used to lose my mind and use a loud "outside" voice because I lost my patience and could not fathom negotiating whatever it was I had to negotiate, my kids would typically cry or clam up, or have some other reaction that would make me feel horrible. Then, I would apologize and call a friend or a mentor and ask why I am such a bad mom. And then we would move on.

Now that my kids are older, they call me out on that crap. They'll say things like, "Why are you yelling? That's not cool." Or, "You're so frustrating, Mom!" And I'm not implying that they are being sassy or disrespectful. They simply are old enough to have conversations about how you treat them in ways that are very sobering.

Tell On You: In a similar and related vein, they are now old enough to tell the other parents on you. It doesn't matter that I'm divorced. In particular, my older son makes it very clear to let his dad know right in front of me that I yelled at him. God love my ex, he usually just stares at me while saying to our son, "OK."

Have Very Strong Opinions About Clothing: I have always dressed my boys snazzily just because it's in my genes to like vests and blazers and argyle socks, even if you are dressing a tiny person. I guess it caught on, because my boys now like dressing this way. Unfortunately, this has become more of an issue as they get older, not less. It's not just girls who are picky about clothes, apparently. Right down to the Target T-shirt they wear, both of my boys feel a strong need to vote on every item of clothing in a way I never anticipated them doing.

Defend Each Other: A lot of times, I'm far from perfect as a mom. Sometimes, I raise my voice or make bad mama decisions. It happens. Often it's because I am stressed out and have not replenished my resources and I end up being rude or snarky or snippy with my poor kids. But something that happens with older kids is that they defend each other when you're not being kind to one of them in a big or small way.

For example, if I ask Firstborn to stop playing piano and clean up his room, Little Man will see how upset Firstborn is and say, "Let him play, Mama!" Or if I yell (argh, of course I sometimes do) at one, the other one will say, "Stop yelling!" and that stops me in my tracks. It makes me feel really trapped because it's like always potentially battling two people instead of one, but mostly it makes me feel thrilled that they care enough for each other's welfare that they want to take care of each other this way.

Pull Away: It happens. It's already started happening. It's normal. It's biological. It's OK. It has to be OK. I feel like I am being given the choice every time I am with them: either be the mom who's cool with the changes and just roll with them, or point out to them at every opportunity how rejected and lonely I feel without their cuddles and constant love and be that mom.

I'm trying to roll with it all. When we are alone, I get more attention than when we are in public. And now I'm finding new ways to make my boys laugh and entertain them, because my hugs and kisses aren't enough anymore. Time to watch movies together–but not cuddle too much or too close–and time to let them explore being young men.

I can do it all, right? If I can carry them for 40 weeks in my belly, I can do all of this. If I can give birth to them and nurse them and hold them every time they cried and make everything better every minute God gave me, I can mother older boys, right? ■

kveller.com

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DOMCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-3457

Mazel tov to Julia & Ben Golinsky on your 64th wedding anniversary on Jan. 13! Love and kisses from your children and grandchildren.

Happy birthday Tess Sperber on her 95th birthday! Love, Judy, Phil, Lianne, Shawn, Sharon, Teddy, Jeremy, Evan, Dylan, Steven, Lianne, Nicole, Jordan and Tori!

Happy 95th birthday Joe Peretz. You are our inspiration! With love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mazel tov!

It is such a blessing to have you in our lives, Ralph Etigson! Happy 100th birthday! We love you! Your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to [illegible] thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Bernie Farber, Avrum Rosensweig, Jeff and Carol Grosman, Patti Falus, Susie Sokol, Kathy Laszlo, Michael Dan and Hedy Bohm

Tony Alberga, Shad, Mel Cohen and Norman Levine

Renee Bleeman and Ron Bernbaum

"And you shall love"

Ve'ahavta held its 13th annual gala – "The Starry Nights Tikun Olam Awards Ceremony" – recently, celebrating local individuals who have gone to extraordinary lengths to serve their communities. MCed by Shad, the host of CBC Radio's *q*, guests were entertained with performances by bands Digging Roots and Jaffa Road. This year's gala raised approximately $550,000 which will go to support Ve'ahavta's poverty alleviation programs. ■ – *The Socialite*

Debbie Estrin and Steve Tissenbaum

Henry Calderon, Andrina Matthie, Bri Trypuc and Ana Sokoli

Marika and Bill Glied, Samantha Glied-Beliak, Rafi Yablonsky, Tammy Glied, Robert Beliak and Jeremy Glied-Beliak

Avrum Rosensweig and Dena Libman

Cheryl and Saul Hafner and Fran Grundman

Michael Dan and Leslie Dan

DFM SERVICES PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

• Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dessie Restaurant Required

What's New

JAN. 21- JAN. 28

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Jan. 21

ISRAEL AND ITS ENEMIES
Mordechai Kedar discusses "Israel and its enemies," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Presented by Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.

YORKVILLE LUNCH AND LEARN
Yacov Fruchter meets with people in their 20s and 30s for Jewish learning at Rive Gauche Media, 920 Yonge St., 12:15 p.m. Email yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org or 416-781-3514, ext. 279.

FRUMBA CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers Frumba classes, noon. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

TMJ SOCIETY OF CANADA
TMJ (Temporomandibular Joint) Society of Canada meets at Temple Sinai, 7 p.m. to discuss "Experiences with vitamins and minerals in dealing with TMJ." Email tmjscanada@gmail.com

Saturday, Jan. 23

RAMAH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
New and returning campers in grades 1-4 are invited to a Tu b'Shvat celebration at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $5 (includes dinner). RSVP www.campramah.com

SHABBAT UNPLUGGED
Beth David Synagogue offers Shabbat Unplugged, 2-7 p.m. with board games, activities in the gym, learning opportunities for adults, musical Havdalah. Free but register at www.bethdavid.com

FAMILY NIGHT OUT
Hypnotist **Jeff West** performs at Beth Emeth Synagogue, 7 p.m. Movie night for younger children. $18 for adults, $10 for children under 18. RSVP by Jan. 21. 416-633-3838.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Feb. 4 is Jan. 25. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

JACKSON KRULE PHOTO

Representing Toronto

Toronto teens, front row from left, Molly Pascoe, Sarah Schacht, Yona Grossman, Josh Sahian, and back row, Maya Blankenstein, Josh Arbess, Sarit Bitnun, Josh Bienstock, Breanne Bornstein, Michael Roytenberg, Elian Rubineau and Ayelet Seed, and Eastern Canada Region United Synagogue Youth (USY) youth director Max Marmer joined 700 other teenagers from across North America last month to celebrate USY's 65th international convention in Baltimore.

SHABBAT SHIRAH CONCERT
Sam Glaser and **Cantor Simon Spiro** perform at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 8 p.m. Tickets, $25/$36. Sam Glaser performs again in a concert for young people, Jan. 24, 4 p.m. Free but reservations required at 416-781-3511.

Sunday, Jan. 24

ANTI-SEMITISM ON CAMPUS
Temple Har Zion and the Centre for Jewish Culture and Education present a workshop on how to combat anti-Semitism on campus, 10 a.m.

TU B'SHVAT SEDER
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism with First Nations leader **Kim Wheatley** holds a Tu b'Shvat seder, 7:30 p.m. Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. RSVP 416-385-3910.

LEARNING FOR WOMEN
Sarah Gordon discusses "Sin, power and missed opportunities: the story of David and Avigayil"; **Rabbi Yair Halevi** discusses "Eretz Yisrael: more than a land," Yeshivat Or Chaim, 10 a.m. 647-234-7299.

TIKKUN OLAM
Chabad of Markham distributes coffee and warm clothes downtown, 1:30 p.m.

VOICES IN THE ARAB WORLD
Mordechai Kedar discusses "The other voice in the Arab world," 10:30 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. Brunch, $10.

Monday, Jan. 25

LEGAL ETHICS
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Legal ethics: the rules of ethical advertising," 7 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

WHAT I DID WITH MY SPARE KIDNEY
Living donor **John Anhang** discusses his experience, along with **Sam Marr**, an organ donor recipient, 7 p.m., Beth Torah Congregation. Free, but RSVP communications@bethtorah.ca.

INCLUSION NEWS
Parent to parent forum, 7:30 p.m. at the DANI Centre with **Dr. Paula David, Kathy Laszlo, Bonnie Heath, Susan Moore** and **Chaya Perman**. RSVP ssokol@dani-toronto.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

ADATH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB
Author **Risa Klarman** discusses her book *The Gods of Love and Murder*, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Synagogue. $10/$15. **Beverley**, 416-499-6920.

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Belle and Sebastian*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

THREE MINUTES IN POLAND
Glen Kurtz discusses his book, *Three Minutes in Poland*, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

SAFETY FOR SENIORS
A police sergeant discusses safety for seniors, including fraud, traffic safety and crime prevention, 10:30 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. Free but RSVP 416-633-3838.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs are looking for volunteers to visit and support individuals with a life-threatening illness and their families. A 30-hour training course is provided, starting Feb. 8. Contact **Arnold Foss**, 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or afoss@circleofcare.com.

BEBY'S BUBALEHS
Beth Emeth Synagogue offers an 8-week program with songs, stories and crafts for children ages 1 to 2-1/2 and a caregiver, 11 a.m.-noon. $72. Program runs Jan. 29-March 18. RSVP by Jan. 27. 416-633-3838.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

60+ SINGLES

Meet other Jewish singles, 60 and older and enjoy the music of Klez Konnection, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. $18. RSVP 416-781-3511 by Jan. 25.

BREAKING THE STIGMA

A panel of experts including **Dr. Marshall Korenblum**, **Dr. Lesley Wiesenfeld** discuss "Depression and suicide in the Jewish community," Feb. 4, 7 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

ANXIETY IN ADOLESCENCE

Dr. David Kreindler, head of youth psychiatry at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, and social worker **Linda Conn** discuss "Anxiety and depression in adolescence," Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free but RSVP required, 416-221-3433.

YAZIDI STORIES

Learn about the Yazidi people of Iraq who are threatened by genocide, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., Toronto Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. RSVP jewsandfriendsofyezidis@gmail.com

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Mind, body connection for women: A 7-session group for women who want to learn mindfulness and meditation, Jan. 26, 1 p.m. or Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS

Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call **Beth Feffer**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155

Comedian **Jack Newman** looks at the history of Jewish comedians, Jan. 21. Doors open at 1 p.m., program at 1:30 p.m.

Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at **noon**.

Play board games in a friendly atmosphere, Jan. 21, 11 a.m. RSVP.

Tu b'Shvat seder – enjoy Hebrew songs, readings and ceremonial foods, Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m.

- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. Jan. 24, concert with Resa's Pieces Band, 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 26, **Myriam Shechter** discusses "Great operatic tearjerkers: Verdi's *La Traviata*," 10 a.m.; Jan. 28, wellness lecture on "Pearls of wisdom from a physiotherapist's perspective," 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, Thursdays, noon.
- **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
- **Adath Israel Congregation**. Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
- **Shaar Shalom Synagogue**. Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- **Beth Emeth Synagogue**. Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.
- **Temple Har Zion**. Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- **Beth Tzedec Synagogue**. **Yakov Fruchter** discusses issues of interest to seniors, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.

- **Beth Sholom Synagogue**. Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Film appreciation program, "As time goes by," Wednesdays to Jan. 27, 1 p.m.
- Yiddish conversation, Mondays, to March 14, 1:30 p.m.
- Bridge level 1, Thursdays, Jan. 21-March 10, 10 a.m.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- Subscribe now to the Toronto Jewish Film Society's 38th season, ext. 139.
- Jewish Film Society screens *Simon and the Oaks*, Jan. 24, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker **Adam Nayman**. Box office opens one hour before the show.
- It's not too late to register for the Hebrew Institute for adults, Hebrew beginners to advanced conversation and Yiddish. Ext. 386.
- Register for winter Shabbat family party (children to age 4 with an adult), Fridays mornings, 10 or 11:15 a.m.
- Tu b'Shvat Groove, Jan. 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Wychwood Barns. Celebration for children aged 0-12. RSVP Sheri@djds.ca
- Celebrate Tu b'Shvat, Jan. 25, with a craft activity, 4:30 p.m.
- Kat-Ka team, Jan. 31, 1 p.m. for grades 2-8. Experience Israel and Jewish values with Camp Gesher/Habonim Dror.
- **Shlomo Schwartzberg** presents a lecture series on "Jewish sensibility in Hollywood films," Mondays to Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.
- Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays until Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Body positive storytelling: accessible theatre for youth aged 16-24 of all abilities. Free. Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.
- From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Ext. 567.
- Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- *Resilience*, textiles by **Sheila Thompson,** is on display at the gallery until Jan. 27. Reception, Jan. 21, 4-6 p.m.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

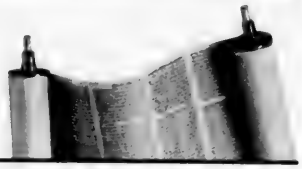
Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Bridge, level 1, Jan. 26-March 29, 10 a.m.
- The hidden story of the songs of Israel, a workshop by the Royal Conservatory of Music, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. ■

Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016 Toronto's Best Housewares Store
20 YEAR
Cuisinart
6 Slice Bake, Broil and Toast
Digital, Convection Toaster Oven
Fits a 12" Pizza ○ Auto-Off ○ Easy Clean Non-Stick Interior ○ 3 Year Warranty
Lowest Price In Ontario
139.99
Compare at 199.99
Save 30%
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DOWCASTER, Thornhill, Ont. One Traffic Light North of Steeles Ave. East of Yonge St.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat+Sun 10-8
BRIDAL REGISTRY

Parshah

Beshalach | Exodus 13:17-17:16



Rabbi Aaron Katchen reflects on the role of trees in our tradition ahead of Tu b'Shvat
Rabbi Michal Shekel argues that we shouldn't wait for God to do everything for us
Rabbi Howard Morrison examines the connection between unity and diversity

Aaron Katchen

"Blessed are You... Ruler of the universe, who did not leave anything lacking in His world and created in it goodly creatures and goodly trees to give pleasure to people" (blessing from the siddur).

Happy New Year, trees. In a couple of days, we will celebrate Tu b'Shvat, the New Year for the trees. This holiday originally related to the Temple in Jerusalem and the taxation and usage of trees. The day has since been reinterpreted and re-contextualized throughout the millennia, from the Kabbalists to the Zionists, to the environmentalists.

Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook, son of the first chief rabbi of pre-state Israel, provides an interesting insight into trees and our tradition. He juxtaposes the blessing cited above (that is said in the springtime, upon seeing a blossoming tree in the Jewish month of Nissan), with a story found in the Mishnah (Avot 3:9): "Rabbi Yacov taught: one who is reviewing their [Torah] studies while walking along the way and interrupts their study to exclaim, 'How splendid this tree is!' 'How fair this field is!' Scripture considers it as if they have forfeited their soul."

It would initially seem that Rabbi Yacov views anything that separates a person from the study of Torah to be a distraction. But the younger Rabbi Kook has a different response. He believes Rabbi Yacov is warning against compartmentalization and separation, from separating our inner spiritual life of Torah from our connection to the wonders of the world, and vice versa. We need to integrate the beauty of nature – "How splendid this tree is" – within the context of Torah. We need to recognize that this natural beauty appears within Torah and through it. For the Torah itself is called a "tree of life for all who hold to it" (Proverbs 3:18). ■

Rabbi Aaron Katchen, who is based in Toronto, directs Ask Big Questions Canada in partnership with Hillel.

Michal Shekel

Parshat Beshalach provides the climax of an immense struggle – our God versus Egypt's supreme deity, personified by Pharaoh. We know the result as, having crossed the Sea of Reeds, we sing of God's might. Throughout Beshalach, we witness God's feats that provide us with security and sustenance.

There is an additional message in the parshah that we are slow to learn. It occurs as we face the Sea of Reeds with the Egyptians closing in on us. Moses exhorts us to be courageous and trust in God's power and protection. Yet God has a surprising response for Moses: "Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward" (Exodus 14:15). Moses is told to raise his arm and hold out his staff so that the sea will part.

Surely this choreography isn't necessary in order for God to perform wonders! "Why do you cry out to Me?" is a lesson as to what is expected of us: don't wait for God to do everything for you. It is a nudge toward independence for a newly freed people who are used to having every aspect of their life controlled.

Old habits die hard. Experiencing a miraculous crossing is not enough for us. We proceed to grumble about a lack of food and water. Lo and behold, God provides. But in order to turn the bitter waters of *marah* into a sweet elixir, Moses must toss a piece of wood into it. When given manna, we must collect it according to specific guidelines. Still later, God instructs Moses to strike a rock to produce water. In each instance there is an additional step that requires human action.

As we slowly march away from the Sea of Reeds, we begin to learn that maintaining freedom requires our active participation. ■

Rabbi Michal Shekel is the executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Har Tikvah Congregation in Brampton, Ont.

Howard Morrison

Parshat Beshalach celebrates the miracle of the Exodus from Egypt. The song of deliverance and the crossing of the Sea of Reeds are contained in this portion. I marvel when scientific questions are posed about events portrayed in the Torah. One obvious question is how could hundreds of thousands of Israelites begin crossing the sea at one point and end up at the same finishing point?

A midrash suggests that when the Israelites were in the midst of the crossing the sea, each tribe was gathered unto itself in a glass-like transparent structure. In this way, each tribe could look through and keep itself in close proximity to all the other tribes. Homiletically, this explains how all the tribes of Israel came out together as one.

There are many lessons in this midrash. While each tribe was autonomous, each saw itself as being connected to a larger definition of peoplehood. So, too, throughout Jewish history, our peoplehood has expressed itself through ideological, cultural, and geographical diversity. In the best of times, however, the unity of our people has been blessed by the richness of its diversity. Today, Klal Yisrael is enriched by Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews whose diversity is based on custom, culture and geography. Klal Yisrael is also enriched by the ideological diversity of serious Jews, be they affiliated with Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative or Orthodox branches of Judaism.

A couple of days after Shabbat Shirah, when the Exodus narrative is read, we will celebrate Tu b'Shvat. My hope and prayer is that all segments of the Jewish People will see themselves as did the tribes of Israel during the crossing of the sea, in transparent structures, so that we may converse with each other and stay close to each other. All Jews are branches on an Etz Chaim, a tree of life, whose foundation is rooted in God, Torah and Israel. ■

Rabbi Howard Morrison is senior rabbi – Mara D'Atra at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

YONGE AND EGLINGTON 1 BED + DEN
Spectacular views from the 45th flr. Large open space. Hardwood flrs. S/s appliances. Locker. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

THE PERFECT YONGE & EGLINTON CONDO IS HERE!
$414,900! Gorgeous 1 Bdrm Condo At The 'Republic by Tridel'. Luxury Finishes, Incl. SOLD +Lckr. Steps To All First Class Amenities, Shops&Transit. Call For More Info! Don't Miss! Daniel Milstein at 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/SHEPPARD BOUTIQUE STYLE CONDO
$304,900! Lowest Price In Shans Baghai Bldg, High End Finishes, Great Facilities, Close To Shopping, Subway, Highways. Ingrid Hemmerich* 416-226-1987

ONE BEDROOM PH IN HI DEMAND LOCATION
255K! Spectacular+Panoramic Clear View W/Lrg Balc. Excellent Facilities, Exercise Room, Indoor Pool, Media Room, Sauna. Walking Distance To Ttc, Don Mills Subway. Ferey Deyhim-Gouran* 416-226-1987

150 HEATH ST. BOUTIQUE BLDG FOREST HILL
999K! 2 Bedroom, 1935 Sq. Ft. Large Living Room/Dining Room Rarely Available. Converted To Forced Air Gas. Valet Prkg. Mark Cowan* 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

1ST ADS! 310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE + 320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Just Completed! Condo Style Living W/Incredible Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br, 2+1Br! From $1,710 - $4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

4 BEDROOM 5 BATH 50X120' LOT CUL DE SAC LUXURY HOME
Feature Huge Master Bdrm W/ W/O Sep. Bsmt. Apt. Mint Cond. Alarm Sys, Huge Rooms, Fireplace, Kitchen. Recently Reno'd. * D.C Wesswasser* 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

1ST AD! 3028 BATHURST ST! JUST S/LAWRENCE!
$4,000/Mo! Incredible Opportunity! Approx 950' Storefront W/ Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2 Car Prkg! Currently Used As Restaurant! Don't Miss!
Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available Feb/Mar.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

120 Shelborne
1 bdrm from $1295.00 & 2 bdrm from $1595.00. Sabbath elevator, close to synagogues, school & shops.
New! Ladies & Men's gym
Children's Playroom
Ask for Mila at Medallion Corporation
Call 416-256-0660 or 416-782-4120

205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE

BATHURST / SHEPPARD RAVINE BUILDING LOT
SOLD Just Listed 50X125 SOLD
On Quiet Cul-De-Sac $980,000
JEFFREY JOSEPH, Broker
416-782-7000
jeffreyjoseph@realtor.com
Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Experienced middle aged caregiver /babysitter w/car. Speaks English, Hebrew, & Russian. 647-206-6724

Live-out Cert. PSW-CPR/First aid. Attend to daily activities. Drive to appointments, etc. Have van & refs. Felipa 647-868-4548

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath. & Wilson - 3 bdrm. house $1800 plus. available immediately Pls. call: 416-638-7218.

Bath. & Wilson - 4 bdrm. main floor of a house avail. immed., $2250 plus. 416-638-7218

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

Promenade Towers Bright & spacious upgraded 2 bdrm/2bath, 1239 sq.ft. unit. Walking distance to TTC & Promenade Mall. Asking $445,000. Call: Deena Tarnavsky, Royal Lepage Signature Realty - 416-617-6544

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-788-4887 / www.TwoNeptune.ca

370 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416-782-3302
www.bistrogrande.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.8144.

382 COUNSELLING

Experienced counsellor (personal, family, group). 416- 921-7887

385 COMPUTERS

Computer and tablet help. Reasonable. Mark 416-398-6712

395 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglung, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

480 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install. plus repairs on all models. Residential & commercial. 416-722-5225

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 21, 2016

Mark Rosenblum: peace advocate sees hope amid grim Mideast realities

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Mark Rosenblum is the founder of Americans for Peace Now (APN), sister organization of Shalom Achshav, which APN describes as Israel's pre-eminent peace movement. Rosenblum is a historian and professor at Queens College of the City University of New York, where he's also director of the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding and the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values and Social Change.

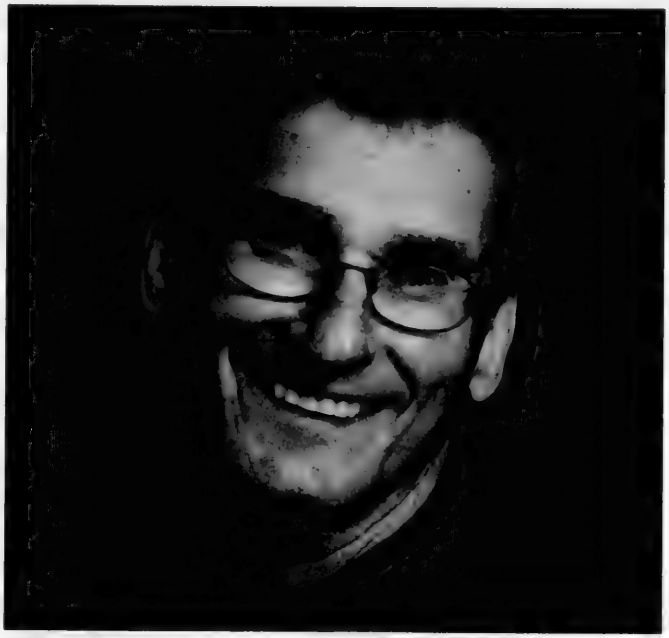
Rosenblum was in Toronto and Ottawa last fall to speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at events sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

What sorts of things did you speak about during your visit to Canada?

I talked about where hope resides in the present disastrous, cynical moment, and about needing to oppose ignoring the uphill struggle that people who believe in Israel will need to go through to make peace in a region that's imploding – a region with a Palestinian people who are divided ideologically and territorially. I also addressed the need to look at the harsh realities, but not give up hope, because in my mind there are elements of hope.

More specifically, I talked about the three fires burning right now in the Middle East:

- The local fire: Israel and Palestine. Jerusalem is burning. It's leaderless. We have an Israeli prime minister who has no vision of a way out and who wouldn't be willing to implement it if he did, and a Palestinian leader who seems to be lost, standing on one leg. Jerusalem is filled with terror and violence – the kind that has frightened Israelis and created a toxic environment.
- The regional fire: the great unraveling of the modern Middle East. The Arab state system is imploding. States are disintegrating, like Syria. In this vacuum of flailing states in the Arab/Muslim world, you have other forces that seem irredeemably monstrous led by the so-called Islamic State.
- The global fire: we have international institutions that aren't up to the job of managing, much less resolving, the local Israeli-Palestinian and regional conflicts, and the makings of a revived battle between blocs that could lead to a revived Cold War – Russia as a renewed power, working hand and glove with the Iranians.



Mark Rosenblum

Given all of this, do you believe a two-state solution is still feasible?

I think it's possible, but it won't happen by the two parties alone pulling themselves out of the mud and the blood. I don't think Israel and Palestine at this juncture have the will, capacity or leadership to make a substantive breakthrough on negotiating a permanent peace or two-state solution.

I say that right now, we have a four-state solution. We have Israel, then we have Israel's carving out of Judea and Samaria – this is in part with international recognition and in part a de facto annexation – and then we have two Palestinian entities that are enemies: one controlled by Hamas in Gaza and one by the Palestinian Authority in parts of the West Bank.

If anyone's in favour of a two-state solution, they'll have to engage in strange mathematics to get there. They'll have to subtract the Jewish de facto sub-state in the West Bank and have the Palestinians accept Israel and have a single Palestinian entity governing Gaza and the West Bank.

I think [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas don't simply lack the will to negotiate peace, I think for almost two years now, both have seen the price they'll have to pay for peace as too high and are just trying to manage the status quo and play the blame game.

> *I think [two states are] possible, but it won't happen by the two parties alone pulling themselves out of the mud and the blood.*

The local level is pretty grim, and the regional and international actors will have to intervene to make a difference.

I've talked about the Arab League peace initiative, which has been around since 2002, and about why it hasn't had traction and why it's not impossible

We ought to be looking at who the states and movements are who could actually change the Israel-Palestinian situation from its downward spiral of death. The Arab League peace initiative is a fascinating causeway to negotiate certain issues. It's possible Abbas will only move in the direction of peace in a regional context. He's lost the trust of a large segment of the Palestinian population and will need to have the cover of someone else from the Arab world with substance, influence and money in the international region to propose things. These proposals don't have to come from Israel or even the United States.

It's often argued in the pro-Israel camp that the Palestinian leadership isn't a viable peace partner. Do you think Abbas wants peace?

I think he wants peace, but in recent history in particular, he hasn't demonstrated that he's willing to make peace under terms necessary for both sides, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hasn't either.

We can go back to the historical moment of 2008. The narrative is that Abbas walked away from the best offer imaginable – made by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert – which even would have created an international body responsible for the sovereign rule of Jerusalem. I would say there's some truth to that narrative, but on the other hand, Abbas had his own domestic politics to consider.

Olmert was a standing corpse politically when he made the offer. He was under multiple investigations for crime, several of which would have driven him out of office. I'm not making excuses for Abbas, but I'm using what I've been told by interlocutors from negotiations that Abbas didn't have good incentive to sign this deal, because he wasn't going to get the benefits, that the prime minister wouldn't have been in power to implement it.

I'd still say that, at the end of the day, Abbas wants peace on his terms, and so far, he's not accepted the most generous peace deal the Israelis have offered.

Is the North American media biased against Israel, in your opinion?

I'd say, in general, it depends what you read. Israel has a much more problematic set of optics to cope with than the other side. For example, during the last Gaza war and the one before it, you had body bags in the four figures on the Palestinian side and less dead on the Jewish side.

The optics made it look like the Israelis are the perpetrators and the Palestinians are completely innocent victims. Of course, the reality is much more complicated. Palestinians have launched thousands of rockets at Israel.

But for the public that watches the body bag count and some of the more atrocious killings of Palestinians, particularly of non-combatants, it creates a visual that tends to put blame on the Israelis. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Sergei Eisenstein's continuing legacy: Orwell to The Hobbit

Backstory

EROL ARAF

Sergei Eisenstein's iconic but unfinished film *Que Viva Mexico* features captivating footage of the Mexican holiday called Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), when the deceased are honoured in public fiestas.

In a carnival of masked skeletons, macabre dances are performed with vampires in a state of trance, Lucifer waltzes with young maidens and the Archangel tangos with risen apparitions dressed in bowler hats and white bow ties. The children eat sugar skulls and candy marigolds, "the flowers of death" in Mexican folklore. The black and white images of the festival of the dead convey a visual current of seduction where pleasure and death intersect. Eisenstein succeeds in giving visual expression to Gustave Flaubert's reveries in *Temptation of Saint Antony*, where "Death sniggers, Lust roars. They take each other by the waist and together sing."

These images provide the "material" for the magnificent tableau of the opening scene of Sam Mendes' latest James Bond film, *Specter*, which takes place during the Day of the Dead in Mexico City. Agent 007, wearing a death mask, naturally accompanied by a ravishingly beautiful lady and on a deadly mission, successfully resists the temptation of Eros and decides that, after all, business comes before pleasure on the Day of the Dead. But on the streets, the revelries of the departed beloved are pure Eisenstein in colour.

Eisenstein was Stalin's favourite cinematographer, and on the eve of World War II, the two agreed to make an eponymous movie about Alexander Nevsky, the revered Muscovite hero who crushed the invading Teutonic Iron Knights on the frozen Lake Peipus in 1242. In the movie's epic Battle of the Ice scene, set to music by Prokofiev, the German knights, resembling Tolkien's warmongers, wear bucket helmets with slits in the form of a cross for their eyes, while their leaders have even more outlandish helmets, with stag's horns or eagle wings and claws on either side.

The clash of steel and flesh in the gigantic Battle of the Ice is brilliantly choreographed - clearly influenced by Uccello's *Battle of San Romano* - and continues to resonate in the works of many famous directors ranging from Orson Welles' *Chimes at Midnight* to Laurence Olivier's *Henry V*. But it is the special effects in the final scene of *Alexander Nevsky* where the thin ice on the lake gives way beneath the heavy weight of Teutonic armour under a soulless iron sky – a scene digitally replicated in Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies* – that we appreciate the scope of Eisenstein's reach beyond the grave in fermenting the imagination of the greatest film makers of our time.

> *His films are still watched, his visual concepts are emulated and reconfigured by many gifted directors*

In the penultimate scene of *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*, the Dwarf King Thorin confronts the evil Orc Azog on an icy lake on the edge of a frozen waterfall in the mountain lair of the Dark Forces. Azog swings his chain-bound boulder to flay the Good King but with every missed stroke landing with a devastating thud on the ice, the frosty surface beneath the monster's feet is weakened. Eventually, the frozen lake starts cracking slowly and Azog, like the Teutonic Knights, is slowly swallowed by icy swirls.

According to his biographer, Ronald Bergan, Eisenstein was "not only the most imaginative practitioner of his art but also its principal theorist." The appeal of his iconic films featuring the revolutionary application of the concept of "dynamic montage" endures 67 years after his death. From his celebrated movie *The Battleship Potemkin* with its unforgettable Odessa Steps sequence, to the Muscovite splendours of *Ivan the Terrible*; from his visual symphony *Que Viva Mexico* to *Alexander Nevsky's* special effects, his films are still watched, his visual concepts are emulated and reconfigured by many gifted directors who are inspired by his imagination without borders.

Eisenstein was one of the towering Jewish minds of global cinematography. His epitaph is projected on thousands of silver screens the world over to this day. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Rene Howard	Jan 2/16	546 Steeles Avenue, West
Dr. Arthur Isaac Egier	Jan 2/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Sidney Fischburg	Jan 2/16	424 Crosby Avenue
Elsa Allen	Jan 3/16	7 Barrydale Crescent
Szyja Charyk	Jan 3/16	6 Sagewood Drive
Arthur Clairman	Dec 31/15	7071 Bayview Avenue
Isak Ber	Jan 3/16	12 Rean Drive
Sidney Glass	Jan 4/16	119 Plewes Road
Barbara Bauer	Jan 2/16	162 Wilmington Avenue
Goldie Walton	Jan 2/16	25 Brunswick Avenue
Nathan Yermus	Jan 5/16	784 Centre St.
Gordon Israel Wetstein	Jan 6/16	42 Foursome Crescent
John Kerbel	Jan 6/16	265 Ridley Blvd.
Harry Kohane	Jan 7/16	34 York Downs Drive
Joey Taylor	Jan 4/16	9 Bannatyne Dr.
Marian Rumack	Jan 7/16	160 Wellesley St. E
Earl Fruchtman	Jan 7/16	22 Farleigh Cres.
Jack Q.C. Friedman	Jan 8/16	77 Dunfield Avenue
Golda Balan	Jan 9/16	130 Eglinton Avenue East
Stan Levenson	Jan 8/16	#1606-131 Beecroft Road

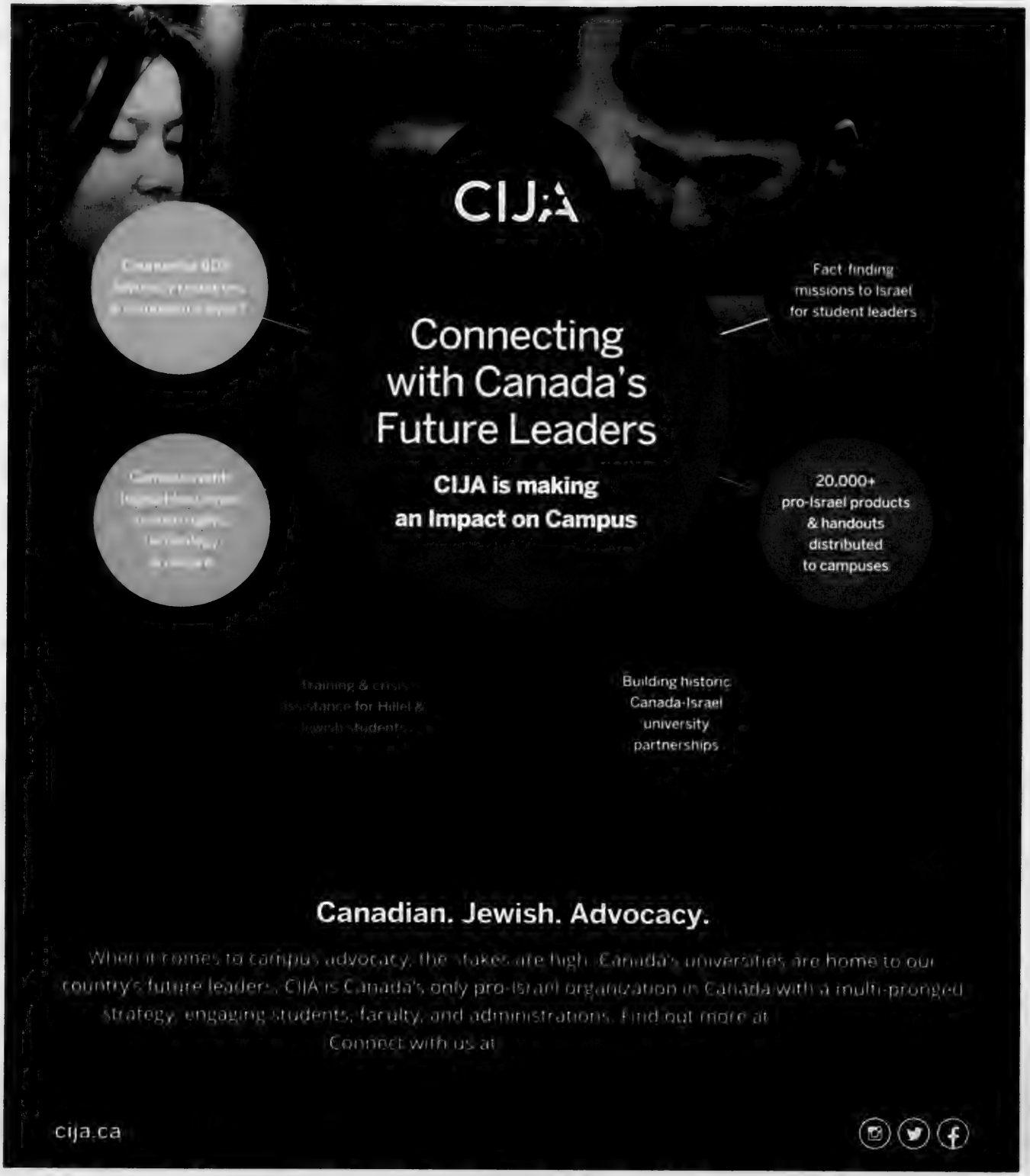
HEBREW DASIC

Betty Struzer	Jan 5/16	40 Delisle Avenue
Louis Gelman	Jan 7/16	31 Daiseyfield Cres.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Kober, Josef	Dec. 19, 2015	4455 Bathurst St
Goodman, Esther	Dec. 30, 2015	238 Marc Santi Blvd
Konigsberg, Helen	Dec. 31, 2015	3560 Bathurst St
Belavin, Lila	Dec. 31, 2015	100 Promenade Circle
Pollak, Willam	Jan. 1, 2016	85 Skymark Dr
Friedman, Miriam	Jan. 1, 2016	131 Torresdale Ave
Miller Schinderman, Feiga	Jan. 2, 2016	Private
Fuerstenberg, Adam Gabriel	Jan. 3, 2016	90 Charlton Blvd
Berger, Hilton	Jan. 3, 2016	4 Ravencliffe Rd
Spring, Estelle Hilda	Jan. 3, 2016	62 Durie Lane
Khmelnik, Raisa	Jan. 4, 2016	144 Gesher Cres
Vardy, Marian	Jan. 4, 2016	125 Stafford Rd
Wulfand, Gilda	Jan. 6, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Vartovsky, Michael	Jan. 6, 2016	1725 Olivewood Cres
Disenhaus, Edward	Jan. 6, 2016	6 Sonata Cres
Borenstein, David Jake	Jan. 7, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Ziman, Ida	Jan. 7, 2016	6 McPhearson St
Shrem, Avraham	Jan. 7, 2016	21 Carscaden Dr
Wayne, Faye	Jan. 9, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Azulay, Abraham	Jan. 9, 2016	155 Kendal Ave
Rice, Ida	Jan. 10, 2016	1111 Steeles Ave W
Tauby, Martial	Jan. 11, 2016	142 Pears Ave
Applebaum, Rhoda	Jan. 11, 2016	Private
Hiller, Erwin Hans	Jan. 11, 2016	3000 Bathurst St
Zibenberg, Klara	Jan. 11, 2016	5935 Bathurst St
Isacoff, Rochelle Mary	Jan. 12, 2016	171 Honiton St
Peysel, Anna	Jan. 13, 2016	Private

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE please call or email at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.
416-922-3605
or email
ssokolsky@thecjnsales.com


CIJA
Fact-finding missions to Israel for student leaders
Connecting with Canada's Future Leaders
CIJA is making an Impact on Campus
20,000+ pro-Israel products & handouts distributed to campuses
Training & crisis assistance for Hillel & Jewish students
Building historic Canada-Israel university partnerships
Canadian. Jewish. Advocacy.
When it comes to campus advocacy, the stakes are high. Canada's universities are home to our country's future leaders. CIJA is Canada's only pro-Israel organization in Canada with a multi-pronged strategy, engaging students, faculty, and administrations. Find out more at
Connect with us at
cija.ca

CAMPS

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

Campers learn life skills in their summers away

MARILYN LAZAR
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

If you're considering camp for your kids but wonder if it will be a positive experience or worth the substantial cost, look no further.

Below is a curated collection of direct quotes, answering the question 'what life skills did you learn at camp?'

One camper said, "There are so many. The ones that stand out for me are: being independent, having to advocate for oneself, respecting others, co-operation, making new friends and the importance of trying new things."

Another said, "you learn about having fun and losing inhibition, about unleashing your imagination and creativity; about camaraderie and building life-long friendships through shared experiences; about new activities whether water sports, scouting, arts and crafts and/or drama; about joy in simplicity; about nature; if it is a Jewish camp, about Judaism and Zionism."

Here are some other answers:

"Hospital corners."

"How to sweep a floor and use a dustpan."

"How to plant a garden, light a one-match fire, cook dinner over a campfire, and get along with other kids."

"I learned to live in a tent, share one plug among four people and fend off raccoons."

"I learned to appreciate my mother's cooking."

"How to overcome little fears. My first year I peed in my bed because it was raining and I was scared of the dark. That didn't happen again."

"Little boys learn to shower properly and general bathroom hygiene."

"Finding solutions."

"You learn to develop and maintain deep bonds. I didn't see my camp friends as often as I did my school friends, but we marched at each other's weddings and we're still close today."

"Things get imprinted on you: certain moments, like the camp play. Even the buildings have huge meaning. Like remembering what you did in a particular building."

"First kiss?"

"How great it feels to win an award."

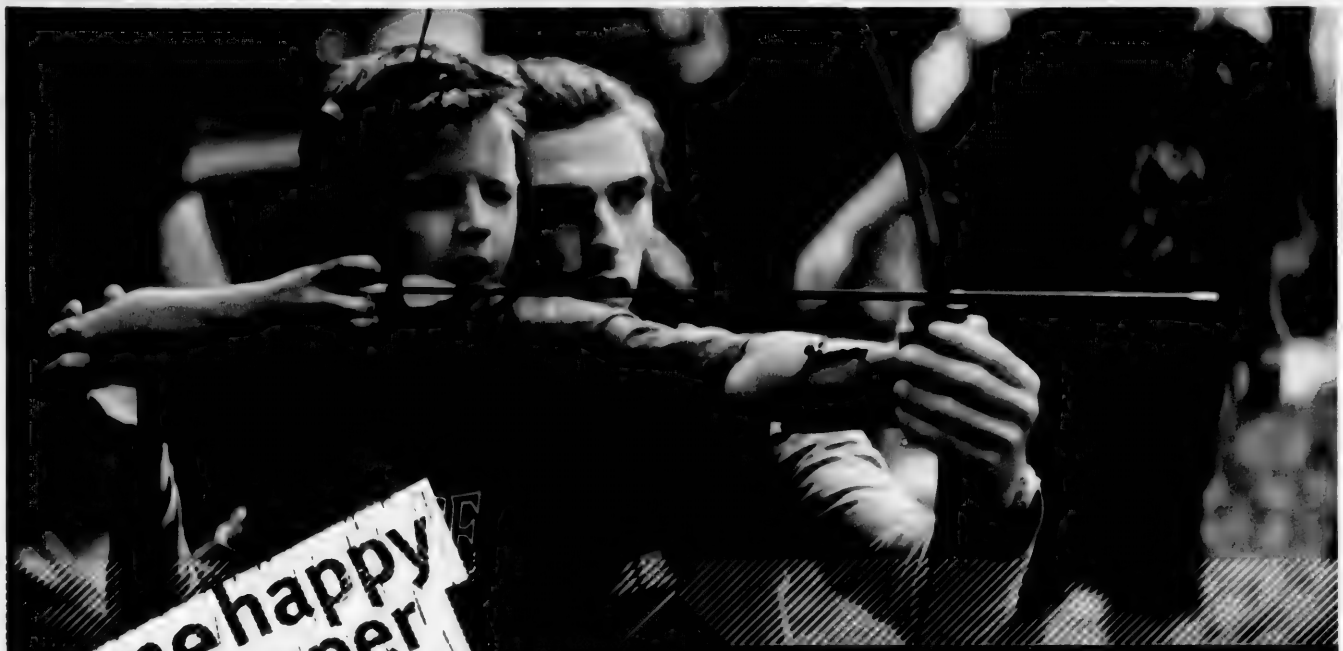
"Camp nurtures kids and fosters skills. I know professional potters and musicians who honed their talent at camp."

"Independence. Kids are valued for hilarity and behaviour that might not be tolerated in a classroom. They get to be themselves."

"You develop people skills and learn to solve problems. Throw 12 kids into a room – try that with adults in a board room. You learn team work and independence. One counsellor is not always able to help the way a parent might."

"Looking back, I can see the seeds of who people grew into. I didn't know as a 10-year-old what that kid running around like an idiot would do as an adult, but as you watch each other grow up and start careers, it makes sense. That brilliant but quirky kid who didn't say much but when he did it was relevant is a lawyer today. The guy who was always ready to dive into the dirt works with his hands. The extrovert owns a video production company."

It seems that whatever the experience kids have at camp, it becomes a memory that lasts a lifetime. ■



THIS IS JEWISH CAMP. FIND YOURS & GET UP TO $1000 OFF!

Start your child's "summer of a lifetime" at Jewish overnight camp. From ziplines to waterskiing to singing under the stars, at camp your child will build a strong Jewish identity & pride, while having a total blast. First-time campers are eligible for an incentive grant of up to $1000.

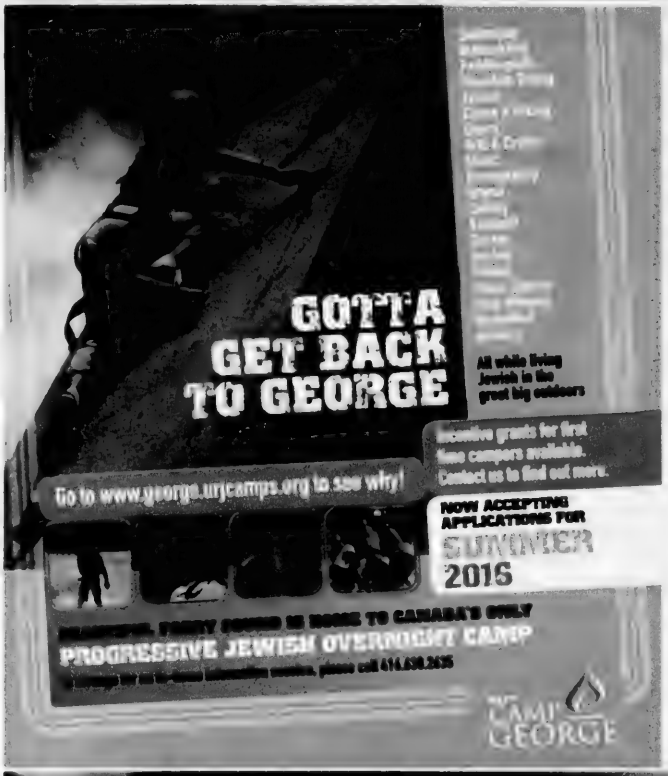
JewishToronto.com/camp

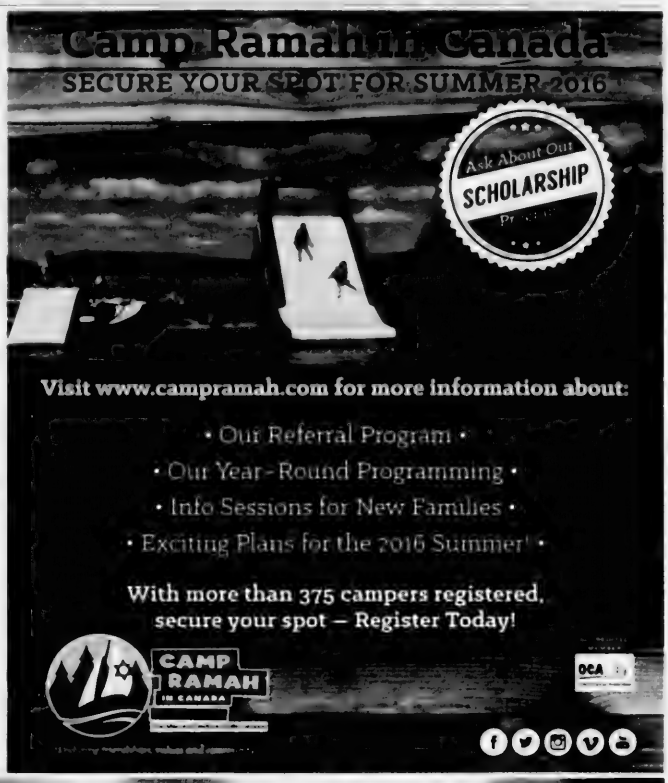
Find your perfect Jewish camp and register today.
Space is limited; first-come, first-served.

Partner Camps:
BB Camp (Kenora)
Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa
Camp Gan Israel Toronto
Camp Gesher
Camp Kadimah
Camp Moshava
Camp Kinneret - Biluim
Camp Massad in Montreal
Camp Northland - B'nai Brith
Camp Ramah in Canada
Camp Shalom
Camp Shomria
Camp Solelim
URJ Camp George

Silber Family Centre for Jewish Camping
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP


GOTTA GET BACK TO GEORGE
Go to www.george.urjcamps.org to see why!
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2016
PROGRESSIVE JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP
CAMP GEORGE


Camp Ramah in Canada
SECURE YOUR SPOT FOR SUMMER 2016
Ask About Our SCHOLARSHIP
Visit www.campramah.com for more information about:
• Our Referral Program •
• Our Year-Round Programming •
• Info Sessions for New Families •
• Exciting Plans for the 2016 Summer! •
With more than 375 campers registered, secure your spot – Register Today!
CAMP RAMAH IN CANADA
OCA

In every person's childhood,
there is a summer they will never forget,
and a place where it all began.
Toronto #1 Day Camp
Meet & Greet Us
@ the CAMP EXPO
When: Saturday, Feb. 20, 12pm - 4pm
Where: Roy Thomson Hall (booth 13)
RSVP: ourkids.net/campexpo/register.php
Spring Open House
@ Crestwood Valley's Day Camp
When: Sunday, April 10, 1pm - 3pm
Where: 411 Lawrence Ave. East, Toronto
RSVP: crestwoodcamp.com
CRESTWOOD VALLEY DAY CAMP
Call 416.444.9595
Visit crestwoodcamp.com
ACCREDITED MEMBER
OCA
Ontario Camps Association

SPONSOR CONTENT

Camp Bilium builds Jewish leaders of the future

Since 1951, Camp Biluim Canada, Canadian Young Judaea's National Leadership Institute, has welcomed a new group of more than 100 sixteen year-olds from across Canada, the United States and Israel to their site each year, for a truly transformative summer.

Camp Biluim is more than just your typical summer camp. It is an immersive, leadership experience with a curriculum built around providing campers with the confidence and skills to become leaders within their respective communities, while participating in active and fun recreational activities and making friendships that last a lifetime.

Bilium's Big Brother Big Sister program pairs campers with younger campers at Camp Kinneret.

The philosophy at Camp Biluim is that everyone has the potential to become a great leader, and that each and every camper has something unique to bring to the "chevrah" (society). Through a variety of both staff and camper-led programming, skill development, and hadrachah (leadership) sessions, Camp Biluim's goal is to ensure that every camper who takes part in the six-week, overnight program, has the proper skills and feels empowered to become a leader. Along with extensive leadership training, Camp Biluim also empowers campers to strengthen their relationship to Israel, and develop a stronger sense of their Jewish selves within a supportive, safe, and nurturing environment.

Situated on the shores of Lac Mercier in beautiful Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Camp Biluim Canada makes up 28 acres of land including a tent site, sports field, baseball diamond, two rec halls, dining hall, yoga and dance studio, arts and crafts studio, music room, recording studio, infirmary, swimming docks, archery range, boating docks, basketball courts, beach, and kilometres of beautiful trails through the forest for both hiking and biking. Campers at Camp Biluim are encouraged to try as many activities as possible throughout the summer, including Red Cross certified swim instruction, fitness, tripping, biking, yoga, glee club, radio show, archery, cooking, music, boating, spoken word, land and watersports, arts and crafts, nature, and drama, to name a few.

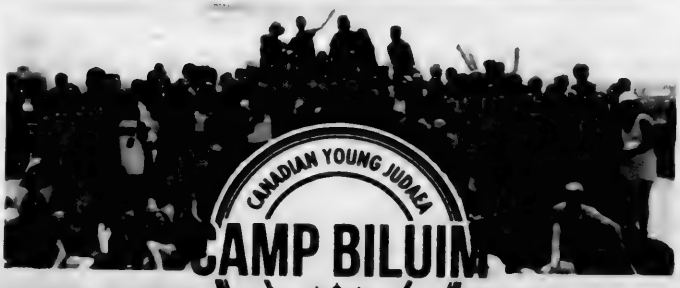
What truly sets Camp Biluim apart from other camps, however, is the hadrachah (leadership) program, a facilitated session with a group of up to 12 peers and two leaders, which takes place daily.

The program's curriculum is specifically modelled to create a safe space in which campers can confront themselves and their fears, grow as individuals and as a group, and empower one another.

Combined with many other diverse leadership opportunities, the hadrachah program is a unique and individualized experience for every camper, and creates an extremely tight bond between campers and staff members alike. As a leadership camp, Biluim prides itself on providing campers with additional daily opportunities to get involved in camp life and to exercise their leadership skills. These include camper-run programs, the Big Brother/Big Sister program, CIT "shadow a staff member" program, tripper-in-training program, and many more. Some of these are required as part of the program, and some are optional, based on camper interest. Camp Biluim Canada is happy to provide their campers with high school volunteer hours for their time spent on leadership initiatives at camp. ■

LOCATED IN PICTURESQUE MONT TREMBLANT, CAMP BILUIM CANADA IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE BRINGING TOGETHER JEWISH 16-YEAR-OLDS FROM ACROSS CANADA, THE USA, AND ISRAEL. VISIT BILUIMCANADA.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION TODAY!

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS
WELCOME TO YOUR
FROM ACROSS THE WORLD
SUMMER EVER



CANADIAN YOUNG JUDAEA
CAMP BILUIM
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

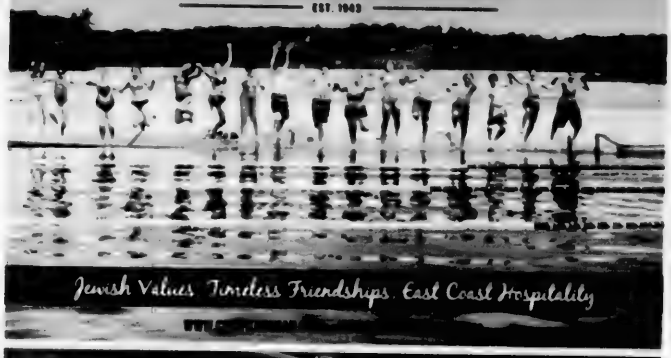
COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM
CAMPER RUN PROGRAMS
CANOE TRIPS IN BEAUTIFUL QUEBEC
EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS
TOWN NIGHTS IN MONT TREMBLANT VILLAGE
HADRACHA (LEADERSHIP TRAINING)

COME SEE WHAT ALL THE EXCITEMENT IS ABOUT!

KADIMAH

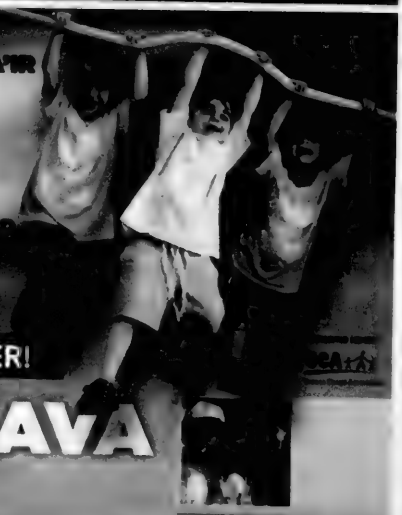
BARSS CORNER, NOVA SCOTIA

EST. 1948



Jewish Values. Timeless Friendships. East Coast Hospitality.

MOSHAVA BA'IR TORONTO



THE BNEI AKIVA SUMMER DAY CAMP WITH A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

OUR 6TH SUMMER!

MOSHAVA BA'IR TORONTO WILL BRIGHTEN YOUR SUMMER

Entering JK through Grade 6 · NEW FOR THIS YEAR: Hockey Camp!

www.moshavabairtoronto.org

mbt@bneiakiva.org · 905-370-0448

SPORTPLAY

Multi-sport March Break & Summer Camp

Boys and Girls 3-8

8 Sports, LEGO® Play, Craft Play & Water Play.

5 GTA Locations

Cool-sport Summer Camp

Boys and Girls 7-12

Golf, Rock Climbing, Soccer, Beach Volleyball ... and More!

Polson Pier

WEEKLY CLASSES • KICK SOCCER • BIRTHDAYS

www.sportplay

Davina's Swim House

REGISTER NOW for Winter and Spring 2016

Locations across the GTA to serve you!
Swim Lessons & Leisure Swim
Birthday Parties
First Aid Instruction
Low Ratio Classes
Leadership, Lifeguard & Instructor Courses

www.davinasswimhouse.com

Davina's Swim House
647.352.POOL (7665)
info@davinasswimhouse.com

SPONSOR CONTENT

Camp Massad enters 70th season

There is significant "quantitative evidence that summers at Jewish camp create adults who are committed to the Jewish community and engaged in Jewish practice" (see www.jewishcamp.org/research). Those who attended Jewish camp were 30 per cent more likely to donate to a Jewish charity, 37 per cent more likely to light Shabbat candles, 45 per cent more likely to attend synagogue monthly or more, and 55 per cent more likely to be very emotionally attached to Israel.

Jeff Bicher, the director of Camp Massad could not agree more. "It is clear that our campers develop a connection to the community and to each other, like nothing else. Our tagline, Where Going to Camp Means Coming Home, just says it all." Which is why after a 10-year hiatus, Jeff went back to camp this past summer. When asked how long this stint will be, his face beamed. "I can't imagine spending my summers anywhere else. That magical place is responsible for so much.

"I owe Camp Massad a debt of gratitude. Not only did Massad expose my spiritual and spirited sides and enable me to form some great friendships, but Camp Massad brought me my wife, and as a result

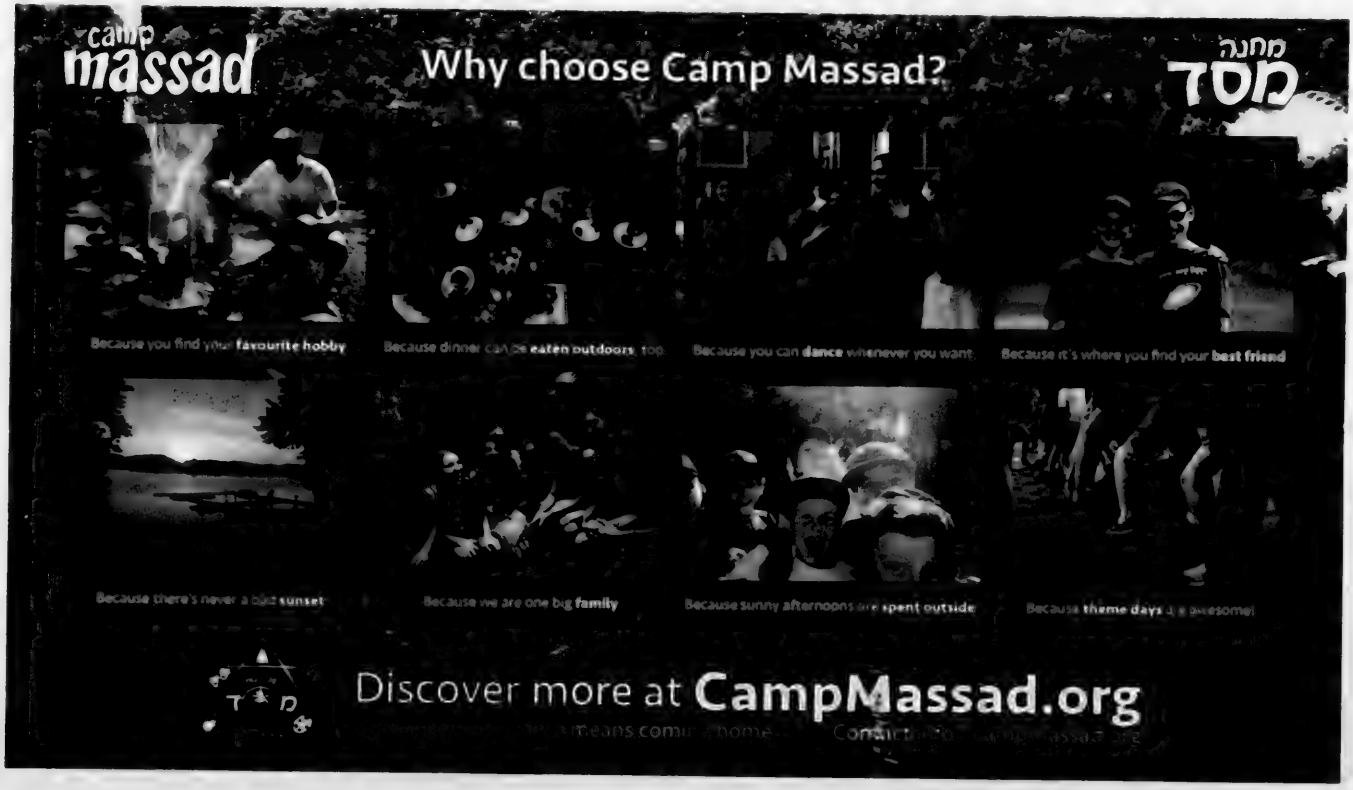
my family, giving me the ultimate gift of happiness and fulfilment. And my story is not the only one like this." Entering its 70th season, the camp is proud to be serving another generation of Massadniks, including grandchildren of its original counsellors and campers.

Situated on Lac Quenouille 115 kilometres north of Montreal, Camp Massad was founded in 1947 to offer children an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of Jewish culture, and their fluency in the Hebrew language, while enjoying an integrated and extensive camping program. The camp seeks to ensure that every camper enjoys a fun, safe, and nurturing summer through meaningful Jewish experiences rooted in a Shabbat-observant and Zionist environment. Campers are embraced into the Massad family, all the while being enveloped by its Ruach (spirit) and Massoret Massad (traditions). Through quality programming, campers benefit from individualized attention and focused skill development, taking pride in their accomplishments. In this inclusive community, campers and staff will form lifelong relationships and are inspired to live a Jewish life.

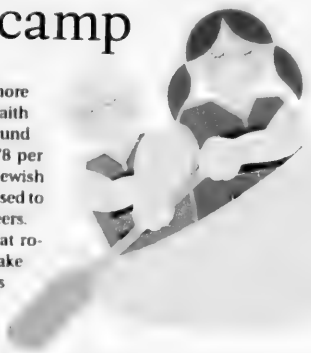
Massad is based on a set five core values which are shared and lived year-round.

- Dati: Observing and celebrating Shabbat and mitzvot
- Massoret Ve'Ruach: continuing and honouring the Massad traditions and its rich, distinct atmosphere
- Tzionut: strengthening the love for and commitment to Israel, Jewish culture and the Hebrew language
- Chevrut: fostering an environment where lifelong friendships are nurtured, and creating a sense of family and unity within camp;
- Hatzlacha Ve'Tzmicha: committing to create quality programs that enrich and challenge participants to grow and excel, to strive for success and flourish, appreciating that we are creating tomorrow's leaders.

Bicher will be returning to Massad for his 24th summer. He was first hired to direct camp for the 1997 season, when there were just 52 campers. Within four years, camp was at capacity. He attributes the success back then, and the current resurgence, to multiple factors, including great staff teams and superb volunteer leaders. ■


camp massad
Why choose Camp Massad?
מחנה מסד
Because you find your favourite hobby
Because dinner can be eaten outdoors, too
Because you can dance whenever you want
Because it's where you find your best friend
Because there's never a bad sunset
Because we are one big family
Because sunny afternoons are spent outside
Because theme days are awesome!
Discover more at CampMassad.org

Dating and marriage a result of Jewish camp



MAAYAN JAFFE
JNS.ORG

Eighteen-year-old Bernie Kozlovksy spent from sundown to sunrise on a boat with 16-year-old Sonia Rosenbaum in the summer of 1972.

"We talked until dawn," Kozlovksy recalls about that summer at a Jewish summer camp.

Kozlovksy worked in the camp kitchen. Rosenbaum was a camper. From that summer forward, neither dated another individual. Forty-three years later – including 39 years of marriage, six children, and seven grandchildren – Kozlovksy attributes his successful relationship to the spark that formed during his summertime experience.

Not much has changed.

Today, the (camp) fire is still burning at Jewish summer camp. Dating and marriage are byproducts of summers spent banging on the table during *Birkat Hamazon*, engaging in loud and intense games of colour war, and celebrating Jewish culture with Hebrew plays and folk music campfire sing-alongs.

No one is pushed to date at Jewish summer camp, explains Lauren Ben-Shoshan, who met her Israeli husband, Alon, as a counsellor at a Union for Reform Judaism camp in 2004. The couple now lives in Israel.

"Camp is a positive place for Jewish learning, physical activity, and connecting with the outdoors. No one wants campers to feel bad because they didn't find their spouse when they were 15, 19, or 22. But there is a covert understanding that [marriage is] a nice byproduct of Jewish summer camp, when it happens," says Ben-Shoshan, who is also a Jewish educator.

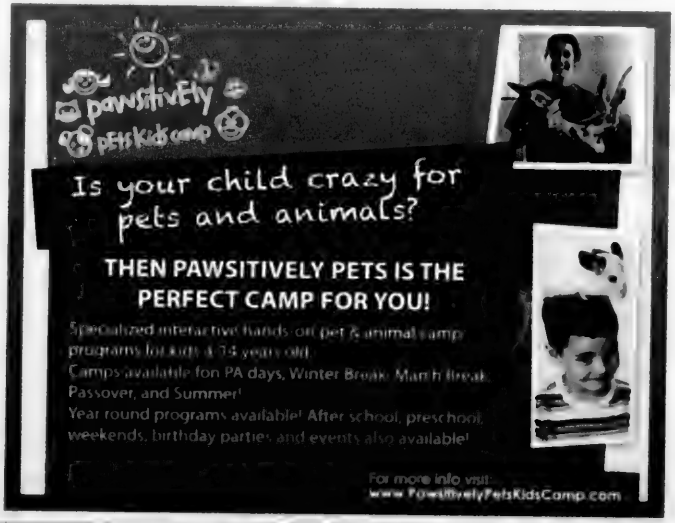
It occurs more often than many realize. According to *Camp Works*, a report released in 2012 by the Foundation for Jewish Camp, Jewish adults who attend Jewish overnight camp are on average 10 per cent more likely to marry within the Jewish faith than their peers. A 2000-01 study found that number to be higher, with 78 per cent of individuals who attended Jewish summer camp in-married, as opposed to 62 per cent of their non-camper peers.

What's the secret sauce? Is it that romantic Shabbat at sunset by the lake or in the secluded woods? That's part of it, but it is more likely a result of the "intensity" of the camp experience, Ben-Shoshan believes.

"You're living with everyone. The days last forever, but camp feels like it only lasts a minute. So even if camp is only two months, these are two very intense months," she says. "You see the campers and counsellors in stressful situations, how they interact with peers and with the kids, the meals, how they interact with co-workers. It is all these things that happen in life, that could take several months in the 'real world,' you see within a week at camp."

Jewish summer camp focuses heavily on community-building, notes Aaron Bogage, who attended the BBYO International Leadership Training Conference for several summers and now works at the overnight BBYO Chapter Leadership Training Conference.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE


pawsitively
pets kids camp
Is your child crazy for pets and animals?
THEN PAWSITIVELY PETS IS THE PERFECT CAMP FOR YOU!
Specialized interactive hands-on pet & animal camp programs for kids 4-14 years old!
Camps available for PA days, Winter Break, March Break, Passover, and Summer!
Year round programs available! After school, preschool, weekends, birthday parties and events also available!
For more info visit:
www.PawsitivelyPetsKidsCamp.com

experience the evolution of aquatics!
SHENDYS
SWIM CENTRE
25 Scarsdale Road , Unit #10, Toronto
Full size salt water pool
Great location / easy access
Full change room & shower facilities
Lessons for all ages
Advanced programmes
(Bronze, NLS, Instructors, First Aid)
Aquafit and Lane Swim Memberships available.
Mikey
OFFICIAL CANADIAN SUPPLIER FOR:
SWIMFIN
TO ORDER YOUR SWIM FINS TODAY VISIT:
swimfincanada.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
416.576.SWIM(7946)
www.shendys.com

He says there are always "quite a few couples per session," explaining that these relationships form because everyone is "extremely open" with each other and open to meeting new people.

"Everyone is genuinely excited to get to know the rest of the teens....There is a sense of community that comes from camp," Bogage says.

One can start to pinpoint new couples, according to Bogage, by looking at who sits where during meals and what campers do during free time. Bogage has not met his significant other through camp, but his good friend met a girl last summer. They are still together despite the physical distance between them.

Jen Silber, executive director of a Habonim Dror camp, says there is a focus at camp on building healthy peer relationships.

"We want [campers] to learn about communication, how to express their needs in relationships, feel confident being themselves and develop trust," she says.

Silber, who met her own husband as a camper and then staffer, argues that friendships and romantic relationships that people form at summer camp tend to be "deeper" and more authentic than those forged at school or in other environments. Campers and counsellors feel accepted for who they are, she says.

Likewise, people who attend Jewish summer camps tend to share similar values. Through the camping experience, they come to learn how they hope to celebrate Shabbat or even raise their children.

"My husband and I come at life from a similar place of what is important and what we want for our children in terms of Jewish identity and connection to Israel," says Silber. "And it's fun. Camp is really fun and that playfulness, that energy or ruach (spirit) is still there in our relationship today."

That's exactly how it has gone for Mollie Gansky, who met her boyfriend, Corey Bass, at Camp Ramah in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. She spent seven summers as a camper and five as a counsellor. She knew her boyfriend since she was young, but they only started dating as staffers. Now 23, she says she and Bass are on the same page about the role of Judaism in their lives, which makes the relationship stronger.

But Gansky also describes the pressure at camp to "hook up" or at minimum, have your first kiss. She had hers in 2006.

"I had a boyfriend at camp for two years as a camper," Gansky recalls. "Within my age group, there were at least seven or eight relationships each year. Those were the serious relationships, but there were just hookups, too."

As a counsellor, Gansky says she observed that campers engaged in relationships starting as early as fourth or fifth grade, with campers "coupling off" for dates to the annual fireworks displays or other events. In seventh or eighth grade, the pressure grows, and by ninth or 10th grade, she says, "campers have a lot of pressure to find someone, to be with someone at camp."

Jen and Dan Silber met at Camp Moshava.
PHOTO COURTESY SILBER FAMILY

Camp Ramah walls are adorned with plaques with kissy faces on which people etch their name and the date of their first kiss. More than 3,000 couples have their plaques featured on "shidduch walls" at Ramah camps around the country (Wisconsin, the Berkshires, and California). At Ramah in the Poconos, a gazebo called Gazebo Zugot (Hebrew for "matches") celebrates couples that met at camp. Ramahmarriages.org, a page on the Reshet Ramah website, is dedicated to couples who met at summer camp.

Last summer, Reshet Ramah launched "RamahDate," a new partnership with the Jewish online dating giant JDate. RamahDate members subscribe to JDate through a co-branded portal and receive an identifying Ramah "badge" on their online profile. Then, they can choose to either "meet" only other Ramah members or search more broadly within JDate's 750,000 members worldwide.

Aaron Bogage says the online portal makes sense for keeping those camper connections going.

"Campers create relationships and bonds they will have for years," he says. "Jewish camps can help kids marry Jewish when they grow up."

"It's possible to find happiness in so many Jewish situations," adds Lauren Ben-Shoshan. "Camp happens to be a very good one." ■

A little preparation goes a long way

MARILYN LAZAR
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Every parent sending a child off to overnight camp for the first time believes that the camper will have a positive experience.

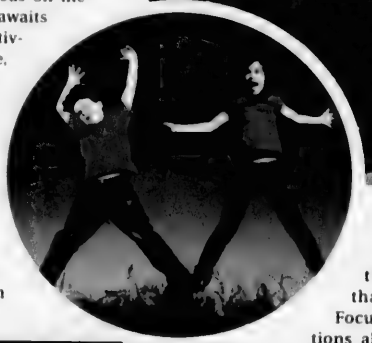
Parents steel themselves, though, for their child getting a little bout of homesickness. How can you best prepare your first-time camper for the new environment, and perhaps just as importantly, how can you tweak your own behaviour and response to mitigate their anxiety as much as possible?

There's a lot you can do to set your kids up for success, and there are some common pitfalls to avoid.

Deciding on the length of time for their first stay is important. One rule of thumb is to leave them wanting more and let them come home on a high. That being said, it can take time to regain composure and sometimes that introductory period barely brings them out of their initial adjustment phase. You know your child, but take into account the culture of the camp by speaking to the director and perhaps a counsellor or parents of older campers before deciding.

Familiarity breeds comfort so visit the camp if possible or at least check out the website together. Arrange a pre-camp get-together with other campers. Have a sleepover at a friend's or grandparents. Be casual in advance and nonplussed if it doesn't go well, but praise the victory.

Sometimes the best of intentions produce undesired results. For example, telling a child how much you will miss them can create a negative expectation and anxiety. Instead, focus on the great opportunity that awaits and some favourite activities that will be available, such as water skiing or whatever their favourite is. Share your own positive experience or that of someone they know, such as an older cousin who they look up to.



Once they're gone, the same rule applies. Don't say you miss them or respond in kind if they write that to you. Focus on questions about activities, accomplishments and forming friendships. Adopt a positive tone and provide news about yourself.

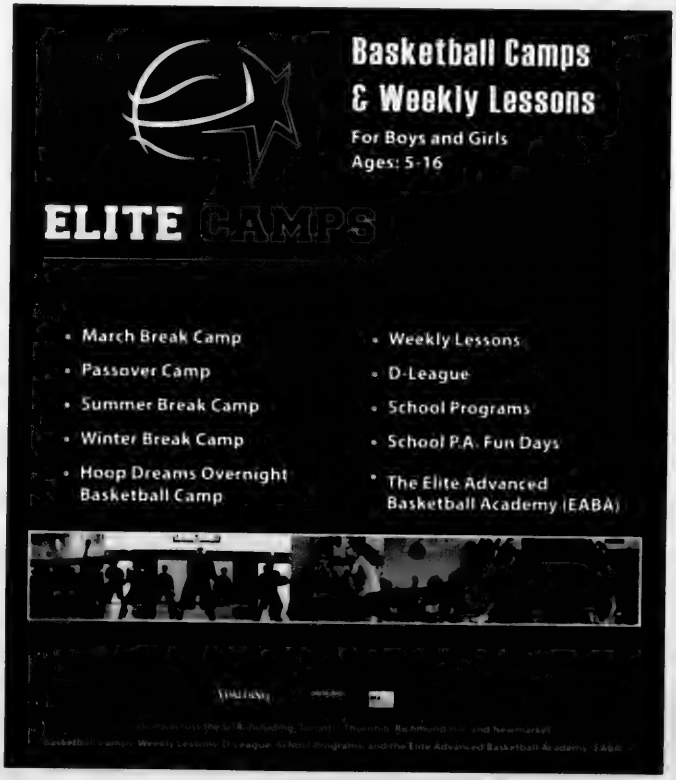
Simple good parenting goes a long way. Foster independence by involving them in simple household chores and age-appropriate decision-making. Transfer those skills and have your child be an active participant in shopping and packing for camp.

Begin teaching them to respect rules by doing so yourself. Why cram their bag with secret stashes of contraband candy? There are reasons for these rules ranging from unwanted animals in the cabin to potential conflict and power struggles with their peers who don't have candy. There are plenty of treats distributed at camp every day.

Don't hide a cell phone. Allow them to exist device-free for a short time. Let them spread their wings.

Obviously, there's a lot you can't prepare for: specific situations, choices, personalities and group dynamics. That's why it's essential to promote self advocacy and respectful communication skills. Try to instil the need for respecting general safety and especially water safety rules and skills.

The things you can do to benefit a child in a camp situation are really skills that will benefit any individual in the long run. Being social yet independent, respectful yet able to advocate for oneself are balanced skills which will give a child a leg up in camp, in school, in a career and in life. ■



CENTAURI
SUMMER CAMP

SUMMER TRAINING
FOR ARTISTIC YOUTH

an overnight co-ed camp community for ages 9-18

Choose from specialty arts programs:
writing · acting · dance · music · film · art

centauriartscamp.com 416-766-7124

Miles Nadal jcc

Have We Got a
School for You!

"I am grateful for how lucky we
are to have our daughter at
[illegible] Libbie Cowan Childcare[illegible]
who knows she is in an environment
that is safe, stimulating, and full of
[illegible]"
- parent

Nurturing, safe, connective
and creative. That's our
priority for every stage of your
child's growth and
development. Open[illegible]

Libbie Cowan Childcare Centre
Thomas & Marjorie Schwartz Preschool Centre
Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School
Downtown Jewish Community School • MNjcc Suzuki School

Because you deserve the best!

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
750 Spadina Ave at Bloor
(416) 924.6211 • www.mnjcc.org
Charitable # 140344243RR0001

Where the Second Half
is as Crazy as the First!

Financial Assistance Available & Confidentially Handled

For more information please contact:
Cindy Presser Benedek, Assistant Director - cindy@cbbottawa.com

416.607.6529 Visit us online
cbbottawa.com

CAMP
B'NAI BRITH
OTTAWA
EST. 1935

@cbbottawa

Find us on our Facebook page
Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa

COMMITTED TO YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH

Our beautiful country setting makes our exceptional Day Camp feel like an overnight camp! With outstanding leadership and staff, we foster independence and emotional growth in a fun, high-spirit setting. Whether you choose our traditional program or our Sports Academy, we promise to inspire and care for every child like our own. With twice daily swim instruction, themed bus rides, a leadership training program and KOSHER/NUT-FREE FOOD, we are waiting to welcome your child to our ultimate summer experience!

Call today for more information.

EST 1948
CAMP
ROBIN HOOD

camprobinhood.ca • 416.736.4443

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

JANUARY 28, 2016 • 18 SHVAT, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan

Inside

Debating Canada's role in the fight against ISIS

Jewish groups weigh in on whether to end air bombing mission. **PAGE 12**

Will new rules spoil preschoolers' summer?

Law requiring camps to meet stricter regulations could leave parents in a bind. **PAGE 14**

Yitro

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:00 p.m.	6:06 p.m.
Montreal	4:37 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
Ottawa	4:46 p.m.	5:53 p.m.
Toronto	5:06 p.m.	6:11 p.m.
Winnipeg	[illegible]	6:11 p.m.
Calgary	5:03 p.m.	6:17 p.m.
Vancouver	4:46 p.m.	5:56 p.m.

A Jewish community in the jungle

Michael Fraiman went searching for the Amazonian Jews of Peru. He almost didn't find them. **PAGE 8**

Jewish museum plan scrapped

Facility on site of former McLaughlin Planetarium put on hold indefinitely. **PAGE 20**

Why small-town Jewry is important

Its loss would harm diversity, Paul Socken argues. **PAGE 16**
PLUS: Moncton's Jews. **PAGE 17**

Getting creative after age 40

Evelyn Tauben talks to four Jewish artists following their muses in mid-career. **PAGE 28**

GASLIGHT NOW 'TIL FEB 28
irvish.com

Israel enters the 1990s, and actor at centre of espresso battle

Bye-bye, fax machines?

Israel's government bureaucracy is finally entering the late 20th century with a proposal to let citizens submit important documents via email instead of by fax or in person. The new rules, tabled Jan. 17 as part of a new "Digital Israel" initiative, aim to replace the current system of faxes and desperate visits to government offices on lunch breaks. But the government isn't the only sector that hasn't kept pace with Israel's "Start-up Nation" image: Israeli banks and other private enterprises still rely heavily on fax machines and in-person visits.

Dispute brews over Clooney

Nestlé, the maker of Nespresso coffee machines, is suing a small Israeli rival over an ad featuring a look-alike of actor George Clooney, who's starred in the Swiss food giant's own ads since 2006. The humorous spot for Espresso Club boasts that consumers only pay for coffee pods, not machines, and it mocks Clooney's reputation as a lady's man. It features a silver-haired doppelganger of the *Gravity* and *Ocean's Eleven* star carrying what looks like a Nespresso bag out of a store as he smiles at a woman passing by, and a disclaimer specifies the actor is *not* Clooney. A Tel Aviv court rejected Nestlé's claim two years ago, but the company last week appealed the ruling, calling the ad misleading. It wants $50,000 in damages and for the spot to be removed from YouTube.

Not the same guys

Militia men blow their own horns

It wasn't quite like Rosh Hashanah at your local shul, but on Jan. 17, Blaine Cooper – a leader of the standoff with the U.S. government in Burns, Ore., and head of a citizen militia in Arizona – posted a video on Facebook showing two right-wing militants blowing large shofars to rally fellow travellers to their cause. For almost a month, dozens of armed men have occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to protest the jail time given to two men for arson. The militants also want to publicize "tyrannical" management of federal land. "CHRISTIANS THE BATTLE TRUMPET HAS BEEN SOUNDED TIME TO RISE!" Cooper's accompanying Facebook caption read. ■

Gematria

70%

The percentage of French citizens in a new poll who said it would be giving in to terror if Jews need to remove kippot.

22 to 26

The ages of new male olim who will no longer be required to serve at least six months in the Israel Defence Forces.

Quotable

The Jewish community should be aware that there are many trans and gender-nonconforming Jews one in 200.

— University of Victoria Prof. Aaron Devor. Full interview on page 38.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz looks at the Herzog-Toynbee Debate of 1961.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	25	Parshah	35
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	32	Q&A	36
Cover Story	8	International	21	Ask Ella	34	Backstory	39

COVER PHOTO BY MICHAEL FRAIMAN

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
UNIT 1

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Remembering a scholar

What a lovely and well deserved tribute to Adam Fuerstenberg by Bill Gladstone ("Ryerson professor loved literacy, Yiddish and family," Jan.14).

It should be emphasized that Adam also loved community. He was a valued colleague in his community work. His love and appreciation of Jewish culture was not merely to preserve a precious past but to translate it into material for an evolving and vibrant future. He will be greatly missed.

Jay Y. Brodbar
Toronto

Terrorism is never justified

A very well written letter by Kathy Schneider regarding Jewish terror in your Jan. 21 edition caught my eye, regarding the unrelenting attacks Israelis have been facing during the last three to four months.

It was fine until the third paragraph, where she starts off by saying, "However I can understand the sheer frustration and sense of helplessness…"

Please stop right there! Those words lead to a very slippery slope! Those are exactly the words Palestinians, western diplomats, political pundits and others use when describing Palestinian terror attacks on innocent Israelis, in defence of their not having a Palestinian state, the lack of a peace process, or Jews visiting the Temple Mount etc.

It is the same words that terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram and others use in their jihads to describe how western culture interferes with their barbaric way of life, and so, out of frustration, they kill countless innocent men, women and children, like the six innocent Quebecers killed earlier this month in Burkina Faso, who were helping people there improve their lives.

There is no justification – ever – for taking an innocent life, be it Jewish, Muslim, or anyone else. That is not the Jewish way. It is not the solution, as Schneider says, and rightly so. If only our leaders had some answers.

Isidore Baum
Laval, Quebec

Missing a chief rabbi

Let's not be naive. All rabbis – sorry, all people – need to dabble in politics, not just a chief rabbi ("Canada has no chief rabbi, thank God," Jan. 14).

To get to the issue the article avoids, the position of chief rabbi (de facto) unites the Israeli community, while a population without a chief rabbi, perhaps one that seems to choose pluralism as a higher value, does not have a central figure to unite around. In my opinion, the Jewish people of Canada and the United States suffer because there is no central rabbinate to unite them.

Joshua Grady-Share
Posted to The CJN's Facebook page

Trudeau is no Bill Clinton

It is jarring to see Justin Trudeau mentioned in the same breath as two of America's most gifted and accomplished politicians, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Bill Clinton ("Trudeau should learn from Clinton, Moynihan and Cotler," Jan. 21).

Regardless of whether one agreed with their views or was accepting of the private shenanigans of Clinton, it is widely accepted that both of those gentlemen were consummate practitioners of the art of Realpolitik in the field of international diplomacy.

The Canadian electorate – having fallen for the cleverly marketed Trudeau glamour factor and having ignored the facts of his abysmal lack of the personal qualities, skills and experience required in the leader of any nation – can now look forward to four years of continual bumbling by Trudeau on the international stage.

David Green
Thornhill, Ont.

Question of the week

What role should Canada play in the fight against ISIS?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
WINTER DIRECT FLIGHTS from $836 including all taxes.
Book by Jan. 31, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar. 10-21
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer July 03-14, July 24 – Aug. 04, Aug. 07-18, Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND - One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
LUXELUXE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

Not all investments hit their mark.
Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.
PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning
Discover Mortgage Investments
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to keep costs down."

The expense of a funeral wasn't something we had anticipated. So when we needed to plan a service, we went to Hebrew Basic Burial. They took care of everything, giving us a Jewish graveside service that was the lowest cost in the city.*

* as per current costs in the GTA

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI·2·RABBI

Prayer that captures the imagination

With *Aleinu*, we declare a particularistic assertion to our own people, but we also declare a universalistic hope that one day the world will be united and more human

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO

RABBI MARK FISHMAN
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH, MONTREAL

Rabbi Fishman: One of the most fundamental aspects of Judaism is tfillah – prayer. Yet notwithstanding its centrality, especially in the synagogue, many find it a locked door. Sometimes it helps to slow down and to focus on just one prayer. How about *Aleinu*?

It is perhaps one of the most well-known prayers for how it ends – everyone seemingly knows the words off by heart. Those who talk their way through services would not dare to miss belting out its last few lines.

What is it about this prayer that captures the imagination? I think that the aspects most central to Judaism are those prayers that the Jewish People, over the years, have come to sing along to with gusto.

We begin *Aleinu* with the words: "It is upon us to praise the Master of all." How do you understand this prayer? What does it mean to you?

Rabbi Splansky: *Aleinu* is the bookend to the *Shema*.

With *Aleinu*, we declare a particularistic assertion to our own people: "Hear O Israel, HaShem is One." With *Aleinu*, we declare a universalistic hope that one day all the world will be united as one. It challenges us to make it so through our deeds.

Perhaps that's why the *Aleinu* is placed at the end of the prayer service. With its rousing chorus it points to what we must do when we leave the doors of the sanctuary.

Rabbi Fishman: "Imagine all the people… living in harmony." I can hear John Lennon now. Yet I believe the singular most dangerous threat religion poses is people who claim we have to make each person like us.

This is the root cause of fundamentalist religion today: I'm right, you're wrong. I hold the truth, you are a child of falsehood. I'm saved, and you're damned. The only salvation is to be like me.

How the *Aleinu* prayer can come to that final conclusion of praying for a future where we are united as one is something I haven't yet figured out. Yet while we still live on this side of history, I think there is a dignity to our differences. While there is universality in heaven, God somehow appreciates having a plurality down here on earth.

Rabbi Splansky: This prayer has been controversial for both Jews and gentiles. In the last five centuries, there have been many variations of the text.

In an age that values diversity of thought and belief, how can we understand this call for all peoples to unite under God's rule? Elie Wiesel explains: "The mission of the Jewish People has never been to make the world more Jewish, but to make the world more human."

Rabbi Fishman: At the heart of the *Aleinu* prayer is the value that the Jewish People are distinct, that we are a people "chosen by God."

This is an oft-misunderstood concept. In today's society of pluralism, acceptance and the equality of each human being, the concept of being part of the "Chosen People" is seemingly anathema.

Yet it need not be. In fact, the classic approach to this idea is best articulated by Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, who argued that "value is granted not to lineage and ties of birth but to the inwardness of a person – to his humanity."

Chosenness is, therefore, a call to responsibility, a challenge to live up to greatness and thereby bring others along with us.

Rabbi Splansky: Henrietta Szold wrote: "Our abilities will be on trial before a world full of nations which will judge us in the light of a glorious past of ideal service to humankind. For [the People of] Israel, election has never meant anything but obligation… It is a task, a heavy task, a holy task."

Aleinu was originally composed for Rosh Hashanah, when we celebrate the conception of the universe. By the early 14th century, it became the concluding hope of every prayer service throughout the year.

I can understand how it became so popular. It zooms out, focuses our eyes on the big picture, gets us to see above and beyond our own suffering. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 4 (2,230)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

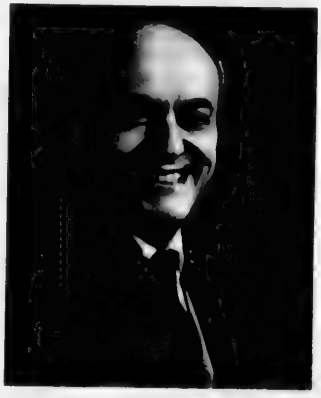
The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

In honour of International Holocaust Remembrance Day we remember and pay tribute to

Peter Ziegler

"So many people, so many places, such upheavals, never-forgotten abysmal horrors and sadness, then peace, followed by joy, always change and never-ending complexity. But, above all else, work, hope, love and so much beauty everywhere. It has been a fascinating life."

– PETER ZIEGLER



Peter Ziegler defied the odds. After losing his parents and sister in the Holocaust, he built a wonderful life in Toronto with a 32-year career as a biochemist. Despite the trauma and hardships, he understood the importance of forgiveness and giving back. He also believed in the power of research. Today, we celebrate his extraordinary legacy gift to the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, part of Sinai Health System, that will support research discoveries now and for the future.

Sinai Health Foundation

supportsinai.ca/legacygiving

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus, George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Hillel meeting

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

A Hillel meeting at the University of Toronto, 1960. Pictured in the middle is Rabbi Aaron Kamerling, director of Hillel from 1946 to 1970.

SeeJN | Mayor meets French community

HOWARD LIEBMAN PHOTO

While in Paris for the UN Climate Change Summit in December, Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, centre, held a follow-up meeting with leaders of the French Jewish community, including Yonatan Arfi, left, vice-president of CRIF, and Serge Dahan, president of B'nai Brith France. Coderre first met Arfi and Dahan in the wake of last January's Paris attacks on a visit to the Hyper Cacher market and hosted them in Montreal at a summit of French and Montreal community leaders he convened last June on the role of cities in combating anti-Semitism.

From Yoni's Desk

A long, strange trip through Jewish music

Every month, I look forward to receiving a new package from PJ Library, the visionary project that delivers Jewish-themed books to kids across North America and beyond, free of charge.

Since there are nearly 150,000 subscribers to PJ Library, clearly I'm not alone. Over the last few years, our family has enjoyed titles like *Todah, Mitzi's Mitzvah, 3 Falafels in my Pita, Sammy Spider's First Book of Jewish Holidays* and my personal favourite, *Shai's Shabbat Walk*.

Last month's PJ Library dispatch, though, was something different – a CD called *Shabbat Love Music*. The album's 14 tunes are simple and upbeat, but there are enough clever tidbits to keep music snobs like me listening, too. Sam Glaser's *Shabbas* mixes in classic doo-wop with the blessing over the Shabbat candles; the twangy guitar backing Ellen Allard's *We Sing Shabbat, We Sing Shalom* reminds me that I should plug my Telecaster into that vintage Fender amp every now and again (even if the neighbours complain); Elena Jagoda's rendition of *Zum Gali Gali* recalls the opening of The Beatles' *Tomorrow Never Knows*; and The Macaroons' two contributions, *Shabbat Lullaby* and *Shabbos Morning*, are both eminently listenable. (And my kids like them, too.)

Shabbat Music Love is now permanently on rotation in our car's CD player, and on more than a few occasions recently, I've found myself listening to it on the way to and from work, humming the tunes to myself in the office, or trying to master the D-major riff that anchors *Shabbat Lullaby* late at night (hint: it is not dissimilar to Pink Floyd's *Run Like Hell*).

More than anything, though, *Shabbat Music Love* takes me back to the Jewish music I listened to as a child – the classics of the genre, like *Uncle Moishy and the Mitzvah Men* and *The Marvelous Middos Machine* (featuring the interstellar exploits of Shnooki, Dr. Middos, Dizzy and the dastardly Dr. Doomstein). It reminds me of The Miami Boys Choir cassettes that were on heavy rotation in my father's car (along with Creedence Clearwater Revival), and the time my sister and I attended the local debut of teen sensation Yehuda!, who wowed the crowd with his virtuoso keytar playing.

Later, my Jewish music tastes gravitated toward jam-inclined groups like Reva L'Sheva and The Moshav Band. While studying at seminary in Israel in my late teens, I'd take every opportunity I could to see both bands perform live – whether at a Jewish music festival on Mevo Modi'im, the moshav founded by Shlomo Carlebach himself, or in Jerusalem clubs like The Yellow Submarine (where Reva and Moshav were just as likely to noodle through Grateful Dead deep cuts as they were classic niggunim).

Eventually, inspired by the work of the Diaspora Yeshiva Band, I got into the action myself, as part of the hard-rock outfit Shirayim. Playing Jewish music at ear-splitting levels on the stage of Toronto's Horseshoe Tavern, as Jewish kids and drunk bikers danced together below, remains one of my proudest life achievements.

You might say my journey through Jewish music has been a long, strange trip. And as I listen to *Shabbat Love Music*, I wonder where it will lead to next. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

'Little Dunkirk': A very different Holocaust story

Adam Fuerstenberg

Editor's Note: Adam Fuerstenberg, who passed away Jan. 3, was the founder of the Canadian Jewish Book Awards and a Canadian Jewish News contributor. He published the following story in the Oct. 30, 2003 edition of The CJN.

It was an unusually chilly morning on Oct. 7, 1943, and Dr. Karl Henry Koster, medical head of the Bispebjerg Hospital, one of the Copenhagen's largest, was just about to enter his third-floor office in the main wing after completing his first round of inspections when he noticed one of his medical students, Jorgen Knudsen, rushing towards him.

"Please excuse me, Dr. Koster, but I am desperate. Time is short and I don't know whom else I can turn to. Once, during one of your demonstrations, you hinted strongly about your opposition to the Nazis, and there is a rumour among the students that you are active in the underground."

He paused, and when the doctor nodded encouragingly, he continued: "Yesterday, morning, just as I was leaving for work in my ambulance, some of my student friends rushed over to me to tell me that the Gestapo were rounding up the Jews, and urged me to warn all my Jewish friends. But I didn't know which of my friends or acquaintances were Jewish.

"I ran to the nearest phone book and took down names that seemed obviously Jewish. When I drove to the addresses, I had to warn them. Many had no place where they could go, so I took them in my ambulance. But now I don't know where to hide them so I decided to ask you to help."

He had 40 men, women and children, he said, and he wondered if they could be hidden at the hospital until they could be smuggled out of Copenhagen. The doctor instantly agreed and told Knudsen to bring the 40 the next morning.

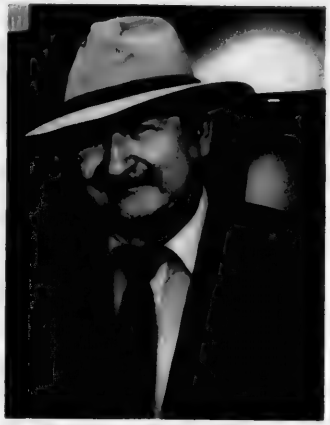
To get the group past the Gestapo, they agreed to stage a mock funeral. At eight the next morning, a frantic gatekeeper reported to Koster that a hearse and a large funeral party carrying flowers were demanding entry at the hospital's main gate. When Koster went down to welcome the party, he found Knudsen with some more of his students, but instead of the 40 souls he had expected there were 140.

In the next few days, Bispebjerg Hospital would hide almost another 1,000 refugees, who were then smuggled to the small fishing villages on the coast a few sea miles from Sweden across the Sund, the strait that separates Denmark from southern Sweden.

At the hospital, they were hidden as patients under fictitious names and in 130 apartments that the nurses vacated for them. Almost the whole staff helped. Many risked their lives volunteering to transport the Jews to the fishing villages. Some of the doctors and nurses were caught and arrested, and on being freed, went right back to the rescue effort. A few were killed by the Gestapo.

The Bispebjerg Hospital rescue is only one of a host of hair-raising experiences recorded during this truly different Holocaust story – Denmark's inspiring rescue of almost all of its Jewish population of 8,000. The story of this heroic rescue has come to be known as "Little Dunkirk" because of the motley assortment of small craft used to ferry the Jews to safety in Sweden.

What made the courageous effort of the staff at Bispebjerg Hospital even more remarkable was the fact that it was not the exception, but the norm. From King



Adam Fuerstenberg

Christian X – whose brusque answer to the Nazi demand that Denmark do something about its "Jewish Problem" was that Denmark had no Jewish problem because its Jews were equal Danes: "Viking Jews" he called them – to the humble street cleaner, all took part.

Tens of thousands of Danes, businessmen, professors, clergy, taxi drivers, fishwives, farmers, train conductors, even policemen, took up the challenge to sabotage the Nazi effort to destroy the Jewish community of Denmark. The authorities refused to co-operate, and the bishops circulated a pastoral letter to be read to all congregations denouncing the Nazi attempt as un-Christian, and urging their parishioners to help their Jewish fellow citizens.

For three weeks, beginning on the night of Rosh Hashanah, Oct. 1, 1943, the Danes smuggled them out in fishing boats, pleasure craft, even rowboats across the strait to a welcoming Sweden. Some 7,200 Danish Jews and Jewish refugees who had escaped the Nazi terror since 1933, as well as 700 non-Jewish relatives of these Jews, escaped the fate of their co-religionists in all the Nazi-occupied countries of Europe.

The Germans did manage to arrest about 500, whom they transported to the "model" concentration camp at Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia. But so powerful was the Danes' concern for their Jewish citizens that the Danish government bureaucracy and the public sent food parcels to Theresienstadt and successfully demanded that the Germans allow a Danish delegation to come and check on the Danish detainees.

Most Holocaust historians now agree that the German commanders in Denmark, S.S. Gen. Werner Best, and the military commander, Gen. von Hannecken, were aware of the rescue, but were forced to ignore it out of the fear of Danish resoluteness. They feared that Denmark, strategically located and supplying Germany with 10 per cent of its food, would rise in total revolt and hamper the already stalling German war effort.

Almost as astounding as the spontaneous Danish rescue of the Jews, was the joyous welcome they received on returning. Most remarkable of all was the fact that their Danish neighbours had carefully safeguarded Jewish businesses, houses and even personal property.

Dr. Nathan Bamberger, whose father was the rabbi of the famous old Leaderstraede Synagogue during the rescue, recalls with wonder that "when we returned to our home, which we had had to leave so suddenly on the eve of Rosh Hashanah 1943, all the settings at our dining table were still exactly as we had left them." ■

Great Winter Mornings
BEGIN AT
The Dunfield
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
MIDTOWN TORONTO'S PREMIERE RENTAL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
This is the year to make your move to The Dunfield and enjoy life to the fullest. Relax in the warmth of our full service rental retirement residence – where our resort-inspired living takes place 365 days a year!
Discover great food, superb service and a robust social calendar all in a well-appointed environment where your happiness is the order of the day.
Inquire About Our Winter Stay Program
Call today to arrange a personalized tour and enjoy a complimentary meal.
77 DUNFIELD AVENUE, TORONTO 416.481.8524 WWW.THEDUNFIELD.COM

Searching for the Amazonian Jews of Peru

Finding the country's second-largest Jewish community is no easy task, as **MICHAEL FRAIMAN** discovered

The biggest problem facing the only synagogue in the Amazonian city of Iquitos, Peru, is that nobody knows where it is. Hotel concierges won't know what you're talking about; tell a moto-taxi driver to take you there and he'll shake his head briskly and drive away. Ask a middle-aged police officer wearing faded pink lipstick who's standing idly at the corner of the Plaza de Armas, the city's main square, and she'll asked her two friends, a bank security guard and the man with a machete selling coconuts for a buck apiece before laughing at how nobody knows what you're talking about.

Iquitos is a difficult city by any measure – it's hard to reach, hard to digest and hard to live in, buried so deep northeast into the Peruvian Amazon that you can't even drive there, since no roads connect it to the outside world. To arrive, you must fly in from Lima or hitch a ride on a cargo boat, sleeping in hammocks and snaking through jungle rivers for up to four days straight.

Iquiteño Jews gather in the backroom synagogue for the Kabbalat Shabbat service. MICHAEL FRAIMAN PHOTO

aufgang travel
65+ Years of Experience
These are the moments your loved ones will always remember, start creating your memorable moment today.
Specializing in:
Faith Based Programs
Jewish Heritage Tours
Special Needs Arrangements
Special Interest Tours
Family Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
World Tours
Ask about our EL AL summer offers to Tel Aviv
For more information contact Janice Snider
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729 - Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON, L4J 3N4
Ontario Reg. # 50012754

Immediately upon stepping off the plane with my girlfriend and de facto Spanish translator, we met with a humidity we never knew existed – an inescapable 90 per cent year-round one, that keeps palm trees moist and the sky an unpredictable shade of grey. There's no escaping it; you sweat just standing still. As we toured the city that afternoon, we found restaurants overpriced (after all, you've got to add the cost of shipping ingredients more than 1,000 kilometres from Lima into your bill), mosquitos buzzing everywhere, fearless dragonflies landing on our clothes and rampant poverty stifling riverside villages propped up by decrepit wooden stilts for when the water levels rise.

It struck us as odd, then, that this should be home to the second largest Jewish community in Peru.

I first read about these so-called "Amazonian Jews" in the context of their Israeli dreams: hundreds of Iquiteño Jews have made aliyah and moved to the Holy Land in the last two decades, mostly to the central city of Ramla. But that publicity is almost all that's known about them.

What fascinated me more than those who left were those who stayed, that handful of practising Jews whose very existence faces constant pressure by, on one side, Lima's Ashkenazi elite (who don't consider the Iquiteños Jews at all, since they're almost entirely descendants of Jewish men), and on the other by the allure of abandoning impoverished Peru for First World Israel. Who built the synagogue? How do they keep kosher? And why, frankly, do they bother with Judaism at all?

• • •

We decided to start with the synagogue. I'd looked up the address online – Próspero 241, near the central Plaza de Armas in the city's dirty colonial downtown, where every building features old Maltese balconies, arched doors and wooden shutters – but we missed it walking up and down main street. Instead, having gone too far south, we found a subtle artifact of the city's Jewish past: above the main doorway of a large one-story supermarket at the corner of Próspero and Morona, beautifully tiled with ornate iron grills over the windows, we noticed the twisty art nouveau words, "Cohen & Co." The building, we'd later learn, was built by a wealthy Jewish man in 1905 and sold once his family moved in the mid-1910s.

The air was too muggy to keep pacing the streets endlessly, so we decided to hitch a moto-taxi to the city's quasi-famed Jewish cemetery. An online map pointed to a plot of land at the intersection of Putumayo and Alzamora, a dozen or so blocks north of where we were, but we arrived only to find in its place the Max Augustín Stadium, a newly built out-of-place 25,000-seat soccer arena. Aggravated, we asked a nearby shopkeeper where the nearest cemetery was, and she told us to try the central one, a five-minute ride south, near the lively and pungent Belen Market.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Mideast peace can only be based on mutual understanding

Mira Sucharov

If you want to understand Palestinian political consciousness, look no further than a cartoon character named Handala. Made of white card stock inked with black marker and held high above the crowd, Handala made his most recent appearance Jan. 15 at a West Bank rally calling for non-violence and an end to the occupation, hosted by two Israeli-Palestinian groups: Combatants for Peace and Standing Together.

Handala was created by the late Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al-Ali, who drew in the 1970s and 1980s. He's depicted as a barefoot, 10-year-old Palestinian child whom Al-Ali describes as "not a fat, happy, relaxed or pampered child." Handala is bald, save for several spikes of hair, and he clasps his hands "behind his back as a sign of rejection at a time when solutions are presented to us the American way."

When Handala returns to Palestine, Al-Ali adds, he "will still be 10, and then he will start growing up… Things will become normal again when the homeland returns." (Al-Ali's words come from the website handala.org.)

Like other North American kids of my generation, I, too, grew up with a bald cartoon character created around the same time as Handala. Tom Wilson's Ziggy faced daily challenges and existential dilemmas, but serious political commentary was absent. In my Ziggy-illustrated binder in sixth grade at Winnipeg's Talmud Torah school, I learned about Zionist history, sang *Hatikvah*, and memorized the list of Israeli presidents and prime ministers for the annual JNF Israel contest. No notes were taken of the Palestinian experience.

Looking at Handala points to some uncomfortable truths. First, Palestinian resistance – and yes, even rejection of proposals they deem unjust – is a reality.

We could point to the Palestinian rejection of the 1947 UN partition resolution and conclude Palestinians made their bed that day and, therefore, must lie in it. Sure, how sweet it would have been had the Palestinian national movement agreed to the division. But it's not surprising that a national group whose collective identity was tied up in the land opposed it. And now, in 2016, with Israel occupying the West Bank as a dangling appendage to its post-1949 armistice borders, we must acknowledge that a Palestinian state based on 1967 lines – if the parties ever agree on it – is still only 22 per cent of the land Palestinians view as theirs.

But the toughest part of Handala for Israelis and their supporters to stomach is the fact he's not merely a West Bank resident opposing military occupation and desiring Palestinian national sovereignty. Handala represents the crux of historical Palestinian memory. He's a refugee child, frozen in time, who hopes to return. When Zionists hear "refugee return," they fear refugee flooding and the end of the Jewish state – what Israelis call the "demographic threat."

It's well known in policy circles that there are clear and obvious solutions to the refugee question that address some – though not all – Palestinian claims. These might involved some family reunification and mostly repatriation to a new Palestinian state in the West Bank (and possibly Gaza). They may involve financial compensation. And, though it's hard to imagine such words being uttered by Israel's current government, there may even be some sort of apology, or at least recognition of some responsibility.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas has already publicly renounced his claim to territory in pre-1967 Israel. But collective memory is strong, and the injustice of the Nakba – whether primarily a function of Israeli expulsions or Arab states' decision to launch war following Israel's 1948 declaring of independence – still stings.

In order to inch toward agreement with the Palestinians, the hard work of government-to-government negotiation must be supplemented by the people-to-people work of setting the stage for ratifying any deal. Part of this means taking the historical narratives of the other seriously and realizing the gaping wounds of memory are difficult to suture without really listening and understanding. ■

Others will pay for America's lack of resolve on Iran

Mordechai Ben-Dat

There's a powerful scene in the film *Love and Death*, Woody Allen's hilarious parody of the large, brooding 19th-century Russian novel. Allen's character, a luckless Russian infantryman, casts his eyes high above to the hilltops where his army's generals sit loftily and safely on their horses, observing the battle raging below. Standing in the muck and chaos of the bloody fighting, he says, "Wow! The battle looks completely different when you're in the middle of it than it does to the generals up on the hill."

That observation came to mind on Jan. 16, when leaders of the West congratulated themselves as the nuclear deal with Iran took effect. With it, of course, came the imminent flow into the Iranian treasury of some $100 billion (US).

"Today… the United States, our friends and allies in the Middle East, and the entire world are safer because the threat of the nuclear weapon has been reduced," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry enthused in Vienna. Other spokespeople for the western governments involved in the agreement made similar pronouncements.

Meanwhile, leaders in the Middle East, the region where Tehran's treachery and duplicity cause unceasing death and destruction, had a different view.

"The 'implementation day' of the nuclear agreement ushers us into a new and dangerous era, in which Iran is freed from most of its economic sanctions, without having to quit its nuclear program or provide explanations for its military activities," said Israel's strategic affairs minister Gilad Erdan.

Does any serious thinker or even casual observer of the Middle East doubt how Iran will spend the majority of the billions? Its supreme leader, Ali Khamenei and his personally directed attack force, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, have already made public their chief spending priority: upgrading the military. And Russia has already sold Iran the advanced S-300 anti-aircraft defence system. In addition, the two countries are negotiating possible sales to Iran of advanced fighter jets, anti-ship cruise missiles and T-90 tanks. France, too, has won a portion of the Iranian sanctions-liberated lottery and is currently negotiating a massive sale of Dassault Rafale fighter jets.

And does any serious thinker or even casual observer doubt that some of this new weaponry – not to mention some of the billions of newly received U.S. dollars – will be conveyed to Iran's surrogates and violent satraps in the region?

Former CIA director David Petraeus has no illusions about Iranian intentions. In a recent interview with *Ha'aretz*, he noted: "We must recognize that it has been Iranian expansionism that has helped fan the flames of Sunni extremism, whether by enabling [President] Bashar Assad's campaign of slaughter in Syria or backing sectarian elements in Iraq or Yemen. That is why at the same time that we step up our campaign to combat the Islamic State, we also need a reinvigorated effort to counter and roll back Iran's malign activities across the region."

The American administration, however, has adamantly refused to "roll back Iran's malign activities across the region." One need not look further than Iran's recent illegal testing of long-range ballistic missiles and its illegal detention of U.S. sailors whose boats mistakenly crossed into Iranian waters.

In both cases, the administration's response was obsequious. In the former case, only *after* "implementation day" of the nuclear deal and *after* President Barack Obama had threatened to block renewed Congressional sanctions against Iran for violating the UN resolution prohibiting the test of the missiles did the U.S. Treasury Department impose sanctions against 11 listed individuals and companies. In the latter case, Kerry gave effusive thanks to his Iranian counterpart for not harming the Americans whose very detention had violated all international norms.

In both cases, Tehran tested Washington's resolve. In both cases, Washington showed none. It will fall to the countries in the Middle East who are the targets of Iran's malign activities to show the resolve the West so alarmingly lacks. ■

If we all give, it will be like winning the lottery

Rabbi Jay Kelman, CPP, CA

There's not much you can do with a toonie. But there's a lot you can do with many of them. When many people join together and each give $2, they might be lucky enough to share a jackpot of $1.6 billion, as three people did in the recent Powerball lottery. Despite odds of more than 292 billion to 1, millions of people bought tickets in pursuit of riches.

These staggering odds aren't even recognized as having any bearing in Jewish law, which pays no attention to such far-fetched odds. This was the core of the debate over the 18th-century German law that insisted we wait three days before burying the dead, lest one mistakenly be buried alive. The vast majority of rabbinic scholars opposed the law, despite the potential people might be declared dead too early. While the fundamental principle that saving a life pushes aside all commandments of the Torah (with three exceptions), the odds of such early burial were so slim that Jewish law ignored them.

Yet such odds don't seem to faze the masses. Millions were willing to pay $2 for the chance to dream, if ever so fleetingly, of joining the world's club of billionaires. It may be totally irrational, but, heck, what's $2? And if it stopped at that, there would be little to be concerned with. And when we recall how money that's not distributed to lottery winners is spent enhancing public services, there's much to be gained from lotteries.

However, research has shown lotteries are, in many respects, a tax on the poor, who, due to their often-desperate attempts to escape poverty, effectively throw money in the garbage. (And we can discuss the research that demonstrates lottery winners are within a short period of time no happier than others and that many actually wish they'd never won.) I don't know if this is enough reason to ban lotteries, but it's something we must be concerned with.

Rabbinic authorities debate whether a lottery is prohibited as a form of gambling, with the majority differentiating between the two. This is especially true of charity lotteries, where the majority of funds go to the charity, and people tend to buy tickets not because of potential winnings, but as a chance to support a charity.

Of course, in practice, the odds of winning are much greater than any of the government-run lotteries, and it's perhaps sad that many ticket buyers need the enticement of potential winnings in order to offer their support. Yet such is human nature, and provided there's no serious harm done, we ought to take advantage of it for the community's benefit.

It's this understanding of human nature that helps raise large sums for new buildings. While it would be preferable that such largesse be given anonymously, human nature being what it is, Jewish law not only allows, but strongly encourages that donors' names be given great prominence, as this will lead to larger amounts raised for charity.

While we may debate the merits of lotteries, there's no debate that small amounts of money given by everyone can make a huge difference. It's through the contributions of just a half shekel per person that the Tabernacle was built and maintained.

In that vein, I'd like to suggest that every member of the Jewish community donate half of the saving of the middle class tax cut that took effect Jan. 1. The federal tax rate was lowered by 1.5 per cent on all income between $45,282 and $90,563. That saving, combined with the provincial tax savings, can total more than $1,000 a year.

If all who benefit would contribute half of their newly found savings to support Jewish education, we as a community could raise millions of dollars a year. It's money that's desperately needed and yet within reach, if we all do our part. ■

Send comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org.

Airlines must do better for the disabled

Norma Baumel Joseph

Commercial airlines claim to be wheelchair accessible. Their compliance with certain standards of accommodation for the disabled is the law. Our experience puts the lie to that claim.

As many *CJN* readers know, my husband, Rabbi Howard Joseph, is confined to a wheelchair because he cannot walk. We have travelled before and managed, although one Canadian carrier lost our wheelchair.

Despite that experience, we planned a trip for our grandson's bar mitzvah. Of course, the storm arrived in time for our departure. The flight was cancelled, but don't worry, came the email, we have rebooked you: Howard on one flight and Norma on another! Thus began our great adventure in catastrophe. Our agent had noted on the ticket that we three were not to be separated (my husband's aide travels with us). But computerized software does not read added notations.

(Caveat: we would never have survived and arrived at our simchah without the watchful guardianship of our wonderful agent.)

The airlines did their best to destroy our plans and us.

I bought three new first-class tickets. Our only priority was to get to the bar mitzvah. Typically, I buy Howard first-class tickets, as he cannot walk down the aisle to economy. But this time, for all of us, first-class were the only seats available.

When we arrived in Toronto, we missed our connection. No one seemed to care that leaving a disabled man overnight was not a simple matter. We managed to transfer to a partner carrier so that we could get to Denver the same day. Incomprehensibly, the new airline recognized their partnership enough to accept our tickets for travel to Denver. But they placed us all in economy when I had clearly bought and paid for first-class seats. I started worrying immediately about getting my husband all the way into the economy seats, but I was thrilled we had seats on a plane.

The flight was delayed from 4 to 8 p.m. At that point, we had been up since 2 a.m. and eager to get to our destination. I consistently urged the various agents to place my husband in the empty business class seat. No one was interested, but they all assured me that agents on the ground would have the necessary equipment to get him on board. Don't worry!

> *How can we exact justice, decency, respect or fairness from our transportation industry?*

At the gate, the local agent explained that the plane's access was via stairs only. She asked: "Can't he just walk up the stairs?" How embarrassing for him. The passengers got on, and a ramp was put over the stairs.

Another agent pushed him up the ramp. Lo and behold, the ramp stopped four feet shy of the door to the aircraft. The agent looked at me and asked, "What shall I do?"

"Yes, What will you do?" I replied.

She responded: "He will just have to stay here and not travel."

Is this wheelchair accessibility? Does this fit with any assurance that agents have the necessary equipment? Does this sound like staff that is helpful and supportive?

Our aide then lifted my husband and carried him over the narrow bridge into the aircraft. There was an empty seat in the first row. I asked the staff on board to please let Howard sit down. It was no longer safe for him to be carried forward, but the onboard crew steadfastly refused.

Exhausted and distressed, we finally reached our destination, but you guessed it: our luggage did not.

What kind of service, care and responsibility is this? Is this what we can expect in terms of wheelchair accessibility? Is this the face of human decency? We met a legally blind woman on that plane who was equally traumatized by the staff and the conditions. How can we exact justice, decency, respect or fairness from our transportation industry? Is this the 21st century? Is this the Canadian or American way? ■

News

Opinions differ on Canada's air role against ISIS

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Trudeau government is being tested on crucial foreign policy matters early in its mandate, and reactions have been mixed about how it's dealing with the fight against terrorism.

Last week, the government came under fire from opposition critics who said the decision to end the air bombing mission against the Islamic State (ISIS) led to Canada being snubbed at a Jan. 20 meeting of allies in Paris to discuss further measures to be taken against the terrorist organization.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan brushed off suggestions Canada has been sidelined in the fight against terror.

"Meetings happen all the time," he said.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) did not take sides on the bombing debate, but the organization's CEO, Shimon Fogel, said "Canadians are united in their desire to make a meaningful contribution to the international coalition working to degrade ISIS.

"It is difficult to imagine an enemy in our time more vicious and deserving of military action than ISIS, but this fact does not preclude a reasonable debate around the most effective contribution Canada has to offer. It would be perfectly credible for Canada to alter its current role in a manner that provides similar or greater value to the coalition effort. The test of this will be the degree to which Canada's revised contribution achieves practical results in the campaign to counter ISIS and is welcomed by the international community as constructive, valuable and effective."

Referring to the cessation of the CF-18 air campaign, Avi Benlolo, CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said, "We believe that Canada has a moral and possibly legal obligation through NATO to stand shoulder to shoulder with its allies against terrorism. Canada has always stood the test of time in defence of freedom, democracy and human rights, and it shall do so once again."

Karen Mock, a spokesperson for JSpace Canada, a left-wing pro-Israel organization, said "Canada is clearly part of a multi-faceted approach to countering ISIS. It is my understanding that the ministers and staff have visited the region on numerous occasions, consulted about the most effective role for Canada now and have made an appropriate decision given our resources and the current need to fill gaps in the overall strategy."

"Training is a role we have played in the past and that we do well. And there is a great need for humanitarian aid in the region," she said.

As to suggestions Canada was snubbed by not being invited to the Paris meeting, Mock said countries attending on Jan. 20 were "countries that have attended meetings together before, as an ongoing part of the coalition. Canada has not been at those meetings in the past. So I don't think we should consider it a snub that they are not there now, but just that an additional meeting was called that included the countries they had been included at these meetings in the past."

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan

One of the more emotional responses to the government's air policy decision was voiced by Camille Carrier, whose daughter, Maude, was one of six Canadian humanitarian workers – all from Quebec – killed in Burkina Faso earlier this month by Islamic terrorists affiliated with Al Qaeda.

"I was ashamed before this happened, but obviously the loss of my daughter has only made me more revolted about this situation," said Carrier, a retired administration professor at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

She said Trudeau "offers shallow words about inclusion and tolerance. We need to do more. We need our leader to pay attention to legitimate security concerns in addition to our image as a welcoming country."

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard offered condolences following the terrorist attack and said, "These acts must reinforce our determination to combat these barbarians with all of our force next to our allies, without compromise."

Meanwhile, the Conservative party's defense critic James Bezan assailed the decision to withdraw from air combat missions, saying it led to the absence of an invitation to Canada to attend an important policy discussion of defence ministers in Paris.

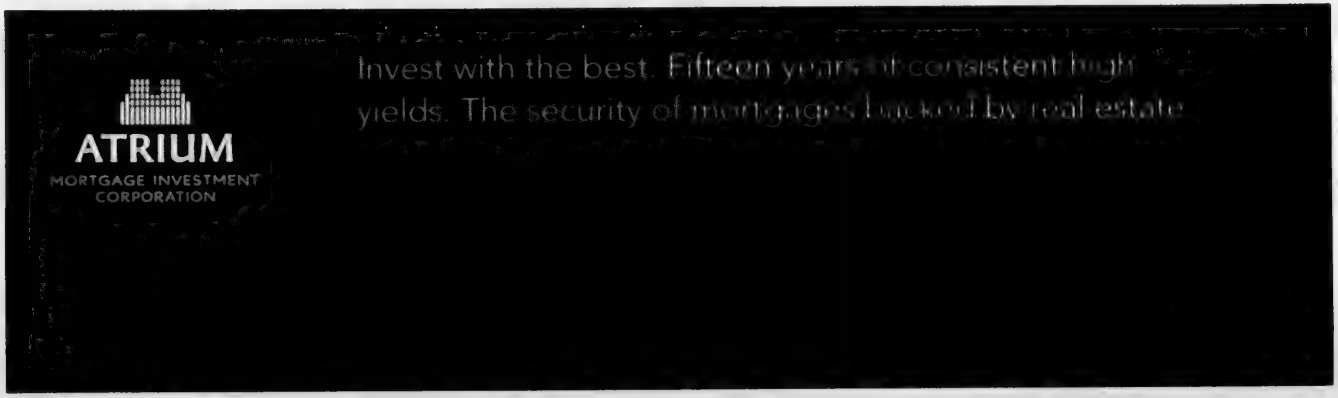
The meeting brought together allies in the anti-ISIS coalition, including the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Australia and the Netherlands.

"Canada is deliberately being excluded because of this Liberal government's decision to withdraw our CF-18s from the mission against ISIS," Bezan said.

"Once again, this development demonstrates that the Liberal party's policy on fighting ISIS is incoherent, and the decision to withdraw Canada's CF-18s is seen by our allies as stepping back, rather than standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them," Bezan added.

Although Canada didn't participate in the Paris meeting, Sajjan said he is involved in ongoing anti-terror talks and will be discussing ISIS with Canada's allies at two other upcoming meetings, one of them with other defence ministers on Feb. 11.

"We are actively participating on a meaningful basis," Sajjan said. "We're not just looking at the current situation in Syria and Iraq, we're actually looking at the overall threats around the world as well." ■



Briefing memo sparks speculation on Mideast policy

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

During last fall's election campaign, there was plenty of debate about whether a Liberal victory would mark a change in the country's relationship with Israel. Would it shift to being more even-handed between Israelis and Palestinians and adopt a role as "honest broker," or would it remain as staunchly pro-Israel as it had been under the Harper Conservatives?

A *Canadian Press* report on a briefing memo prepared by the Privy Council Office for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been interpreted by some as signalling a shift. *CP*, which obtained the memo in an access to information request, said there had been "persistent reports of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas aimed at negotiating an extended ceasefire."

An analyst quoted in the report said the memo indicated the Trudeau government was coming to terms with a "geopolitically significant" development in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and that "it's a pretty sharp contrast with the position of the Harper government."

But not everyone sees it that way.

Israel's embassy in Ottawa looked into the issue, spokesperson Eitan Weiss told *The CJN*. "We received reassurances from the Canadian foreign ministry that Canadian policy has not changed on this issue."

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), said his organization hasn't seen the memo, but called the issue "largely a non-story."

"Any observer will tell you that an overwhelming majority of Israelis would welcome long-term quiet with Hamas as per Israel's offer in 2014 of reconstruction in exchange for demilitarization of Gaza. That quiet, however, depends on Hamas ending its theft and misuse of aid intended for Palestinians and its ongoing terror campaign against Israelis. Indeed, were Hamas to accept the Quartet's [the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia] basic conditions – that it unequivocally renounce violence, recognize Israel's right to exist, and abide by signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements – we would be among the first to welcome this development."

Fogel rejected suggestions there's been a

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

shift in government policy. "Although Trudeau's and Harper's tones and styles are dramatically different, Mr. Trudeau has been unequivocal... that support for Israel will remain a fixture of Canadian foreign policy... firmly rooted in a cross-party consensus and reflecting shared values, interests and opportunities. Mr. Trudeau has also been unequivocal in condemning Hamas as a terrorist organization and upholding Israel's right to defend its people from attacks."

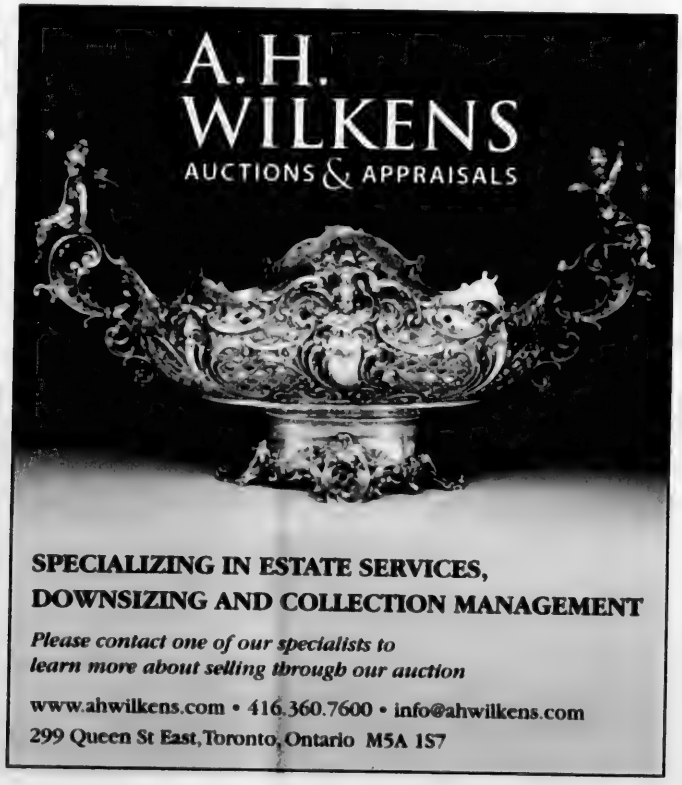
"When CIJA met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion, he emphasized that Canada's substantive policy vis-à-vis the Middle East would not change, noting that the government would like to play, in their view, a more active role in contributing to regional peace and stability," Fogel added.

Meanwhile, JSpace Canada, a left-wing Zionist group, ran a piece on its website by founding member Harry Schachter that said, "We may be seeing early signs of a shift back to a middle-of-the-road position on Israel-Palestine issues by the new Trudeau government, more in keeping with Canada's historic role in the Middle East."

Noting the previous Tory government would have refused to deal with Hamas, Schachter writes that "whether Israel should negotiate with Hamas has long been a serious question. The *CP* report could mean that talks between Israel and Hamas would be looked on favourably by the new government in Ottawa."

He suggested ISIS' attempts to make inroads in Gaza would put Hamas in a more positive light for western nations. Even though some in Israel would see an ISIS takeover of the area as giving Israel a freer hand there, "a more secure outcome for Israel – and for the people of Gaza – would surely be talks with Hamas. If the new government of Canada can play in role in facilitating such a process, as part of a realignment of its position in the Middle East, so much the better," he writes. ■

JOIN US IN ISRAEL FOR A JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME
2016 MISSION TO
ISRAEL
MAY 3-13
$4,500
SUPPORT ISRAEL.
EXPLORE IT. FEEL IT. EXPERIENCE IT.
HIGHLIGHTS With your hosts Toby & Saul Feldberg:
• Participate in the world's most prestigious Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations at Mount Herzl, plus enjoy the Air Force flyover.
• Engage in briefings and discussions with Israeli dignitaries and military elite.
• Enjoy exclusive visits to IDF army bases.
• Socialize with our wounded heroes at Beit Halochem and hear their incredible stories.
• Visit Jerusalem Old and New, as well as the Golan Heights, Tzfat, Jaffa, Caesarea, Masada, Dead Sea, Timna, Eilat, and Tel Aviv.
INCLUDES:
• 10 nights in 5-star accommodations: Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel and Towers, Hilton Queen Sheba in Eilat
• Sightseeing, entrance fees, and most meals
• Expert government licensed tour guide and luxury tour bus
INFORMATION Tel 905-695-0611 Toll free 1-800 355 1647 www.beithalochem.ca


A.H.
WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS
SPECIALIZING IN ESTATE SERVICES,
DOWNSIZING AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
Please contact one of our specialists to
learn more about selling through our auction
www.ahwilkens.com • 416.360.7600 • info@ahwilkens.com
299 Queen St East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7

EMPLOYER
Federation CJA

POSITION
Director, GenMTL

FEDERATION CJA

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

Federation CJA is the central address for the Jewish community of Montreal. We lead in promoting a vibrant and caring Montreal Jewish community, one in which diversity is welcomed and Jewish life, education and values are nurtured and strengthened. Federation CJA embodies Jewish collective responsibility and advances communal interests locally, nationally, in Israel and beyond.

Federation CJA is launching a vision for a new approach to youth and young adult programs and services, integrating Montreal Hillel, March of the Living, Birthright and Federation CJA's Young Adult Division (YAD).

We are now searching for an experienced leader to fill the role of Director, GenMTL for this new department.

SUMMARY OF THE POSITION

The Director of GenMTL is responsible for developing and implementing strategies that will create a vibrant and thriving community for young adults in Montreal including building the professional and volunteer capacity and creating a culture of collaboration.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work in concert with the CEO, senior management team and GenMTL staff to set the vision, agenda and strategy for the year;
- Build and supervise a dynamic team of GenMTL professionals;
- Develop and implement outreach activities to engage young Jewish adults;
- Establish, with the CEO and Campaign Director, the goals of the GenMTL annual campaign and oversee the development of objectives and all related programs for the GenMTL annual campaign, ensuring that GenMTL donors are properly stewarded, cultivated and recognized for their contributions;
- Establish annual and long-term objectives and metrics for GenMTL, including engagement and fundraising metrics, and metrics to determine effectiveness of transition, intake and data collection;
- Develop and implement a plan to identify, cultivate and nurture emerging and existing GenMTL leadership with the potential to fulfil a wide range of volunteer leadership roles both within Federation CJA and Jewish communal institutions, and extending to the community at large;
- Promote Jewish learning as an important element of Jewish leadership and ensure the provision of Jewish learning opportunities across all age cohorts and within all programs;
- Partner with lay leadership in the oversight of the GenMTL department;
- Collaborate with volunteers to identify, develop and incubate activities in furtherance of GenMTL goals and objectives.

PROFILE

- Bachelor's degree required; Graduate degree preferred.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in senior management;
- Experienced in change management, in particular in team building;
- Development and management of a budget;
- Experience with program evaluation;
- Experience in building relationships with donors, colleagues, lay leaders and key internal and external stakeholders;
- Ability to articulate and communicate a compelling vision for GenMTL, and to translate the vision into achievable goals, strategies and deliverables.
- Demonstrated passion for and deep knowledge and understanding of Federation CJA mission, program areas and agenda;
- Demonstrated success cultivating donors and canvassing for gifts;
- Strong organizational skills;
- High emotional intelligence, relationship-building and motivational skills;
- Strong written and verbal communications skills;
- Ability to manage and execute on multiple projects simultaneously and work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders;
- Bilingual: French and English.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Regular full time position with competitive benefits package.

APPLICATION

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume along with a cover letter to the Human Resources Department, by email, to **muriel.alloune@federationcja.org**, before February 5, 2016.

FEDERATION CJA
1, Cummings Square | 5151, Côte Sainte-Catherine Road
Montréal (Québec) H3W 1M6 | Tel. 514.735.3541

New rules could shut preschoolers out of camps

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

Phil Faibish

Lori Hacker's five-year-old son had a great time at Jack and Pat Kay Centre Camp last summer, making new friends, learning new skills, and thriving in a Jewish environment.

"Centre Camp is like a gem in the community," she said. "The level of care and support and fun is second to none."

But she's worried her younger son, who turns three this summer, won't have the same opportunity. Under new child care legislation introduced by Ontario's Ministry of Education, camps must now meet the same licensing requirements as daycares if they serve campers under four years old.

It's a goal that's unrealistic and unnecessary, said Centre Camp director Phil Faibish.

"The act makes sense to help protect children in daycare, but we are a different program," he said.

Centre Camp is accredited by the Ontario Camps Association (OCA), which has more than 400 standards, including protocols about safety, hygiene and the ratio of caregivers to children, that camps must meet, some of which are stricter than the ministry's daycare regulations, he said.

Some of the requirements for daycares make no sense for camps, which operate mainly outdoors and serve children of different ages, Faibish said.

One sticking point is that camps group children by grade to keep friends together, while daycare rules separate kids by age, so that all four-year-olds are in one group.

The new regulations, based on recommendations in the ombudsman of Ontario's report on unlicensed child care, came into effect last August.

"Younger children are a more vulnerable population," Education Ministry spokesperson Gary Wheeler said in an email. "Requiring a child care licence for camps serving children under four years of age places an emphasis on standards and protection."

The OCA is meeting with the ministry of education and hopes to reach a compromise by February or March, which would allow accredited camps to accept preschoolers.

Meanwhile, Faibish has emailed parents of the 75 to 100 affected campers. He said he's "optimistic" the problem will be resolved. "We're telling families to come to camp and save their spot."

If the situation isn't resolved, the camp, which has about 1,000 campers, will issue refunds, but Faibish said he doesn't know what parents will do, since there aren't many daycare spots available.

Hacker has registered her younger son and hopes her two boys will go to camp together this summer. "The government didn't consult with people who pay taxes and work for a living. I don't think they thought this through. Camp is not the same as daycare."

Lubavitch Day Camp, which serves about 700 children, is also accredited by the OCA, but director Ester Steinmetz is working on being licensed as a daycare so she can accept the 60 to 80 preschoolers who attend the camp.

"The parents are in a frenzy," she said. "A lot of camps are closing. I have a lot of applications. I can't take them all."

Getting the proper licensing is an onerous process. "I'm working on a 120-page document I already comply with," she said.

Operating as a daycare means camp will also be more expensive, since early childhood educators are needed for each group, not just counsellors. This will be hard for families whose children had attended smaller, less expensive camps or informal backyard camps, Steinmetz said.

Some camps, especially those not accredited by the OCA, are simply not accepting the youngest campers.

Daniel Opert, director of Camp Eitan Breakaway, decided not to enrol three-year-olds this year, affecting about 15 children. "It's a small group for us," he said. "We might decide to apply [for a daycare licence], but for the time being, we're just not opening for that age."

Other camps that operate as daycares during the school year are extending their licences to cover the summer as well. The summer programs at the Miles Nadal JCC and Torah Tots Preschool are in this situation.

Even so, the camps face obstacles. Torah Tots director Chayala Zarchi said she's always hired certified teachers, but she's still trying to find out if she can also hire the teenage counsellors who give the camp "a fresh energy."

Heather Heagle, executive director of the OCA, said she's "feeling positive" that "some type of a new commitment allowing accredited camps to be exempt from the regulations," can be reached with the Ministry of Education.

The Jewish community, in particular, is highly invested in camping and is "going berserk," about the change in regulations, she said. ■

Jewish disability month seeks to raise awareness

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Inclusivity goes beyond making spaces physically accessible to everyone – other people's attitudes sometimes pose the greatest barriers to those with disabilities, says Liviya Mendelsohn, manager of accessibility and inclusion at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (MNJCC).

This is one of a host of issues that will be addressed during Toronto's inaugural Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), to be held throughout February.

The program – spearheaded by the MNJCC in partnership with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's inclusion initiative, Itanu Toronto – will feature dozens of events, including panel discussions, gallery shows, film screenings, recreational activities and workshops.

The purpose is to raise awareness about different types of disabilities and "to get the community focused on identifying and removing barriers, doing outreach and making our community more welcoming to everyone – not just in synagogues but in the arts, culture…[in] every facet of our community," Mendelsohn said.

A piece from the *Voicing Perspective* exhibit.

First launched in 2009 in Minneapolis, JDAIM has been running for several years in dozens of American cities, plus on a smaller scale in Vancouver and Calgary, with an aim to make accessibility a top priority in the Jewish community.

JDAIM Toronto will raise awareness about "visible and invisible disabilities," meaning those that affect people physically and those related to vision, hearing, mental health or intellectual development.

It will also highlight the connection between Jewish values and promoting attitudes that embrace diversity.

"Everyone who wants to be part of Jewish life should be a part of Jewish life. The Torah teaches about the humanity and dignity of all people. That's what this month is all about," Mendelsohn said.

The program's Toronto debut comes at a moment when the community here has begun to make real strides on the inclusivity front, Mendelsohn said.

The existence of her role at the MNJCC, for example – established last year to improve the accessibility of the centre's facilities, programs and services – is a marker of progress, as is Mendelsohn's new part-time position as inclusion specialist at Itanu Toronto, whose revitalization effort she was hired to lead.

So far, an outgrowth of this is the Inclusive Synagogue Working Group, which was formed following an inclusion conference the MNJCC and Itanu ran last spring for rabbis, educators, social service organizations and Jewish community workers.

Comprising representatives from about 17 Toronto shuls, the group meets monthly to explore initiatives such as building renovations to enhance accessibility, bringing in large-print or Braille prayer books and hiring ASL interpreters for hearing-impaired congregants.

JDAIM's organizers have partnered with a number of organizations, including JVS Toronto, Dani Toronto, Reena, the Toronto Jewish Film Society and the Toronto Public Library, and events are happening around the city.

In keeping with the notion of inclusivity, activities are diverse, including things such as wheel dance – a mixed abilities dance class – accessible yoga, a cooking class, a job search workshop and a session on making organization's websites more accessible.

Larger events include a summit on affordable housing for people with disabilities and a film shown in partnership with the Toronto Jewish Film Festival about the state of disability rights in Israel.

Also, from Jan. 30 to Feb. 24, the MNJCC gallery will feature *Voicing Perspective*, an exhibit featuring photographs and paintings done by international artists with intellectual and other disabilities.

Mendelsohn emphasized that the Itanu committee and MNJCC's community advisory committee include people with disabilities, who helped to advise on programming.

"Disability touches almost every family in our community. It's not a separate issue but one that includes everyone," she said. ■

WINTER IS ON THE WAY, DON'T DELAY
Reserve Your Suite At Four Elms today!
FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve
STUNNING ONE BEDROOM SUITES
Limited Supply, Reserve Yours Today!
INESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
NDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH FROM 2:30 - 4:00 PM
y New Year! Kick off the Chinese New Year with traditional
, dance and an assortment of delectable treats as
ing in the Year of the Monkey. Please RSVP
BE MY VALENTINE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH FROM 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Sweets for the Sweet! Love is in the air at Four Elms! We invite you to
join us for delicious decadent desserts and a
performance by the lovely Rhonda Silver. Please RSVP
905-738-0905 | 1500 STEELES AVE. WEST, THORNHILL, ON | www.vervesenioriving.com

GUEST VOICE

Why we must preserve Jewish life outside big cities

Paul Socken

When I was completing my doctorate at the University of Toronto, there were only three jobs in my field in the whole country. I eagerly accepted the offer from the University of Waterloo and started an adventure that would change my life.

Other young Jewish professors came to Waterloo, which was growing in size and reputation. Whether religious or not, most yearned for Jewish fellowship and ended up at Beth Jacob Congregation, then under the stewardship of the legendary Rabbi Philip Rosensweig, whose avuncular nature and great skills were a draw for many of us. We began what became a long journey toward faith and study.

My own move back to Toronto after 17 years in Kitchener-Waterloo was personally enriching in many ways. Still, my mind often wanders back to what was once the only shul in Kitchener-Waterloo, where Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and secular gathered under one roof. The fellowship and mutual respect were heartening.

Nothing comes easily in small Jewish communities. They must be resourceful. Engaged individuals create their own study groups. Smaller communities have a vibrancy, commitment, amity and warmth that are largely unrecognized and unacknowledged. It is unimaginable that you could walk into a synagogue in a small town and not receive a warm welcome.

Jewish life in recent years has gravitated to the big cities to such an extent that it is easy to forget that small towns were once the heart of Jewish life in Canada.

In Europe before World War II, Judaism was a small-town phenomenon. There was Kovno, but there was also Birzei. There were Warsaw and Lodz, but there was also Piotrkow. Judaism survived and thrived on the margins as well as at the centre. The renowned yeshivas of the cities nourished the towns and villages spiritually and intellectually. There was an important relationship between the centres of learning and the knowledgeable and pious Jews throughout the various countries.

European Jews who settled in Canadian towns before and after the war brought with them their knowledge, piety and observance. However, practical circumstances in a new land made adaptation difficult, and compromises were often made. Their integration was a great success and their tenacious determination to maintain Jewish practice in their adopted country for themselves and their families led to the building of shuls and communities. Their spirit lives on.

> *The current polarization between town and city is not healthy for the Canadian Jewish family.*

The current polarization between town and city is not healthy for the Canadian Jewish family. There are smaller yet significant Jewish centres like Hamilton and London with day schools and amenities, but even they are losing members who are increasingly drawn to the resources of the big cities. Small Jewish centres find it difficult to attract young Jewish families because of the lack of Jewish infrastructure.

If the trend continues and the only viable Jewish communities left are in the big cities, Jewish life in Canada will be unknown in most of the country. That would be a loss for the country and for the remaining Jews spread thinly across this vast land. It would be a blow as well to the diversity of Jewish life in Canada.

The problems are many and the solutions few. At the very least, Canadian Jewish leaders need to put this issue on their radar. Money and effort are being devoted to the revival of Jewish life in Poland, but not in the towns of Canada. And just as philanthropists and leaders have long supported the miracle that is modern Israel – and rightly so – we should also gratefully turn our attention to the small Canadian centres that valiantly carry on and enrich the fabric of Canadian Jewish life. ■

Paul Socken is distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo.

The CJN Prize (FOR YOUNG WRITERS) Awards Ceremony

Come support and celebrate great writing!

Honouring the literary achievements of young Jewish writers from across Canada. Enjoy the stories read by their authors.

Special Guest Speakers:
Barbara Kay *(Renowned Journalist)*
Sara R. Horowitz *(Professor of Literature, York University)*

February 10, 2016
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m.

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
York University Keele Campus
Accolade East Building, Main Floor
(Paid parking is available at the student services parking garage at James Gillies St. and Fine Arts Rd.)

Free tickets available at CJNews.com
Register by February 5

Sponsored by
Presenting Sponsor
Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות
Applause Elegant Kosher Cuisine
CJN

Moncton Jews still remember the community's roots

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The Jewish community in Moncton, N.B., was founded around 1900 by a group of 22 Jewish families that arrived from the town of Darbenai, Lithuania. All of the families settled on a single street in town. They built the synagogue in 1926 and founded the Jewish cemetery in 1930.

Such are the memorable roots of the city's present Jewish community, which numbers about 150 people, down from a peak of about 250 in decades past. Distinguished Jewish citizens have included former Moncton mayor Michael Baig, who served in the late 1950s, and Reuben Cohen, the recently deceased lawyer and multi-billion-dollar financier who was chancellor of Dalhousie University and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

As in other Jewish communities in the Maritimes, a group of about five or six Jewish families from Israel has helped bolster Moncton's Jewish population in recent years.

"It's a good thing that the Israeli families have come, because most of them have young children," said Dr. Francis Weil, former president and current vice-president of Moncton's Jewish community. Weil was born in France in 1938 and came as a young man to Moncton, where he taught physics and statistics at the French-language Université de Moncton.

Children attend a menorah lighting at the Moncton Hospital.

Tiferes Israel, the original synagogue of 1926, was enlarged with an addition that included a mikvah around 1983. The cost of roughly $600,000 was funded largely through a lottery.

"We sold quite a number of tickets to people outside the community," Weil said, an indicator of the general support Moncton Jews receive from the rest of the city. Their annual Holocaust Remembrance event on Yom Hashoah usually attracts 100 to 120 people, mostly non-Jews.

Moncton has the second-largest Jewish community in Atlantic Canada, yet the community is a small minority of the town's population. More than 100,000 people, one-third of whom are francophone, live in the metropolitan area. Anti-Semitic incidents are rare.

Halifax, located 2-1/2 hours away by car, has the largest Jewish community in Atlantic Canada with about 1,500 Jews. Small Jewish communities are also located in Fredericton and Saint John, N.B. The closest, very large Jewish community is in Montreal, some 10 hours away by car.

Rabbi Yitzhak Yagod, the part-time spiritual leader of Tiferes Israel, visits for one weekend a month. His wife is in town more often and provides Jewish education for young people. "We now have about 20 or 25 kids, so the rebbetzin organizes a whole range of activities with them besides the cheder."

Keeping kosher in Moncton can be a challenge. "The main problem is the meat," Weil said. "We can get frozen meat, but we can't get meat otherwise. Sometimes two or three families get together to have one big order and have it shipped in." Passover foods may likewise be ordered in advance from a store in Fredericton.

The congregation hosts an annual Chanukah dinner, a Purim event and a late-August barbecue along the shore in nearby Shediac. It also presents several speakers on Jewish topics each year.

There is no question that the community is dwindling. Although some young doctors and lawyers have returned and started families in recent years, young people who leave to attend university elsewhere typically don't come back.

Thirty years ago, the synagogue maintained a system of reserved seats on the High Holidays to ensure that everyone had a seat. "Now, at Yom Kippur, only half the synagogue is occupied," Weil observed.

However, according to Weil, many people live to a ripe old age in Moncton. "At one time, in our population of about 150 Jews, we had nine people over the age of 90," he said. "If you had called me a year ago, there would have been four more people over the age of 90 than today.

"I use this to try to convince people to come to Moncton," he continued. "You can live to a good old age here." ■

This is the third in a series on Jewish life in various small towns across Canada.

Canadian Mortgages Inc.

INVEST INTO CANADIAN MORTGAGES WITH OUR
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Opportunities Available from $25K to $1M+ with ROI from 6-15%+

Fully Managed Loans With No Servicing Fees

OVER $40M+ in funded loans with very few defaults!

CASH OR REGISTERED(RSP) INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE IN
GTA, GOLDEN HORSESHOE, ONTARIO, AND CANADA WIDE

www.canadianlending.ca/investors

888-465-8564

FSCO #10601

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks free.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Barrie, North York
Amica at Barrie Gardens, North York 1.855.738.7248
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill

AMICA

JGH's new $429-million pavilion opens

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

The Jewish General Hospital's (JGH) new $429-million wing has finally fully opened almost six years after its construction was first announced.

The 10-storey Pavilion K, with its main entrance on Légaré Street, admitted its first patients on Jan. 24, although the project's first phase, an emergency department, much larger and more modern than the previous one, has been in operation since February 2014.

Health Minister Gaétan Barrette, as well as Natural Resources Minister Pierre Arcand, MNA for the area riding of Mont Royal, were on hand for the official ribbon-cutting in the pavilion's cavernous Agora concourse on Jan. 18.

Barrette praised the JGH for completing the project on budget, and for the excellence of its patient care. The expansion of the JGH will benefit not only Montrealers, but all of Quebec, he said, providing more efficient and safer care.

The opening followed many months of preparation to familiarize staff with their new work environment and to ensure the smooth transfer of patients.

While the government paid for the building, the Jewish General Hospital Foundation is responsible for the underground garage and all equipment and furnishings inside the edifice, for which fundraising continues.

The new pavilion focuses on acute care, housing the intensive care, cardiovascular care and neonatal intensive care units, as well as the birthing centre and operating rooms.

Health Minister Gaétan Barrette cuts the ribbon at the inauguration of the Jewish General Hospital's Pavilion K. With him, from left, are Pierre Arcand, Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg, Allan Rubin and Georges Bendavid, director of technical services.
JANICE ARNOLD PHOTO

All patient rooms are private.

In total, 18 departments are being moved into the tower, where approximately 60 per cent of the JGH's clinical activities will soon be performed. The JGH's total number of beds – 637 – remains the same.

Later, the cafeteria will be relocated and revamped with five kiosks offering different foods. The pavilion is connected internally to the rest of the hospital via the Agora, into which the neighbouring former Herzl clinic building has been integrated.

In addition to the latest equipment and technology, the pavilion has a pneumatic system that whisks dirty laundry and garbage away, freeing workers for more patient-centred tasks. There are also such amenities as a lounge for visitors.

One of the pavilion's most striking features is the natural light through large windows that afford spectacular views on the upper floors.

Alan Maislin, who since October has been the minister-appointed chair of the board of directors of the Integrated Health and Social Services University Network for West-Central Montreal, one of the new health agencies known by the acronym CIUSSS, said the pavilion was conceived at least 10 years ago.

The agency's CEO, Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg, called it "the most ambitious and complicated" expansion in the JGH's 82-year history due to its design and innovation.

First announced in June 2010, the project's completion target date at that time for the ER was 2012.

The go-ahead for the main part of the pavilion, the largest ever expansion of patient-care facilities, was approved by the government in October 2011. At the time, the pavilion was expected to open at the end of 2014.

Then D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman was credited with persuading his government to move ahead with the project. Bergman, who was present for the opening ceremony, was applauded for his role in realizing the pavilion.

The project's progress was delayed when Barrette put construction on hold in 2014 while the JGH got its finances under control. At the time, it was running a more than $14-million deficit.

That year the JGH also become the subject of an investigation by the province's anti-corruption squad, UPAC, for construction cost overruns related to the expansion. The JGH co-operated fully with the inquiry, which was narrowed to specific hospital suppliers and contractors.

The JGH has maintained that its ballooning deficit was due to the high demand for its services, especially cancer care, which was exceeding its government funding year after year.

At the inauguration, Barrette made a commitment that government funding will keep pace with the demand for services provided at the new facility.

The pavilion "can run at full capacity," he said. "I can say without hesitation that we will fund it correctly."

D'Arcy McGee MNA David Birnbaum, who could not be present, echoed that in a letter sent to Rosenberg and Allan Rubin, JGH board of governors president. "[Barrette] will surely reiterate his continued support and admiration for the cutting-edge medical leadership that the hospital has always demonstrated. Surely, Pavilion K will be another manifestation of that leadership, as it adds to the full range of quality patient services offered by the Montreal Centre-West CIUSSS." ■

Fuller Landau is excited to announce Sabrina Polletti is now a Partner in our Audit & Assurance group.

Fuller Landau Welcomes
Sabrina Polletti to Partnership

Sabrina leads our Business Enterprise Solutions Team and brings over 11 years of experience providing entrepreneurs in a variety of industries with accounting and tax compliance services, including outsourced solutions such as bookkeeping, payroll and general business consulting.

Sabrina can be reached at 416-645-6579 or spolletti@fullerllp.com.

FULLER LANDAU LLP | AUDIT TAX ADVISORY
151 Bloor Street West, 12th Floor, Toronto
416.645.6500 | fullerllp.com

Reuben Cipin HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY

Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property

Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

- Newly upgraded suites
- 24-hour concierge
- Secure underground resident and guest parking
- Large social hall with a private dining room
- Fitness facility with complimentary classes
- Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
- Library with computer access
- Membership to the Wagman Centre
- Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations

One and Two Bedroom Suites Available

Ages 65+

Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6

For more information about Two Neptune please visit **www.TwoNeptune.ca** or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

GUEST VOICE

Why I still support a shared society in Israel

Rabbi Boruch Perton

What I am going to write is not politically correct. Not just that, but it goes against the opinion of many Jewish leaders. I've always been a person who goes against the stream. However this time is different. I risk causing pain to people who are grieving recent losses. This makes what I am going to say so much more difficult.

It is easy to be a peace activist and believer in a shared society when things are calm and stable. When there are recent orphans and widows to mourn, it is so much harder. Cries of vengeance and retaliation are being broadcast in the media and spoken from the pulpit in many congregations. To publicly come out and say that the dream of peaceful coexistence and a shared society with the Palestinians is still something we as a people need to aspire to is not in vogue. At worst, it's offensive.

But I am still a believer.

There are many questions regarding the current crisis in Israel. Are these latest attacks the result of manipulation for a political agenda? Are they a message from Fatah or Hamas that they can turn on the terror switch at any time? Are those perpetrating these vile acts frustrated with their lives? Do they see no other solution to bring awareness to their plight? Or is it just simply, good old-fashioned anti-Semitism showing its rawest, ugliest face?

Having been an educator for over 25 years in both Israel and North America, there is one thing that I have learned from dealing with disciplinary issues: if you do not address the root cause of misbehaviour, conduct will never change. If you only deal in a punitive manner with the symptoms, you will never change the behaviour.

The same basic logic needs to be applied to the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Many people tell me: "The Palestinians have it so good, why are they doing this?" The truth is, they do have it good. Compare the life of the average Israeli-Palestinian with the life of the average Arab in the Middle East. They have excellent health care and educational and employment opportunities. So why are they angry? And if they are being manipulated, why don't they ignore the message from their political leaders?

> *The only solution is to invest and to commit to creating a more inclusive society.*

The answer is no matter how many opportunities they have, they are still second-class citizens. Their point of reference is not Saudi Arabia or Iraq. It's Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

In Haifa, there is a branch of Hand in Hand, a network of bilingual, mixed Jewish-Arab schools. When I recently visited the campus, I learned that the Arab parents are significantly more affluent than the Jewish parents. I also learned that these Arab families are members of a shared society, living and working next door to their Jewish neighbours. But this does not lead to intermarriage or a polluting of either community's values or traditions. Rather it creates opportunities to build bridges, friendships and success. The Arabs in Haifa feel like they are part of the city and country.

There have been no attacks to date in Haifa. The same can be said for Acre, where Jews and Arabs live together in a shared society as well.

The solution in the short term may be to build more walls, put up more roadblocks and checkpoints, and have a greater military presence in areas that are under attack. However, in the long term, this will never solve the problem.

The only solution is to invest and to commit to creating a more inclusive society. This will allow for equal opportunities and healthy and productive interaction with our closest neighbours. After all, even if there were to be a Palestinian state tomorrow, there would still be more than 1.5 million Palestinians in Israel who are not going anywhere.

A shared society is the only long-term, viable solution. ■

Rabbi Boruch Perton is spiritual leader of Beth Zion Congregation in Cote St-Luc, Que.

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Breaking the Stigma

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 • 7–9 P.M.

LOCATION: **Shaarei Shomayim Congregation**, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto
MODERATOR: **Dr. Molyn Leszcz**, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Mount Sinai Hospital
PANEL: **Danielle Berman**, Founder of www.rideawaystigma.com
Dr. Marshall Korenblum, Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Hincks-Dellcrest Centre for Children and Families
Dr. Lesley Wiesenfeld, Deputy Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Mount Sinai Hospital
SUPPORTING RABBIS: **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Rabbi Adam Cutler, Rabbi Noah Cheses**

Join us for an important community conversation about mental illness, with experts in the area of adolescent, adult and geriatric psychiatry, together with your spiritual and community leaders. The program will be introduced by Rabbis and concluded by a member of Jewish Family & Child.

PARTNERS:
Camp Ramah in Canada Beth Tzedec Congregation Shaarei Shomayim Mount Sinai Hospital

YAD VASHEM, THE HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY, IN JERUSALEM.
THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM,
FRAN SONSHINE, NATIONAL CHAIR,
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GOVERNORS,
YARON ASHKENAZI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
STAFF, SUPPORTERS, AND FRIENDS

extend their deepest condolences on the passing of

SYDNEY GANGBAR Z"L

TO HIS BELOVED WIFE, ANNA GANGBAR,
HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, ERIC AND LISA,
AND LEN AND LIZ, AND HIS GRANDCHILDREN,
DEENA, EMMA, MOLLY, LIBBY, SARA, JACK AND MAX

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Sydney Gangbar, a founder and member of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. We are indebted to Mr. Gangbar for his dedication to implementing the vision and mission of Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, in Canada.

Sydney Gangbar was a man of great conviction, serving in the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War. Returning from the horrors of combat, Mr. Gangbar became a lawyer and a founder of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. His devotion to the Canadian Society has made it possible for the lessons of the Holocaust to be disseminated to thousands of Canadians across the country.

May the memory of Sydney Gangbar bring comfort to his family and may his considerable legacy live on through the lives of his adored children and cherished grandchildren.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Remembering the past, Shaping the future®

www.yadvashem.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 28, 2016

Plan for Jewish museum on planetarium site dropped

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Plans to erect the Jewish Museum of Canada as part of the University of Toronto's new Centre for Civilizations and Cultures have been scrapped indefinitely.

In September 2014, Isadore Sharp, the philanthropist and founder of the Four Season's hotel chain, along with U of T and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, announced that a Jewish museum would be built at the university's new cultural and educational centre at 90 Queen's Park Cres., beside the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). It was once the site of the McLaughlin Planetarium, formerly owned by the ROM, which currently leases the now-shuttered building from the university for storage.

But Sharp – who committed $20 million toward the $150-million project, hoping the museum would "tell the world what our people has contributed over the generations" and would serve as "a voice for the Jewish community" – told *The CJN* last week that the plan has been dropped, at least for now.

The $150-million project was announced in September 2014.

Isadore Sharp

> *It's something the federation might do sometime in the future.*

"At this stage, it's all being put on hold and it is up to the federation sometime in the future if they wish to proceed with it," Sharp said.

Steve Shulman, campaign director for UJA Federation, explained that the federation's role was to act as a "community representative and steward of the community's interest in this and to be supportive in any way possible.

"This project was really a great vision that the Sharps had, and they are to be commended for their initiative, but I think ultimately... the university wanted to move ahead in a very short period of time, which was particularly challenging, and I think from UJA's standpoint, we are in a situation where we also have particular priorities in terms of the vulnerable in our community, Jewish education, identity, Jewish advocacy connection with Israel, etc., in our capital campaign.

"You never know, something could arise in another location in the future, but I think right now, there was a very short window in terms of time in that location."

U of T is moving ahead with the development of the former planetarium, which opened in 1968 and closed in 1995. The project will include a 250-seat performance hall for the university's nearby faculty of music, as well as space for the school's department of history, the department of Near and Middle Eastern civilizations, the Institute of Islamic Studies, and a research arm for the Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies.

"This was a wonderful opportunity that the university was offering to us. They have a project that they are moving forward with, and they certainly wanted [the museum] to be part of it, but we had a timeline to work on it, and it just wasn't feasible with the commitments that had already been made by federation," Sharp said.

"This just became one more additional fundraising effort, and the timing wasn't appropriate. We just couldn't see a way of raising the amount of money needed to make sure that it wasn't going to be a burden, and we wanted to do everything to make it self-sustaining."

Of the $150-million price tag, $65 million was for an endowment to fund the museum's expenses and make it self-sustaining. The facility was to have featured state-of-the-art permanent and temporary exhibits, including a permanent one on the Holocaust.

"It could happen someplace else, and certainly at a different time," Sharp said.

"It's something the federation might do sometime in the future." ■

For the latest Jewish news from Canada, Israel and around the world, visit **www.cjnews.com/news**.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Under 40 Initiative **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, among the most dynamic Jewish Federations in North America, is launching a new initiative focusing on the Under 40 cohort.

The vision for the Under 40 (ages 22-40) strategy is to use UJA Federation's existing array of outreach programs to engage and cultivate relationships with as many young adults as possible; expand those relationships to have a philanthropic component; and develop those with the right skills to become community leaders.

The successful candidate will lead a cross-departmental team of professionals, working with young leaders and leaders in the business and philanthropic communities, to build a systematic approach to fulfill UJA Federation's vision for philanthropy and leadership in our community.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in Jewish communal work, public policy, management, or related field of study.
- Minimum of five years in leadership roles at Jewish communal or comparable institutions, including some direct supervisory experience.
- Experience managing complex systems with multiple stakeholders; in change management and team building; working with strategic plans, with the ability to translate into achievable goals, strategies and deliverables.
- Knowledge and understanding of UJA Federation's mission, programs, and vision.
- Proficiency in computer skills and social media.
- Strong written and oral communication skills in order to articulate a compelling vision.
- Charismatic, creative, resourceful, and passionate leader who will inspire the team to develop and implement innovative programming.

DESIRABLES:

- Masters degree in a relevant discipline; fundraising experience; prior success working in the Under 40/ young adult sphere; familiarity with and understanding of the Toronto and/or Canadian Jewish community.

This is a permanent position with a leadership salary and excellent benefits.
Evening and weekend work may be required.

Submit resumes quoting REF# ED-U40-310
by February 10, 2016 to: hfinder-guttman@ujafed.org

Only those applicants invited for interview will be contacted.
UJA Federation is an equal opportunity employer.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

INTERNATIONAL

Dafna Meir's family refuses to give in to hatred

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Renana Meir was on the phone with a friend when she heard her mother scream. At first, the 17-year-old thought her mother had seen a cockroach, but quickly realized something terrible was happening.

The teenager rushed to investigate, and found her mother wrestling with the Palestinian teenager who had fatally stabbed her.

"When I walked in, she was already on the ground, I saw them struggling and I screamed in panic," Renana told the *Srugim* news website last week.

"He was trying to get the knife out of her body to attack us, but she wouldn't let him," Renana said. "She wouldn't let him take the knife out of her, she didn't let him hurt us," she said.

Renana and her father Natan gave several interviews last week, speaking tearfully of Dafna's joy and positivity, insistently refusing to entertain bitterness or express hatred in the wake of her murder.

Natan Meir also revealed that he had invited a longtime Palestinian friend, who is a relative of the murderer, to come to the home and that this friend indeed visited.

Speaking to Channel 2 on Jan.20, Renana said she hoped her own screams had helped scare off the killer, later identified as Morad Bader Abdullah Adais. He was arrested at his home the night of Jan. 18. His father, who denies knowing that his son was planning the attack, has reportedly told Palestinian news outlets he is proud of his son, but relatives denied this to Israeli TV.

Renana said that after the terrorist ran off, leaving her mother for dead, she initially tried to remove the knife. "But then I remembered my Magen David Adom training, that you don't remove any 'foreign object.'"

Renana Meir, right, is comforted at her mother's funeral last week.
YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH 90 PHOTO

"I asked her to keep breathing and not to stop no matter what, but already I knew that it was over," she told *Srugim*. "My mom tried to keep breathing, and I felt like she heard me talking to her even though she didn't respond.

"I really hope that she didn't hear all my screaming," Renana said. "First I called the paramedics, and then I called my father."

"It felt like forever before the ambulance came," she told Channel 2.

"She really was like a best friend to me; we didn't have the regular mother-daughter relationship," Renana said. "We talked about everything; she was always there for me. Our family, us, her children were her entire world."

Dafna, 38, a nurse, left behind her husband Natan, and four children aged 11 to 17. The Meir family was also fostering two children, both below the age of five. "Obviously" the two foster children would remain with the family after Dafna's murder, her husband said.

Natan Meir told *Srugim* that he heard his wife was dead on the radio.

"I was at the doctor's office with our youngest when Renana called me to tell me a terrorist stabbed her mother," he said. "And when I called her back, all Renana told me was 'they're taking care of mom.'

"I got in the car and turned on the radio, I heard on the news that a woman in Otniel had been murdered. I turned off the radio, I knew it was her," Natan said.

"I'm thankful for every minute I had with Dafna," he said tearfully. "I loved her from the minute we met when we were both soldiers until her very last day," he said. "I'll always remember her curly hair peeking out from under her winter hat."

In an interview to the *Yedioth Ahronoth* daily on Jan. 19, Natan said he harboured no anger towards Palestinians in general for his wife's death.

"We don't have anger," he said. "I am not angry at anyone. We don't fill ourselves with that. We don't curse Arabs. I sit and talk with my kids and I haven't heard a single word of that. We're not people who hate. Dafna and I weren't brought up that way."

Natan Meir told Channel 2 that a Palestinian who lives in a nearby village came to the home to pay a condolence call earlier in the day, at his invitation. This Palestinian, a longtime friend, Natan said, is a relative of the 16-year-old who killed his wife.

"I am certain that had he known, he would have stopped that terrorist from coming here, even if it cost him his life," Natan said of this Palestinian friend. "Our friendship is much stronger than that. I asked all my friends, everybody, Jews and non-Jews, to come (to the shivah). We are good friends. The tears in his eyes showed that." ■

Times of Israel staff contributed to this report. Timesofisrael.com

No Palestinian state in the West Bank, Israeli minister says

STUART WINER
JERUSALEM

Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennett said that only when Palestinians accept that they will never have a state in the West Bank will they be able to live side-by-side with Israelis.

Bennett, who leads the settlement-backing Jewish Home party, made the comments on Jan. 24 at the settlement of Tekoa, south of Jerusalem, where he was joined by fellow party members Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and MK Shuli Moalem-Refaeli for a tree-planting ceremony ahead of the Jewish agricultural festival of Tu b'Shvat.

"Since the dawn of Zionism there's been terror, and the answer was always settlement and attack," Bennett said, according to a report on the Hebrew-language *Srugim* website. "The terrorists act in the hope of breaking us. Only when they understand that we are flourishing, only when they understand that there is no expectation of a Palestinian state here, will they be comfortable with our existence."

The Jewish Home party officials' visit to the settlement came in solidarity after the Jan. 15 incident in which resident Michal Froman was stabbed by a 15-year-old Palestinian, Othman Muhammad Sha'alan. The tree was planted outside the local school, near where the attack took place.

Froman, five months' pregnant, was moderately injured and Sha'alan was shot in the leg and apprehended by security forces.

"The spirit of the Jewish people cannot be broken, and from within the great disaster we will continue to plant and to flourish, and to develop the settlement project in the beloved Land of Israel," Shaked, the justice minister, said. "The Jewish people wants to live in its country in peace and with a feeling of security.

"Those who wish us harm want bloodshed and to uproot us from our homes; we saw proof of that last Sunday, in the loathsome attack in which Dafna Meir was murdered," she continued, referring to the killing of Dafna Meir, 39, who was stabbed outside her home in the West Bank settlement of Otniel by 15-year-old Palestinian Morad Bader Abdullah Adais on Jan. 14. ■

Timesofisrael.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 28, 2016

Significance of Israeli minister's visit to UAE debated

ROBERT SWIFT
JERUSALEM

The fact that Israel's Minister for Energy flew to Abu Dhabi demonstrates that the Jewish state is conducting secret communications with Gulf Sunni states in response to the common threat of Iran. Or it doesn't. It depends who you ask.

Israeli television reported that Yuval Steinitz attended a conference on energy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) earlier this month. Channel 2 suggested that the real purpose of the delegation was to conduct secret strategic communications between Israel and the Gulf state. The principle reason for such a clandestine liaison is mutual distrust of Iran and concern for the general instabilities of the region, not least of which is the Islamic State (ISIS).

A decision by Steinitz's office not to comment on the nature of the trip has only added fuel to the speculation.

Iran is currently entangled in a proxy-conflict with Saudi Arabia and its allied Gulf neighbours – among them the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain. Israel also sees Iran as a threat on account of its nuclear research and frequent public proclamations about the desired destruction of the Zionist state. This has created common ground between Jerusalem and the Gulf states, but resentment toward Israel arising from the state's perceived treatment of the Palestinians has thus far rendered an open alliance against Tehran impossible.

The minister's carbon footprint aside, it is not unusual for Israel to conduct low-key diplomacy which it does with a number of countries, including its very successful and equally under-reported relationship with Azerbaijan.

"Israel has always had some clandestine or secret relationship with Arab countries… it is known that it has a relationship with several of the Gulf countries," Ely Karmon, a senior research scholar at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, told the *Media Line*. The quiet partnership the country enjoys with Egypt and Jordan are examples of what can develop out of such clandestine diplomacy, Karmon suggested.

In the wake of the optimism heralded by the Oslo Accords in the '90s, Israel actually conducted diplomatic missions in the Gulf. But these came to an abrupt end with the start of the second intifadah Karmon explained.

Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a professor of political science from the UAE, was dismissive of such notions. "There is not much of a relationship…it is not systematic, it's sporadic and doesn't amount to much of substance." Essentially the mutual threat from Iran was not enough to make Gulf Arabs forget that "Israel still occupies Arab lands," Abdulla said.

Steinitz's visit to an energy conference should not be taken out of context and does not demonstrate contact with the UAE's government, the professor said, adding "There is not much that Israel could provide that we could not receive from Turkey, Pakistan and the European states."

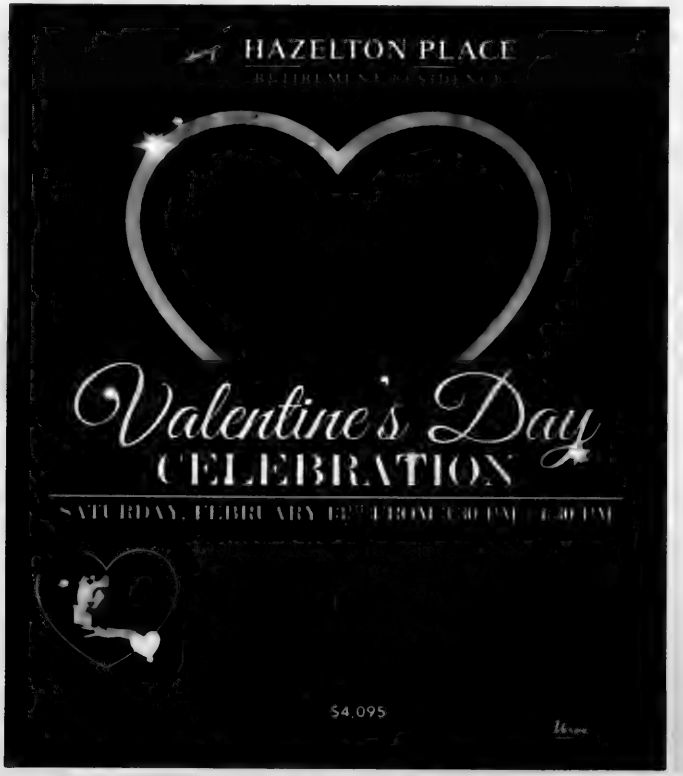
This is exactly the type of denial that the location of the meeting was designed to facilitate. "It's to everyone's convenience to deny it," Eran Segal, associate researcher at the Ezri Centre for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Haifa University said. Evidence of the governments' ongoing relationship can be found if you dig deep enough, Segal said. Flights running between the UAE and Israel are a good indication of that, he suggested.

It is impossible to know for certain what goes on behind closed doors, but one party, Israel, has an interest in exaggerating the significance of such events, Abdulla said. "Israel wants to make a big deal out of it for its own reasons: to gain legitimacy in the Arab world, to make the Israeli public feel it is not isolated, but it is isolated," he said. While "daily atrocities" continue against Palestinians, any idea of an alliance between Gulf states and Israel is totally unfounded, he concluded.

In this regard, his view and that of the Israeli academic are not dissimilar. "As long as the Palestinian conflict is not viewed as in the process of being solved, I don't think this (relationship) will ever become public," Eran Segal said, noting that under-the-radar co-operation would continue. ■

The Media Line
Themedialine.org

For the latest Jewish news from Israel and around the world, visit **www.cjnews.com/news**.



Congratulations!
In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.
Please fill in the requested information and mail to
PO Box 1324 Stn K Toronto, ON M4P 3J4 or fax to 416-932-2488
Name
Address
City
Province
Postal Code
Phone number
Email
CJN
Doc key: W18FXCJN

Iran a bigger danger than ISIS, consul general warns

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca, TORONTO

Despite last year's deal to stall its plans to develop nuclear weapons, Iran remains a bigger threat to Israel and the West than ISIS, the Israeli Consul General to Toronto and Western Canada said during a briefing presented by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs by teleconference last Friday.

"ISIS is a real threat. Our assessment is that Iran remains a larger threat in the bigger picture," DJ Schneeweiss said. "Our concern is that in the rush to try to address ISIS, we make a mistake in forgetting about the Iranian side of it and folding Iran into the effort to defeat ISIS."

"We have not seen a strategic shift in the Iranian agenda and Iranian intentions and it's a crucial thing... In this case, the deal that has been signed is one that has curtailed or delayed Iranian intentions, but it has not been secured as a function of an Iranian choice to abandon those ambitions."

Schneeweiss said that the original demand by the P5+1 countries was that there could be inspections at any time without warning. This was meant to give the West confidence that it could properly monitor whether Iran was living up to its part of the deal.

"But 'anytime, anywhere inspections' were abandoned – that was one of the prices that the P5 +1 had to abandon in order to secure Iranian agreement."

He said other aspects of the agreement, such as shutting the nuclear reactors down, were only temporary.

"Those will end after 10 years, or 15 years. So yes, we may have put off the threat of an Iranian bomb for a few years, but ... 10 years from now, if the world is not careful, we will see an unrestrained Iran with an ability to develop nuclear weapons with the full glories of international legitimacy."

He said the Israeli position on Iran will not soften or "go softly into the dark."

"Iran continues to prosecute a proxy war against Israel through Hezbollah and now has approximately 100,000 rockets pointed at Israeli civilians and 240 villages in Southern Lebanon have been converted into rocket assault bases. Hezbollah and Iran have an ongoing military involvement in Syria. Iran is also intervening in Gaza and funding Hamas there. Iran is developing ballistic missiles and even intercontinental ballistic missiles, all of which are against explicit international commitments that have forced the UN and the United States to re-instigate sanctions against Iran on that file."

DJ Schneeweiss

He said Israel will continue to monitor those developments and warn against violations.

Switching to the topic of terror attacks on Israelis, he said since the beginning of October, Israel has suffered 110 stabbing attacks, 38 shootings, and 22 deliberate vehicle ramming attacks.

"How we address it is the big question. In terms of analysis, there are a lot of young people who are involved in this. People who don't yet have the wisdom of age, but have been exposed to the kinds of materials and ideas that make them particularly vulnerable and particularly dangerous," he said.

"There are questions that need to be asked of the Palestinian leadership and those who see themselves as friends of the Palestinians. What is being done to end the abuse of the younger generation of Palestinians? What is being done to encourage a more self-serving approach to life?"

Schneeweiss said that apart from the damage it causes to both Israelis and Palestinians individually, the violence diminishes support for a territorial compromise from Israel, which is necessary for the potential establishment of a Palestinian state.

"The only way the Israeli public is going to agree to the kinds of concessions that would be required of Israel for such a deal, the only way that is going to happen is if the Israeli public is going to be assured that handing over that territory is not suicidal." ■

KOL AMI
קול עמי

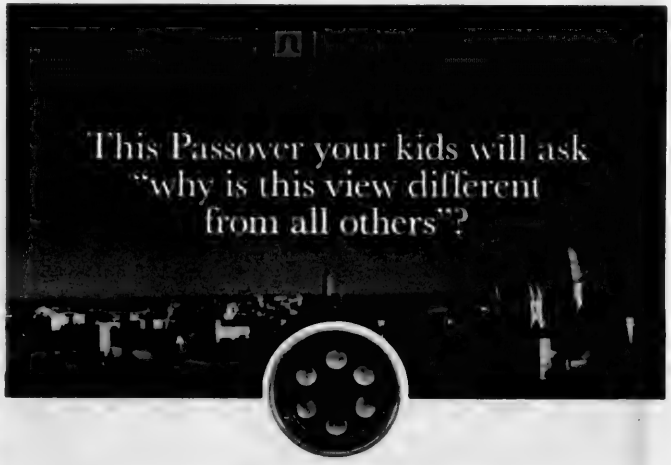
Cantorial Soloist

Kol Ami, a vibrant Reform congregation in Thornhill, is seeking an experienced Cantorial Soloist to join us for the High Holy Days and occasional Shabbat morning services.

We are looking for a singer experienced in choral and contemporary repertoire, possessing strong Hebrew skills and familiarity with Reform liturgy. The soloist will have a flexible vocal style and be able to accompany himself or herself on guitar. Proficiency in teaching and supporting Torah and Haftarah chanters is a definite asset.

Please submit a resume and three to five musical recordings to Rabbi Micah Streiffer at rabbistreiffer@kolami.ca by Monday, February 1, 2016. Include examples of High Holy Day liturgy and contemporary selections. Visit kolami.ca/about-us/career-opportunities for a complete description of this position.

36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 8C9 905 709 2620 kolami.ca

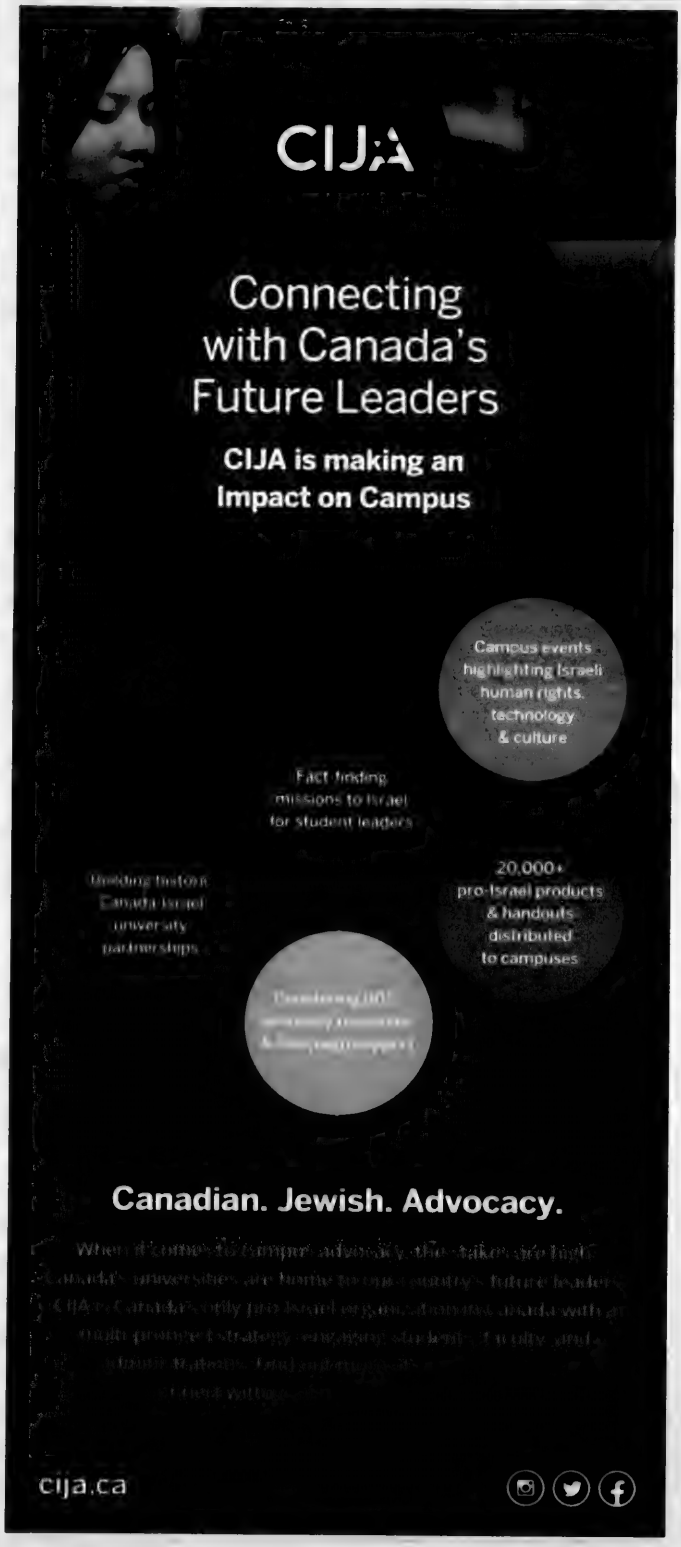


Celebrate Passover at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel with breathtaking views of the Old City and warm Jerusalem hospitality. Enjoy sumptuous gourmet cuisine prepared by the Inbal's Executive Chef whether at our festive Seder with fellow guests or in a private dining room with family and friends.

VARIETY OF PACKAGES AVAILABLE

WWW.INBALHOTEL.COM

* Rates are for double room in USD | More details, rooms options and terms will apply
* Kashrut: glatt meat ,mehadrin products only, no kitniyot, hand shmura matza for seder, gebrokts.
* Reservations made by February 10th, 2016 will receive a 10% discount!


CIJA
Connecting with Canada's Future Leaders
CIJA is making an Impact on Campus
Campus events highlighting Israeli human rights, technology & culture
Fact finding missions to Israel for student leaders
20,000+ pro-Israel products & handouts distributed to campuses
Canadian. Jewish. Advocacy.
cija.ca

OPINION

Will this violence ever end?

Yair Lootsteen

There's no end in sight to this current round of violence.

Last week was very troubling. On Jan. 17, a terrorist infiltrated Otniel, a West Bank settlement in the Southern Hebron Hills. He randomly entered a home and stabbed 38-year-old Dafna Meir to death in her kitchen. Dafna was a respected naturopathic nurse who worked in her own community and at Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva. She was well known for helping women with gynecological issues.

At home with three of her six children when the terrorist intruded, she did all she could to prevent him from reaching those children. Apparently, her screams scared him away after he'd completed his cowardly act of hatred.

The next day, a different terrorist stabbed Michal Froman in Tekoa, another West Bank settlement, not far from Bethlehem. Froman's father-in-law was renowned Rabbi Menachem Froman, an exceptional West Bank religious leader who promoted interfaith dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

Michal was at a second-hand clothing warehouse in Tekoa's industrial zone when the terrorist entered. Asked to leave, he pulled out a knife, chased several women, reached Michal and stabbed her in the shoulder, then fled.

Roughly 30, Michal is pregnant. She knew Dafna. She's recovering at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center. Thankfully, the attack did no damage to her fetus.

Upon hearing of her stabbing, Shivi, Michal's husband, raced to the hospital. He was held up in traffic caused by Dafna's funeral procession. I heard him on the radio as he described his prayer-filled journey to the hospital.

At Dafna's funeral, her teenage daughter Renana, who had witnessed her murder, apologized to her mother for not doing enough to try to save her.

Later that day, Michal described how she'd looked into her assailant's eyes. More than wanting to kill her, she saw someone wanting to die. He didn't. As he fled the scene, this 15-year-old from Bethlehem was shot in the leg and severely wounded.

During the radio interview, I heard Shivi speak of using both hands to deal with the present situation – one, with all necessary power, to eliminate the nefarious forces of evil, and the other extended to good people on the other side willing to make peace. What happened to Michal had not changed his views.

> *Renewed dialogue between the sides is what's needed*

On Jan. 19, while driving my son to school, we learned that Dafna's killer had been apprehended during the night. The Shin Bet got information he'd returned home after the attack, to his village just a few kilometres from Otniel. IDF special forces had literally plucked the 16-year-old from his bed as he slept. Apparently his act of terror was revenge for the death of a cousin who'd been shot while trying to stab a soldier not long ago.

I continued that morning to a doctor's appointment with a specialist I'd never visited before. In a distinctly Israeli way, after the examination, we somehow discovered we were both colonels, 50-somethings still serving in the IDF reserves – he a doctor in a serious combat unit, me a lawyer.

We discussed the news of the day. He's all for a peaceful solution with the Palestinians, but none is in the offing, and with continuing violence against innocent Israelis, novel means of deterrence must be employed, he said. Young Palestinians perpetrating terrorist acts must know their families will suffer because of their actions.

We lawyers, he added, should be less restrictive, more creative in allowing acts of deterrence. Administrative detentions, house demolitions and the like are no longer enough. Expel their families to Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.

"Easier said than done," I replied because of international law on collective punishment. In any event, his suggestions were more tactical than strategic. Renewed dialogue between the sides is what's needed.

I reminded him he had other patients outside. We agreed to continue our discussion the next time I visited. I was sombre as I left the clinic. He's right. I'm right.

Dafna and Michal. Twenty-eight Israelis killed since September. Hundreds injured.

When will this end? ■

Jewish Life

From left, a broken tombstone in the cemetery, the stairwell in Jorge Abramowitz's house-turned-synagogue and 17-year-old Sebastien. MICHAEL FRAIMAN PHOTOS

Deep in the jungle, the Jews of Iquitos cling to tradition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

If Iquitos is a city hidden in the jungle, its Jews are a community hidden deeper therein.

The Cementerio de Iquitos is big and beautiful, with 15-foot-tall rows of graves cast in cement, variously painted bright pink and baby blue and divided by smooth marble graves built with personal benches and decorated with flowers. On top of one little girl's affluent tomb stood a five-foot-tall pink castle covered in ribbons, flowers and a Hello Kitty balloon.

But we couldn't find the Jews, so we asked a security guard, who pointed us to the grounds' far southwest corner. There we spied a relatively small gated-off section marked by a tiny placard that read "CEMENTERIO ISRAELITA."

The Jewish section is a bit depressing after seeing the grandeur of what Catholics do for their dead. Only half full, several tombstones are cracked and broken, and there's no colour beyond the green of the long-uncut grass. A lone palm tree offers some shade from the blistering sun, but there are no flowers lain peacefully on the fewer than 70 graves – only a handful of small grey stones strewn across the tops.

Still, there is something inspiring about seeing a Star of David this far into the world – these people, Davids in Goliath's country, staunchly buried in the ground for as long as the city stands. That the Jewish section is only half full felt at first dismal, but then hopeful, as if they really expected to fill it one day.

Everything Jewish in Iquitos is like this, quiet but proud, hidden but obvious if you know where to look. We learned this once we returned to the downtown core, and, after enjoying a cone of aguaje ice cream from Ari's Burger in the central plaza, traced the street numbers to find the synagogue.

At least, we thought it was the synagogue. Inside, all we saw were two bored employees standing next to heaps of foam mattresses, a broad wooden table and spools of colourful 10-foot-wide vinyl.

We asked them, awkwardly, if this was a place where Jews gathered, and the two employees glanced at each other and sighed as one of them headed into a dark back room separated only by a thin sheet, returning with a squat man in his 60s, maybe five-foot-six, wearing loose-fitting pleated slacks, a checked shirt and an inquisitive look on his face.

This was Jorge Abramovitz, leader of the Amazonian Jews.

• • •

There aren't many opportunities for tradition here, but there is one they stick to.

Every Friday at 7 p.m., some 40-odd Iquiteño Jews gather in the backroom synagogue Jorge runs out of his house for the Kabbalat Shabbat service. They recite the prayers, from *Lechu Neranena* to *Lechah Dodi*; they enjoy shot glasses of wine and slices of homemade bread; and they sway, back and forth, arms-over-shoulders, connected in a circle, singing *Shalom Aleichem* over the heavy jungle rain pitter-pattering on the tin roof above.

They've been doing this ever since Jorge transformed his back room in 2002 – something he never wanted to do in the first place. "It was a big commitment," he explained. When he bought the sizable property, he moved his family into the middle part – there are bedrooms connected to a central courtyard, which they use as a living room, as well as an office to the side and space for his mattress business out front. It was his wife's idea to open up the back as a makeshift synagogue. After all, where else could they congregate?

Jorge's property is magnificent. A cracked wooden front door leads to a grungy staircase, dimly lit and painted with blue Assyrian Hebrew script. At the top of the stairs there is a gorgeous open-air hallway, adorned with crawling leafy vines and Zionist posters quoting Theodore Herzl, which leads to their synagogue, filled only by a modest array of blue plastic chairs, a wide Israeli flag strung up in the back and some lingering Chanukah decorations, seemingly made by children, taped to the porous white walls.

When we first descended into the synagogue, we met Rifka, Jorge's wife. Her first question: "Have you seen our Torah yet?" She gestured to the large wooden case standing in the corner, donated to them with the book by a wealthy New York couple in 2009, even though nobody in Iquitos can speak or read Hebrew fluently.

Still, their religious pride is obvious. When we sat down with them upon our first meeting, they quickly and eagerly launched into a list of famous Jewish Iquiteños: Victor Israel, who founded the city's Jewish society in 1911; Saloman Joseph Dreyfus, local mayor from 1952 to 1956; Dora Toledano Godier, voted Miss Peru in 1963.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

'It's not easy being Jewish here,' local leader acknowledges

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Then they dove into the history of the Amazonian Jews, starting with the rubber boom in 1880, when Moroccan Sephardim arrived in Iquitos by way of Manaus, Brazil. Businessmen and politicians, they enjoyed four decades of prosperous assimilation before World War I, when the rubber boom busted and 75 per cent of the Jewish community left for opportunities elsewhere. The Cohen building we'd seen earlier was sold during this exodus, along with several other large downtown properties built by Jews, later given up or forgotten.

The mid-20th century was a quiet era for Iquiteño Jews, their religion cultivated and defined by isolation. Before the Iquitos airport was built near the end of the 20th century, Jorge says, it took two months to reach Lima by riverboat – but only 18 days to sail to Europe. Because of this, they've always been spiritually closer to European Jews than Limeños, (Lima residents) a fact which likely exacerbated the pseudo-rivalry that persists today.

"It's not easy being Jewish here," Jorge acknowledged. Limeños have a network – their community is more than a thousand strong. Here, they can't even keep kosher, because they have no local rabbis; they can do little more than avoid pork. But Jorge is just as quick to point out how much more gratifying it is to be the underdog. "We feel more connected to Judaism," he said.

Left behind in Iquitos are the 60 or 70 Jews who have no desire to leave home, who still attend the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat meetings in Jorge's synagogue. Rifka estimates there are hundreds more Iquiteños oblivious to their Jewish heritage, but, as she told us, "It's not as if we can knock on their doors and ask, 'Hey, do you know where your last name is from?'"

• • •

There are two demographics of Iquiteño Jews: kids and parents. Anyone in between, those 20-and 30-somethings, are the ones making aliyah, leaving a working-age gap in the local Jewish population. When I asked whether that worried Rifka, she acknowledged it did. "This is the problem we're facing," she said. "Who will continue our tradition?" Her own son and daughter moved to Israel in 2011 and 2013; Jorge and Rifka have never been able to visit.

On Fridays, Jorge's synagogue is packed

Up to 40 people gather weekly for services.
MICHAEL FRAIMAN PHOTO

with these split demographics. Of the 36 people there that night, roughly a third were small children – fidgeting, sleeping, shouting obliviously loudly about their hunger. Six metal fans hung from the walls, but only four worked, so we fanned ourselves with our *Sinagoga Lehavat Jaim Sidur* prayer books.

Sebastien, a sharp and quiet 17 year old, sat at the front of the room and led the service – the men rotate this responsibility each week – fluidly moving from Hebrew prayers to Spanish stories over the next hour, his voice intermittently drowned out by the rain violently rattling the tin roof over our heads.

And then, at the end, the tradition: everyone moved their chairs off to the side and side-hugged their neighbour. Rifka looked excitedly at me, pleased that I should witness their strength and unity. We formed a large circle, linked at the shoulders, and began gently swaying left to right; though I hadn't sung *Shalom Aleichem* in years, the words came back to me, and it felt oddly comforting to know that, for the first time this entire trip, I could speak the same language as those who live here.

Despite all the hardships, this tribe of Jews, tucked away among the vines and palms of the Amazon, has persevered. That is, after all, what this religion is all about. As Rifka told us with more than a hint of pride, "Here, it's difficult to be Jewish."

Difficult, yes. But not impossible. ■

TAJ RUGS
SINCE 1978
CLASSIC - MODERN - TRANSITIONAL - CHOBI - SHAGS
30 TO 70% OFF
BLOWOUT!
Everything
Visit our RATAN FURNITURE Gallery in Mississauga & Stoney Creek
Sizes 2'x3' to 12'x20' Bring your room dimensions
Choose from 15,000 rugs from Iran, Tibet, Afgan, Pakistan, India, Belgium & Turkey
8400 WOODBINE AVE MARKHAM, ON In the Furniture Mall 905-940-0358
2111 DUNWINE DR Dundas St W & Dunwine Dr MISSISSAUGA/OAKVILLE, ON Next to Tasco & Jameson pools 905-940-2088
365 LEWIS RD & QEW STONEY CREEK, ON In Stoney Creek Furniture 905-643-8006
Monday - Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 12pm-5pm
www.tajrugs.com

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

Your Morning Spiel is *The CJN*'s new daily roundup of trending online stories. Only at **www.cjnews.com**

ha ha!
An old Jew telling really old jokes!
Add some humour to your next event
hire Jack Markle
416-505-9605 jack.markle@rogers.com

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service
• Made in Canada
• Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PyP www.ptpads.com

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

SELLING OUT SALE
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $150-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Retail $150-$250. Now 5 shirts for $150. HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

Canadian doc about Claude Lanzmann up for an Oscar

JORDAN ADLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

After a more than four-decade career making some of the most accomplished documentaries of all time, Claude Lanzmann may finally be heading to the Academy Awards on Feb. 28.

However, if the 90-year-old documentarian behind *Shoah* does find his way to the Dolby Theatre, it won't be for one of his own films. Lanzmann is the subject of one of the nominated documentary shorts, directed by Toronto resident Adam Benzine.

"What I hope this [nomination] will do is expose his work to a whole new generation," Benzine tells *The CJN*. "*Shoah* had such an influence on the documentary landscape. It's such a singular work of cinema."

The nomination for documentary short subject is a big achievement for Benzine, an arts journalist and first-time filmmaker who arrived in Canada in 2011. *Claude Lanzmann: Spectres of the Shoah* was a self-financed film that he worked on with a mostly Canadian crew for three years.

Most of the documentary short is an intimate interview with Lanzmann as the director revisits his experience making *Shoah*, a nearly 10-hour documentary about the Holocaust.

Shoah was groundbreaking, not just for its scope, but also for its lack of archive footage. Lanzmann began working on the film when he was 47, but the gruelling production and editing process took more than 10 years – and almost made him take his own life.

"I was proud of what I achieved," Lanzmann says in the film about the reception of his 1985 documentary. "But joy – joy is something else."

Spectres of the Shoah, which runs 40 minutes, also features previously unseen footage taken from 225 hours of material that Lanzmann and his team filmed for *Shoah*. Benzine got access to this footage through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Nevertheless, Benzine doesn't want people to think his film is a mere "making-of," akin to a DVD special feature. The documentary also looks at other aspects of Lanzmann's life, including his fighting in the Resistance during World War II.

"It's about the making of Claude Lanzmann, or perhaps about the unmaking," Benzine says, "about how the process of doing this work led him to the place where he is now."

However, getting a giant of non-fiction cinema to sit down for an interview took a few tries before Lanzmann accepted.

Top: Claude Lanzmann and Simone de Beauvoir, circa 1952. SEUIL / JAZZ EDITIONS
Filmmaker Adam Benzine. DAVID SPOWART PHOTO

"It was a difficult interview in places," Benzine says. "There were some things he didn't want to talk about, some things he was reluctant to talk about. Making [*Shoah*] really wore him out."

The Oscar-nominated film will also air on CBC's documentary channel on Jan. 27, as part of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

As for receiving the nomination, Benzine calls the experience "surreal," adding that it is difficult for short films to receive any notice.

Meanwhile, he says he is especially delighted for his crew, many of whom deferred their salaries to get the film made.

"I'm not sure if I could have made this film if I were not in Canada," he says. "I found it easy and enjoyable to make friends and collaborators in [Toronto] – my cinematographer, my editor, my researcher, my sound recordist."

Benzine will compete against another Toronto resident in that category: director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, nominated for *A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness*.

Despite Lanzmann's stature as a director, he never received an Oscar nomination. Benzine says the academy's recognition this year could have been partly to make amends to a filmmaker they have ignored.

Although he isn't certain about whether Lanzmann will come to the Oscars, Benzine has reached out to the filmmaker and has high hopes.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people in Hollywood who want to shake his hand," Benzine says. ■

Correction

The Jan. 21 article "A celebration of Jewish music for Shabbat Shirah" incorrectly stated that Shabbat Shirah celebrations held in various congregations across Toronto were presented by Jewish Music Week. This is in fact not the case. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Advertisement

Home is Where the Heart is!

Four Aspects to Consider When Choosing a Retirement Home

Be nice to your kids, they choose your retirement home! While this may be the case, there is still a question of whether family members, often at a point of crisis or heightened stress, will choose wisely.

Nourishment for the body: Food in many cultures, including for the Jewish faith, plays a significant role in daily life. Whether it is bubbies' blintzes, brisket, apple pie or famous chicken soup, we all have fond memories of a particular dish. Beyond purely nutritional considerations, a good home should offer a variety of meal choices that evoke and stimulate those pleasant recollections of family gatherings.

Nourishment for the soul: Being spiritually satiated is just as, and perhaps in some aspects, even more important than being physically nourished. Particular attention should be paid to the overall atmosphere. Does the environment seem downcast and dreary? Or is there a sense of joy, excitement and positive energy rippling through the building?

You're never fully dressed without a smile: Pay close attention to facial expressions of both the residents and staff members. Make note of whether the people living and working at the home seem genuinely happy. Are there kind and smiling faces traversing the corridors? Or do the faces look sullen and tense? Smiles, like yawns, are contagious, and happy staff members will translate into happy residents and vice versa.

Rated R: How strict or numerous are the home's rules? While regulatory and safety standards are crucial, rules for the sake of rules are not. There should not be stipulations placed on visiting hours or frequency. Similarly there is 'dignity in risk'. Rules that are overly protective and undervalue the ability of the person to make even basic choices for oneself take away rather than foster independence and are quite frankly harmful in the long term. Your loved one has spent their lifetime making their own choices, there is no reason why they should be prevented from doing so going forward.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one
onekentonplace.ca

Isaac Weinroth
Executive Director, One Kenton Place Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Community

With over 26 years of combined experience in the fields of Gerontology and Long Term Care, Mental Health and Developmental Services. Mr. Weinroth holds a Master of Health Sciences in Health Administration from the University of Toronto as well as a Combined Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Gerontology and Economics with a minor in Religious Studies from McMaster University.

Mid-career artists need our support, too

Evelyn Tauben

Recently in *The CJN*, I wrote about the inherent ageism of otherwise superb Jewish incubator programs and intensive retreats that place a cap on participation at age 40. I advocated for shaping more intergenerational Jewish spaces and for not excluding mid-career artists or second-career entrepreneurs from communal support.

To expand the conversation, I interviewed four Jewish artists over the age of 40.

Boundless creative energy is in the blood of Philadelphia musician Susan Lankin-Watts. Her mother is the celebrated drummer Elaine Hoffman Watts, who at 83 regularly prods her daughter and The Fabulous Shpielkes band-mate: "How can we get that gig?" Forty-nine-year-old Lankin-Watts recently started a graduate program while launching Philly's Community Klezmer Initiative, getting out an all-ages crowd of 200 for a klezmer dance party. For her, the benefits of collaborating with both her octogenarian mother and emerging artists are keenly felt.

"There's a really nice energy that you can lose when you get older. What you don't have when you're 20 is rich years of skill, depth and wisdom about your art. But if you can combine both energies, then you're golden." Regarding her ongoing artistic projects, she said: "I feel more creative now than ever, but there's less of an accepting format for my creativity than 20 years ago."

Fifty-year-old dancer and performer Andrea Hodos from Los Angeles also feels she is thriving artistically. After having children, Hodos chose a more stable career in education, but, as she shared: "By the time I was ready to jump back into the arts when I was turning 40, I made a transition out of being a Jewish educator and no longer qualified for any of the institutional support that the Jewish community was giving." She asserted: "Don't discount my ability just because I spent a decade raising kids. I still have new ways of approaching my work and the impact my work can have on the community."

For musician and director of the Montreal Jewish Music Festival, Jason Rosenblatt, 42, being a parent is also a major factor in his career. Because his artistic work generates modest income, he teaches, leads choirs, and plays simchahs in addition to recording and touring with several projects, including his acclaimed group Shtreiml. Given his family commitments, he expressed: "I would rather see something from the Jewish community that is a grant submission process [as opposed to retreats] where the artist creates the program for himself."

> *Don't discount my ability just because I spent a decade raising kids.*
>
> **Andrea Hodos**

Aaron Lightstone, from Toronto's award-winning band Jaffa Road, is greatly informed by making music in intergenerational spaces. "As an artist in my 40s, I have a lot to learn from peers my age and older. And I've met musicians in their 20s who are amazing. I get a lot of inspiration, teaching and energy from them."

Hodos participated in NewGround, a Muslim-Jewish partnership program, after pushing for the removal of their age cap. Joining those young adults affirmed her belief in cross-generational work: "I have been finding as a Gen X person that I can help to build bridges between boomers and those younger. I think the world is always more interesting when you get people who are different next to each other. My hope is that more of these incubator programs for artists and innovators will open themselves so it will be more creative for everyone. There are people who got lost in the shuffle and we have a lot to offer."

Lankin-Watts speaks to ageless creative energy: "People often say to me it's time for the new generation to take over, it's time for my mother to step down; but I don't think its ever time for anyone to step down. If you're alive, you create. You create a heartbeat. You create a breath. As long as you're alive, you have something new to bring to each day." ■

Evelyn Tauben is a writer, producer and curator.

Teach High School Jewish Studies & Make a Difference

The Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (TanenbaumCHAT) – seeks full-time permanent Jewish Studies teachers to teach high school (Grades 9-12) at either our Toronto or Vaughan location.

Candidates should be fluent in Ivrit and English and be able to teach one or more of Talmud & Advanced Talmud, Ethics and Philosophy, Rabbinics, Mysticism and Spirituality, Tanakh, Jewish History, and Hebrew Language and Literature. Candidates must have a university degree, a teaching certificate, a minimum of 3 years' experience, and legal status to work in Canada.

Send applications by February 15, 2016 to myeres@tanenbaumchat.org
We will respond only to applicants being considered.

tanenbaumchat.org

ICRF Israel Cancer Research Fund

END CANCER

Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe

Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

AUTHORS & POETS

The CJN is pleased to announce its

Annual Passover Literary Supplement

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN

We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.

Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:

cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com

We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

Oboist performing at Temple Sinai eight months late

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Just before oboist Ron Cohen Mann was scheduled to perform at Temple Sinai last spring, he had a bicycle accident that left him with a broken jaw and fractured ear canals.

Completely recovered and playing better than ever, Cohen Mann, winner of the 2015 Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award, is looking forward to his rescheduled recital at the temple on Feb. 2.

Cohen Mann, who lives in New Haven, Conn., was riding his bike on the way to teach when a car ran him off the road, exactly a week before he was supposed to perform in Toronto last May. "I flew over the handlebars and landed on my chin," he said.

The question of whether he would be able to play the oboe as well as he had before the accident never entered his mind, he said. He added that he was encouraged by support he got from a friend, a percussionist in the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, who had a bad bicycle accident and returned to performing.

For a month after the accident, Cohen Mann was unable to eat any solid food. "I was just craving a veggie burger and fries," he said. His recovery took another two months, and by last September, he was able to perform again.

Returning to the Yale School of Music in New Haven last September, where he's studying for an artists diploma, he found that several professors, unaware of his accident, remarked on how well he was playing.

Ron Cohen Mann

> *When I started oboe, I took it pretty seriously.*

"I had three, four professors say that they thought I improved a lot over the summer. That's when I quit playing for the most part. I played mostly in the last month before school."

Israeli-born, Cohen Mann, 24, lived in the Netherlands until he was 12, when he and his family moved to Vancouver. He picked up the oboe at age 14.

"When I started oboe, I took it pretty seriously," he said, adding that his first teacher was Roger Cole, the principal oboist for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. At the time, Cohen Mann didn't know where the oboe would lead him, but he said he did have dreams of becoming a professional oboist. He joined Vancouver's Youth Orchestra, which he said was his "first opportunity to play with talented colleagues who ended up studying at conservatories and universities."

Cohen Mann has performed with the Manhattan Symphonie, L'Orchestre de la Francophonie, the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, among others, and with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Koerner Hall in Toronto, and Maison Symphonique in Montreal. Juilliard-trained pianist Benjamin Smith accompanies Cohen Mann at the Temple Sinai recital.

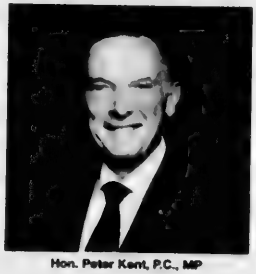
The program includes two fantasy pieces by Carl Nielsen and *Hebrew Melody, Opus 33*, by Russian composer Joseph Achron. "It's been recorded by every Jewish violinist ever. I'm looking forward to doing the oboe version I'm working on," Cohen Mann said.

Also on the program are *Temporal Variations* by Britten, the *Oboe Concerto* by Mozart and a concertina for oboe by Johann Wenzel Kalliwoda, an emotional, romantic work.

Upcoming for Cohen Mann is a recital on March 16 at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 West 49th Ave, Vancouver. He's touring the Baltic countries with the Yale Schola Cantorum from June 4 to 11. ■

For more information about Cohen Mann's Feb. 2 recital, free and open to the public, at 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai, visit www.templesinai.net. For more information about Cohen Mann, visit www.oboeron.com.

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services
We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs
• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations
Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years
2 year warranty
WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*
Seniors Never Pay Tax
*on projects over $1,000. before tax.
Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com


Hon. Peter Kent, P.C., MP
Peter Kent's Passport Clinic
CF Promenade (Food Court)
Sunday, February 7th
Noon to 3:00 pm
For further information, contact:
Hon. Peter Kent, P.C., MP
7378 Yonge St., Unit 41B Thornhill, ON L4J 8J1
905-886-9911peter.kent@parl.gc.ca
www.peterkent.ca

WE PAY TOP PRICE FOR YOUR JEWELLERY AND YOUR TIME
Bring your Gold, Diamonds & Jewellery for a Free Evaluation & Get Paid $50.00 per hour for your Time*
Everything is done in front of you & your jewellery never leaves your sight
There is no obligation to sell, but we will GUARANTEE HIGHEST PRICE IF YOU DO
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com
*By Appointment Only Certain Conditions Apply Phone to Enquire

A sensitive look at a family coping with being different

DOROTHY LICHTBLAU
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

In her professional life as a sociologist, Gail Benick wrote analytical accounts about migrants and diasporic people based on statistical and historical data. However, several years ago a story came to her that she had to tell differently.

Initially it surfaced as images and feelings. Then it started to evolve, fuelled by her deeply felt question, "How do people who have experienced horrific trauma clear the decks and have the wherewithal to get up the next morning and start over in a new country that they know nothing about?"

Benick's imagination and memories began to weave a tale. The story drew on aspects of her family history but was fictional, not a memoir.

Set in the 1950s and early 1960s in St. Louis, Mo., the narrative that ultimately developed into *The Girl Who Was Born That Way* focused on the Berk family. Mama, Papa and the two eldest daughters were survivors of the Lodz Ghetto. The two younger daughters were born in the United States.

Benick says she chose to divide the four sisters into two groups because she thought this structure advanced the story. The two older girls were people caught in transition, while the younger ones were full-fledged Americans. Nevertheless, all the sisters struggle with difference.

Benick asserts the Berks are nothing like her own family. Her relatives came to the United States well before World War II. They were not Holocaust survivors. She has one brother but no sisters. She grew up within a large, close-knit, extended family. She concedes that some of her cousins were almost like sisters to her. One cousin had Turner's syndrome, a chromosomal disorder that stunts growth and development, among other things. She also developed anorexia as a teenager.

Furthermore, Benick says, after her relatives read the pre-publication draft of her novella, they "vehemently told me that's not what it was like. That's your version. The Berks are not the Benicks."

She replied, "They're not meant to be."

Benick says her writing journey began with the emergence of characters. She describes the Berk family as closed off, protective and inhibited by shame. Mama and Papa are not sure if they will ever belong in this new culture, "especially because they have a daughter who does not fit." Mama, Papa and the two older girls refuse to talk about Lodz and how they miraculously managed to stay alive.

In response to the pain and uncertainty that permeates their home, each of the four girls constructs an identity that will transport her to more solid ground.

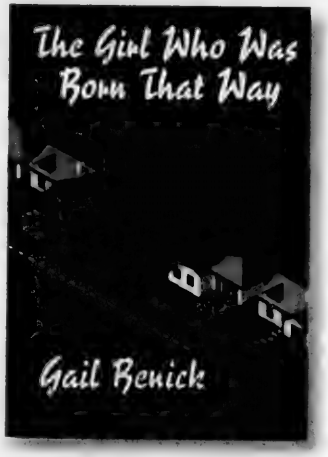
Hetty, the eldest seeks to be part of the Jewish establishment. She cares a great deal about fashion and looking good. Her fiancé, Lenny, is an orthodontist in training and is from a wealthy family.

Tilya, the second daughter is just the opposite. "She is a rebel and an intellectual. Her boyfriend, Robbie, is a crazy guy whose mother is a geneticist," Benick says.

"The Terry Sue character is what I remember of my cousin. It's my version and my memory of her."

Benick confesses that she identifies with Linda Sue, the youngest child. "She sprang to life carrying a camera and taking photos to try to save Terry Sue's life. She is curious, spunky and constantly seeking evidence. She's sensitive enough about what is happening to Terry Sue and to the family's emotional baggage to be able to tell the story."

Once the characters began to form, the story began to take shape, Benick says. "The actual writing of the novella took about a year, but switching from an academic approach to writing to writing fiction took about seven or eight years."



The Girl Who Was Born That Way
Gail Benick
Inana

Somewhere in the early 2000s, Benick taught a digital storytelling course at the University of Toronto, Mississauga campus. She worked with a technical instructor who taught the students how to turn their stories into movies.

"Honestly, the things these students, many of whom were immigrants, produced were overwhelming," Benick says. Realizing how powerful narrative can be motivated her to attempt fiction.

"I allowed myself to engage with the material in an emotional way. I took writing courses, formed a writers group and had a community of writers to work with.

"There must have been some readiness there for me to say, 'You're going to try something a little different. You're going to get out of your comfort zone. You're going to look at something that needs looking at.'

"And whenever I sat down to write, I seemed to write about grief. And then it came to me. Gail, of course you are writing about grief – you are grieving."

Benick describes the eating disorder her cousin developed as very much part of her family's experience. They watched her starve herself as they went from hospital to hospital and doctor to doctor. "There was no explanation for it. Anorexia in the late 1950s and early 1960s was just beginning to be understood."

The situation with Turner's syndrome was similar. Benick thinks her cousin's case was one of the earliest identified. "Doctors were interested in the condition but not demonstrating interest in the person in front of them. Her mom and dad were so overwhelmed they could not really hear what the medical people were saying to them. The rest of the family was never clear about what was going on.

"I wanted to give the character Terry Sue a voice because one thing I felt very strongly was that when she [Benick's cousin]was alive she didn't have a voice.

"That's partly why I wrote the book", Benick says. "The lack of communication on the part of the medical community, our not understanding. No way to rescue her. It was sorrowful."

Ultimately, in the 117 pages of *The Girl Who Was Born That Way*, Benick has compactly shown the complexities of migrating to a foreign land with few belongings and resources and many differences. She tells the story honestly, sensitively and with lots of heart. ■

LAND ROVER JAGUAR THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI

FLORIDA, ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, CANADA
WE SEND YOUR CAR & CONTENTS (and return)
CALL 416-225-7754
www.torontodriveaway.com
TORONTO DRIVEAWAY AND TRUCK SERVICE
5803 Yonge St., #101
North York M2M 3V5
Since 1959

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Authors past and present were honoured and given silver 'Author' pins, donated by jewelry designer Mark Lash.

Barry Sherman, Irwin Cotler, author-survivor Nate Leipciger, Naomi Azrieli, Eli Rubinstein, Peter Jassem

Naomi Azrieli and Arielle Berger

Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

The Azrieli Foundation recently celebrated 10 years of this program established in 2005 to collect, preserve and share memoirs written by survivors who came to Canada after World War II. This sold-out Toronto event launched the latest stories and included a special presentation of the program's new digital platform. This year's authors included Nate Leipciger, Felicia Carmelly, Michael Mason, David Newman, Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster. ■ – *The Socialite*

Elin Beaumont, Jody Spiegel and Catherine Person

Prof. Adele Reinhartz and award-winning author-survivor Henia Reinhartz

Elin Beaumont and Michael Spagat

Award-winning author-survivor Claire Baum and Dianne Roebuck

Author-survivors Rachel and Adam Shtibel

Author-survivors Leslie and Eva Meisels

Stephanie Azrieli and Naomi Azrieli

ERIC BENCHIMOL PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

JAN. 28 - FEB. 4

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Jan. 28

FRUMBA CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers Frumba classes, noon, starting today. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

Friday, Jan. 29

BROKEN PROMISES
Kim Wheatley, a member of the Shawanaga First Nation, speaks at Temple Har Zion, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 31

CHALLAH BAKING
Sarah Livingstone teaches how to bake challah, and the history of challah, Temple Kol Ami, 1 p.m. $10. Register at 905-709-2620, ext. 3.

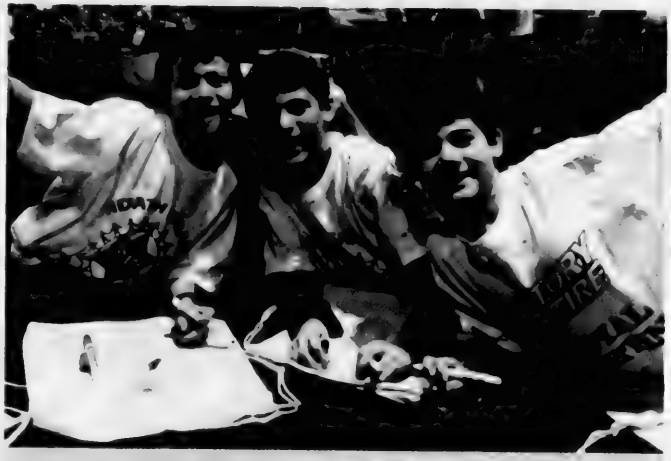
CLUB CHAVERUT
Club Chaverut presents a festive cabaret with entertainer **Sari Featherstone,** 1:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue. $7/$10, RSVP **Rose,** 905-764-8141.

YAZIDI STORIES
Learn about the Yazidi people of Iraq who are threatened by genocide, 2 p.m., Toronto Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. $20 suggested donation or pay what you can. RSVP jewsandfriendsofyezidis@gmail.com

PICKLING WORKSHOP
Teens and young adults (18-25) are invited to a pickling workshop at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $15 (includes dinner) RSVP 416-781-3514, ext. 229.

BIBLE STUDY: THE RISE OF KINGSHIP
Carl Ehrlich of York University discusses "Madness, monarchy and might: the rise of kingship in Israel," 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam. $5/$10.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Feb. 11 is Feb. 1. All deadlines are at noon.
Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269;
email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**



Mitzvah Day

From left, Jory Larry, Koby Press and Sam Rosen decorated backpacks as part of Adath Israel Congregation's annual Mitzvah Day last week. About 250 people made dog beds, wrote letters to Israeli soldiers and made sandwiches and baked brownies for a number of charities.

Monday, Feb. 1

ANXIETY IN ADOLESCENCE
Dr. David Kreindler, head of youth psychiatry at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, and social worker **Linda Conn** discuss "Anxiety and depression in adolescence," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free for members, $5 for non-members, RSVP required, 416-221-3433.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

HOW DYNAMIC IS HALACHAH?
Rabbi Jonathan Ziring discusses "Do I have to do what my parents did? Minhag Avot," 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *The Jewish Cardinal,* 1:30 p.m. Screening includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

Thursday, Feb. 4

BREAKING THE STIGMA
A panel of experts including **Dr. Marshall Korenblum** and **Dr. Lesley Wiesenfeld** discuss "Depression and suicide in the Jewish community," 7 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

YIDDISH VINKL
Jack Newman discusses the publication of his father's Holocaust memoirs, noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20 (includes lunch). RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for a volunteer to play piano in its musical matinee program. Call **Cheryl Besner,** 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

Circle of Care and the Jewish Hospice Program are looking for volunteers to visit and support people with a life-threatening illness and their families. A 30-hour training course is provided, starting Feb. 8. Contact **Arnold Foss,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or afoss@circleofcare.com

HEBREW CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers conversational ulpan Hebrew with **Yael Lev** for beginners (must read Hebrew), intermediate and advanced levels, daytime or evening classes. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

MAD FOR MAIMONIDES
Rabbi Michael Satz discusses "Getting perplexed with Maimonides," Feb. 6 after services. Author **Dara Horn,** discusses her novel *A Guide for the Perplexed,* Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

REFUGEE CRISIS
Congregation Darchei Noam presents a panel on the multifaith efforts to help Syrian refugees, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. $5/$10.

FROM SUGARCANE TO SHUL
Jerry Kreindler discusses the history of Barbados' Jews, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

A TRIBUTE TO SHOLEM ALEICHEM
Friends of Yiddish hosts "A tribute to Sholem Aleichem," featuring **Janie Respitz,** Feb. 21, 2 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free for members, $10 for non-members. RSVP yiddish18@yahoo.ca

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB MEETING
Israel Stamp Club discusses "Buying, selling and trading stamps on the Internet," Antibes Community Centre, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. 416-226-2050.

ISRAEL'S HIDDEN TREASURES
Rachel Urowitz discusses "Israel's hidden treasures," at Beth David Synagogue's World Wide Wrap event, Feb. 7, 9:15 a.m. RSVP 416-633-5500.

STOLEN BOOKS
Eric Gertner discusses "Law and restoration of books," Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

◗ Mind, body connection for women: A 7-session group for women who want to learn mindfulness and meditation, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call **Beth Feffer,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com.

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155
Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Tu b'Shvat seder, enjoy Hebrew songs, readings and ceremonial foods, Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m.

Bring your own lunch and learn day. Participate in a discussion about the book *The Story of Beautiful Girl,* Feb. 4, 11 a.m., followed by singers **Faye Kellerstein** and **Noreen Horowitz,** who perform songs by "The ladies of Broadway," at 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. Feb. 2, **Liz Pearl** discusses "Everyone has a story, what's yours? The Living Legacy Collection," 10 a.m.; Archeology course with **David Lipovitch,** Thursdays to March 17, 1 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, trips, knitting circle and more.

◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.

◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi,** 416-785-0941.

◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.

◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com

◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Yakov Fruchter** discusses issues of interest to seniors, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen,** 416-781-3514.

◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

◗ **Wagman Community Centre.** Learn about the pros and cons of being screened for cancer, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. $3 for non-members. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment etc.) and catered lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Call **Amy,** 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Thursdays, 10 a.m.

◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Supervised bridge, drop-in program, Thursdays, 12:30-4 p.m.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong, Feb. 24-March 30, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Film appreciation course, "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," March 2- 23, 1-3 p.m.

◗ Glass fusion workshop with **Marcela Rosemberg,** March 8, 7 p.m.

◗ Skate for Sarah hockey tournament and fundraiser, in memory of Sarah Watkin, Feb. 28. Register at www.skatefs.com.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ *Voicing Perspective,* featuring visual art and photography from artists with disabilities, is on display at the gallery Jan. 30-Feb. 24.

◗ **Shlomo Schwartzberg** presents a lecture series on "Jewish sensibility in Hollywood films," Mondays to Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Kat-Ka team, Jan. 31, 1 p.m. for grades 2-8. Experience Israel and Jewish values with Camp Gesher/Habonim Dror.

◗ Body positive storytelling: accessible theatre for youths aged 16-24 of all abilities. Free. Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.

◗ Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays until Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ A forum on affordable housing for people with disabilities, with panelists **Remo Agostino, Bryan Keshen, Nancy Singer, Adam Vaughan, Jijian Voronka** will be held Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre.

◗ Havana Nights, a concert in support of music programming at the MNJCC will be held Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Ext. 328.

◗ From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30- 8 p.m. Ext. 567.

◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk.** No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein.** music@mnjcc.org

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

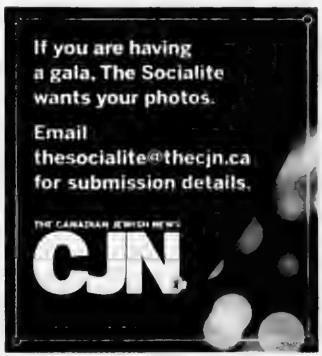
Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong runs Tuesdays, Feb. 23-March 29, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Boomerang Health, presents "How to lead a more active lifestyle with your kids," by physiotherapist **Kaite Chircop,** Feb. 17, 7 p.m.

◗ Royal Conservatory of Music presents *Shirei Eretz:* the hidden story of the songs of Israel, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. ■



Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
Cuisinart
Compact 7 Cup User Friendly Food Processor
Easy On/Off Locking System with Push Button Release, Touch Pad Controls - On, Off, Pulse
Includes Stainless Steel Chopping/Mixing & Kneading Blade, Slicing/Shredding Disc and Spatula
Compare at 149.99
Save 60%
Lowest Price In Ontario
59.99
CONSUMER 2016
20 YEAR
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-8
Sat-Sun 10-6

ASK ELLA

Is it possible to be too sensitive?

Ella Burakowski
eb@thecjn.ca

Dear Ella,

Josh is in tune with my needs and really listens to me when I speak. He's the first guy I've dated in years who I feel connects to me emotionally and physically.

I feel petty even mentioning this problem, but here goes: he's a crier. He cries more than I do. I don't mean just in tragic situations. I mean he cries watching movies, TV shows or reading. Last week, we went to see *Star Wars* and there was a short before the movie in which a snowman was left alone in a refrigerator while the little girl who made him grew up and forgot about him. Oh my God did Josh sob!

What is that? Of all the men I've known in my life, I rarely saw any cry, and for sure not in public. I don't even know any women that cry as much as he does.

Do you think I can approach this subject with him, or should I just pretend not to notice and stop being so petty?

Crying Game

Dear Crying Game

Josh sounds like a very sensitive person. It's phenomenal to be able to find a match that fits with your needs this well.

This trait actually has a clinical name. Josh is a highly sensitive person or HSP. People like Josh feel things more deeply than most. He processes stimuli more acutely. He is likely more aware and in tune to all of his senses than the average person.

The question then becomes is this a problem? If it's not a problem for Josh, why is it a problem for you? Are you embarrassed? Do you feel less secure with a man who cries? On one hand, you are happy to have found a man who really hears and feels you, but on the other, you want him to check his sensitivity when it spills over into tears.

Society has conditioned us to perceive a crying man as weak, and we all know that "big boys don't cry" right? Wrong. Just recently we witnessed U.S. President Barack Obama cry while speaking about gun violence. Josh has broken the stereotype society has placed on genders and is not uncomfortable showing real emotion.

In a nutshell, this is not Josh's problem, it's yours. Instead of seeing his crying as a weakness, see it as a strength – the strength of a man not ashamed or embarrassed to show emotion.

Dear Ella,

This is the first year that our seven-year old Hannah has started to have sleepovers. She has a best friend, Hailey, who is a sweet, adorable little girl. The problem is when Hailey is here, things always escalate to tears. Hailey's tears. We have a busy house with three kids always running around. Our oldest boy is often playing hockey in the basement and yelling at the girls to get out. Hailey cries. If someone says something off, Hailey cries. This time we had a sleepover, and Hailey cried that she wanted to go home. This child is a little too much work for me right now, but I don't want to discourage Hannah from having her over. Any suggestions?

Little Drama Queen

Dear Little Drama Queen

Hailey is a highly sensitive child and therefore you need to handle her visits with extra TLC. I'm not sure how much you want to get involved, but I suggest you start by speaking to Hailey's parents about your observations and asking for tips to make Hailey and Hannah's visits filled with more fun and less drama.

Hailey becomes overwhelmed easily and, therefore, needs more structure to her visits. She probably doesn't like noise, screaming, fighting or surprises, which is why the basement isn't the best place for the girls when the boys are playing hockey there.

When Hailey comes over, try to structure the girls activities around quieter play, such as puzzles, crafts or a movie. Keep them away from the boys' rougher play. The girls are still young for sleepovers. Maybe stick to daytime play for now. If they are great friends, the little extra effort will be worth it. ■

Ella is the author of Hidden Gold - A True Story of the Holocaust. *Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Emma-Belle, as you turn 12 and enter your bat mitzvah year, always know how much we treasure and love you.

Sunny Senzilet, mazel tov on your 102nd birthday, biz 120, with all our love from your children and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy 64th anniversary Norman & Sally Raicek. Here's to another great year together! With love and admiration from your children and grandchildren.

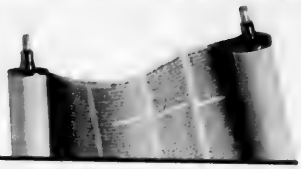
Happy 91st birthday Betty Mintzberg. Ellen & Avi, Oren & Elana, Leora & Yoni, Cyndi & Max, Kara & Josh, Joelle, Jaclyn, Benjamin and Shira.

Happy 85th birthday to Sybil Weigensberg. You are loved so much by everyone who knows you. Lots of love, Risa, Ian, Hailee Joel, Jo-Anne, Cory

Email your digital photo along with a description of 25 words or less to ellen@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Simchas"

Parshah

Yitro | Exodus 18:1-20:23



Rabbi Ilan Acoca explains why swimming against the stream can sometimes be the right thing to do
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl on the connection between Shabbat and honouring our parents
Rabbi Catharine Clark considers the danger we face in coveting what does not belong to us

Rabbi Ilan Acoca

An obvious question raised about this week's Parshah is why was it named after Yitro? Why would he get an honour that even Moses didn't get?

I think Yitro had something that was unique: he was seeking truth. Yitro went through many phases in his life looking for the creator of the world until he finally heard the miracles that occurred with Israel. He then realized that he'd finally gotten to the truth and converted to Judaism. That's why this Torah section is named after Yitro – to teach us this lesson.

The question is, what happened to the rest of the world? They also heard the miracles of what happened to the Jewish nation. Why did they not convert? One answer is that even though they heard about the miracles, as Yitro did, they didn't internalize the message. It takes a lot of willpower to change your lifestyle, even though you know it's the right thing to do. Yitro had the conviction, that the rest of the world did not, and even though he was swimming against the stream, he knew he was right.

I have written extensively on several occasions about Sephardi Judaism, about my concerns, visions and goals. At times, I question what the future of Sephardi Jewry will be in the 21st century and whether it will survive. When I think about that, there's a saying in *Ethics of our Fathers* (2:21) that crosses my mind: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

I am blessed to have among my Sephardi peers a supportive group that works cohesively to ensure a promising future for the next generation, and even though we're sometimes going against the stream, each of us knows it's the right thing to do.

May God give us the strength, wisdom and insights to carry on. ■

Rabbi Ilan Acoca is rabbi at Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

In three different legal sections of the Torah, the commandments to honour and revere parents are juxtaposed with the mitzvah to guard and remember Shabbat.

In the Ten Declarations of God in Exodus, we read: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy… Honour your father and your mother." In the rephrasing by Moses in Deuteronomy, we are instructed: "Guard the Sabbath day, to keep it holy… Honour your father and your mother." And in the Holiness code of Leviticus, the two commandments are placed within the same verse: "A person shall revere one's mother and father; and you shall guard my Shabbatot."

What links these mitzvot? Our talmudic sages indicate that even though one must honour and revere parents, this obligation does not extend to violating biblical law, for Shabbat or other mitzvot. Many commentators suggest the connection is theological: each refers to the sacred nature of creation. Shabbat marks the creation of the world, and parents are their children's source of life.

Rabbi Shai Held of New York cites the Protestant scholar Walter Brueggemann, who suggests that the commandment to honour parents reflects a concern for elders who have "lost their productive capacity and social utility and are made vulnerable." The association to the mitzvah of Shabbat affirms "life beyond and outside productivity."

In Canada, as we consider physician-assisted dying, our society should recall the cry, "Do not cast me off in old age; when my strength fails, do not forsake me!" A midrash portrays King David saying, "In my youth, I would go into battle for Your children. Now that I am weak, they ask, 'How long will the old man continue to live?'" Rabbi Held concludes: "To take the fifth commandment to heart is to understand that no one should ever be made to feel that we as a society are simply waiting for them to die." ■

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Rabbi Catharine Clark

In the 10th commandment as presented in Parshat Yitro, God instructs us not to covet our neighbour's house. You might consider this demand unreasonable. Surely God has seen the Goldsteins' new place! Who would not covet it? Any serious cook would love those marble countertops, and that hockey rink in the backyard is every true Canadian's dream.

Hebrew philology seems to support your objection. The verb prohibiting coveting, *tachmod*, also occurs in Exodus 34:24. There, the Lord exhorts the Israelites to travel to Jerusalem three times a year for the festivals. Part of God's encouragement includes the promise that the faithful pilgrims' land will still be theirs when they return home. No one will seize, *yachmod*, the land in their absence. In this passage, the same verb refers to an action, not an emotion. Go ahead and envy the Goldsteins, just do not invade their home.

However, the restatement of the Ten Commandments in Parshat Va'etchanan (in Deuteronomy) closes this loophole. There we are commanded not to crave our neighbour's house. The verb used in this version, *titavveh*, is also found in a story from Numbers. The Lord supplies manna for the nutritional needs of the wandering Israelites, but some riffraff feel a gluttonous craving not satisfied by manna. God's anger is aroused at their craving, and the Lord sends quail and a plague to destroy them. Indeed, it is best not to think longingly of the Goldstein's kitchen and backyard.

The small difference between the two versions of the 10th commandment teaches that there is danger not just in acting unlawfully to take what is not ours, but also in wanting what is not ours. It is difficult not to covet, but we are obligated to try to meet the challenge. ■

Rabbi Catharine Clark is the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in London, Ont.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875 •	Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987 •	Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343 •	Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800 •	Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL CENTRAL PROPERTIES

YONGE AND EGLINGTON 1 BED + DEN
Spectacular views from the 45th flr. Large open space. Hardwood flrs. S/S appliances. Locker. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

VILLAGE GEM - $2,495,000
Reno'd with flair & great quality. Sun filled. Spacious LR with f'place. B/ins in Dining Rm & Family Rm. Modern Kit/Brkfst. 4Bdrms (mstr ens). Finished Lwr Lvl. Spectacular 182 ft l'scaped grdn. Walk into the 'Village'. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

2 COVINGTON ROAD 1 BEDROOM LOW FLOOR
Sparkling Condo In Pristine Condition. Engineered Hardwood Floors, Walk-Out To Garden, 24 Hour Concierge. Parking And Locker. Rose Simon* 416-226-1987

3 BDRM PENTHOUSE SUITE AT YONGE/YORK MILLS $2,799,000
Large, premium suite in very private setting. Peaceful ravine views, showcase art, entertain and family loving. Great building. Amenities & location. Aprox. 4400 sf. S. Merrick* & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

7 TOWNSGATE DR #813 $515,000
Rare 1546 sq ft condo. Split bdrm, laminate flrs, mstr w/soaker tub & sep shwr, 24 hr concierge, 2 guest suites. Barbara Jacobs* 416-488-2875
SOLD

AS FEATURED IN NATIONAL POST HOMES $529,000
Stunning 2 Bdrm, Corner Suite in Forest Hill Village, Downszers Dream! Tons of Closet Space Plus. Includes locker and 1 underground parking. Valene Lennox* 416-488-2875

NEW LISTING! 7 TOWNSGATE $495,000
Desirable corner 2 bdrm split plan. Approx. 1546 sq.ft. Southern exposure. Ensuite laundry. 2 parking. Susan Dick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

1801-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$1,870/Mo! Spadina N/St Clair! Spectacular 1+1Br 1Bth West Facing Ste W/Panoramic Outstanding Facilities! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987
LEASED

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE + 320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Condo Style Living W/ Fab Amenities! Just Completed! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br, 2+1Br! From $1,710-$4,915! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

6 CROYDON #3 $2,000/MO.
6 Croydon Rd. Renovated 2 bdrm, 2 bth apt in 4 plex. Eat-in Kit. Balcony. Locker, parking. Susan Slater* 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative**
www.foresthill.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

YONGE/SHEPPARD/SUBWAY
131 BEECROFT RD. SUITE 1806

S/E corner, 1600 S.F. Tastefully updated, strip hardwood floors throughout, Move-in condition, flex. Possession. Maint. $1,240. ALL INCLUSIVE. 1 parking. Tax $3,217/yr., ONLY $589,900. HURRY.

André Tarjan
Sales Representative
ABA Accredited Senior Agent

CALL ANDRÉ FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING.
Cell: 416-346-7770

ROYAL LEPAGE

Serving the GTA since 1986
ROYAL LEPAGE GOLDEN RIDGE REALTY INC., Brokerage
7100 Woodbine Ave. #111, Markham 905-513-8878

Large Penthouse in Boutique Building!

2 BR, 2 Ensuites, Open Concept, Hardwood, High Ceilings, Huge Terrace, Spectacular Panoramic Views. Prime North York location, Near All Amenities. A Steal at $679,000.

Jeff Tabachnick *Broker*
416.739.7200
www.jeftab.com • jeftab@sutton.com

Sutton
Sutton Group Admiral Realty Inc., Brokerage

SANTE REALTY INC. /BROKERAGE 416 441 2015

SKYMARK Don Mills & Finch

Skymark 2: Well Appointed. 1 Brdm+Sol., (Den) +Balc., 1 Bath, Rarely Available Demanded Model
Asking Only $310,000!

SANTE REALTY INC. /BROKERAGE RECORD

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-788-4887 / www.TwoNeptune.ca

Yonge Finch subway -1200 sq.ft newly reno., all new kitchen,1 bdrm/ 1 1/2 bath + den, 2 pkg. spots underground. 24 hr security plus amenities. All util. incl. $1900/mth. 289-997-1666/pfr88@hotmail.com

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

120 Shelborne

1 bdrm from $1295.00 & 2 bdrm from $1595.00. Sabbath elevator, close to synagogues, school & shops.

New! Ladies & Men's gym
Children's Playroom

Ask for Mila at Medallion Corporation
Call 416-256-0660 or 416-782-4120

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Florida-Luxury 2/2 1850 SF. Kosher. 5* amenities, Spa, Shul. AVAIL. PESACH stayatwilliams@gmail.com

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

Netanya short term rental - Beautiful, new 3 bdrm/2.5 bath apt. Fully equipped kosher kitchen, w/ large balcony. Across from the ocean & Anglo synagogue. Building has underground parking, security, 24 hr. concierge, a fully equipped gym & large, outdoor, pool, across the road from the beautiful tayelet (promenade), & min. away from the new modern Ir Yamim mall. Shomer Shabbat applicants please contact: Jackie Benson jackie@jpmisrael.com

237 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

A nurse from Israel assisting elderly, adults, children & infants w/regular or special needs. Liza-647-206-9947

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Tired to be alone? Interesting Russian, Ukrainian, Jewish ladies 27- 65 years old would like to meet men for friendship or serious relationship. Alina: 647-717-5602

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

We are the people who care, and it shows!
Nurses & Caregivers
from general attendant to acute injury care
Serving Toronto & GTA since 1985
Call
416 754-0700 • 1 800 567-6877
30 years
HomeCare
www.nhihealthcare.com

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Live-out Cert. PSW-CPR/First aid. Attend to daily activities. Drive to appointments, etc. Have van & refs. Felipa 647-868-4548.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available Feb/Mar.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

REPLYING TO AN AD WITH A CJN BOX NUMBER?

Address your mail to:

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
1750 Steeles Ave. W.,
Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

570 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905 762 0640
www.cafesheli.com

575 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglung, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

433 LESSONS

Art Classes for beginners & advanced for adults & children. Pls Call: 416-785-0958

455 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Bar/Bat Mitzvah video full H.D. under $600. 25 yrs expenence. Call: Andy 905-763-1584

460 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install, plus repairs on all models. Residential & commercial. 416-722-5225

Specializing in furniture repair?
ADVERTISE IN CJN

UPDATE, PAINT AND SELL YOUR HOUSE, ALL USING
CJN
CLASSIFIED ADS
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 416-391-1836

Steaming bowl of soup for a cold day

DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Soup is one of those things that people naturally turn to once winter hits. It's comforting, filling and best of all, can be made in less time than you might think. Soup is a welcome repast on a frigid night and can usually be made in less than a half an hour (provided that you have already roasted the vegetables for the roasted vegetable soup).

Roasted vegetable soup

This thick soup is a meal in a bowl. It's hearty and delicious and you really only need some good crusty bread to round out your meal. The beautiful thing is that you can make the vegetables up to 2 days ahead and change them up as you see fit.

- ❑ 1 lb. carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- ❑ 1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into chunks
- ❑ 4 cups broccoli florets
- ❑ 1/3 cup fruity olive oil
- ❑ ½ tsp. salt
- ❑ ¼ tsp. pepper
- ❑ 1 onion, chopped
- ❑ 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 6 cups (approx.) chicken or vegetable stock

Preheat the oven to 400. Toss together the carrot and sweet potato chunks and the broccoli florets in a large bowl along with 5 tbsp. of the oil, salt and pepper, until the vegetables are well coated. Spread on an aluminum-foil lined large baking sheet. Spread the vegetables as much as possible to make sure they are in a single layer.

Roast in the centre of the preheated oven, stirring once, until all of the vegetables are very soft, 35 to 40 minutes. (The vegetables can be cooled down and refrigerated for up to 2 days).

Heat the remaining oil in a Dutch oven or a large saucepan set over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add all of the roasted vegetables, stirring until well coated with the onion mixture. Pour in the broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes to allow the flavours to meld. Using an immersion blender or a regular blender, puree the soup, adding up to 1 cup more broth if the mixture becomes too thick. Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

Squash soup with star anise

The smashed garlic and ginger root perfume this soup along with the star anise. They don't break apart during the cooking so it's easy to fish them out of the broth before you purée the soup. If you prefer a stronger garlic flavour, simply mince both the garlic and the ginger root and only remove the whole anise before you purée the soup in a blender.

- ❑ 1 tbsp. olive oil
- ❑ 8 green onions, chopped
- ❑ 2 large cloves garlic, smashed
- ❑ 1 piece peeled fresh ginger root, about 1-1/2 in. large
- ❑ 3 whole star anise
- ❑ ¾ tsp. salt
- ❑ ❑ ½ tsp. pepper
- ❑ 1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into 1-in. chunks (about 8 cups)
- ❑ 4 cups (approx) chicken or vegetable stock

Heat the oil in a Dutch oven or a large saucepan set over medium heat. Keeping aside two tbsp., add the green onions. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Stir in the garlic, ginger root, star anise, salt and pepper, stirring until well coated with the green onion. Stir in the butternut squash. Pour in the chicken stock. Bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, covered, until the squash is very tender. Remove the garlic, ginger root and star anise. In a regular blender or using an immersion blender, purée the soup, adding up to 1 cup more stock if the soup is too thick . Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve garnished with the reserved green onion. Makes 6 servings. ■

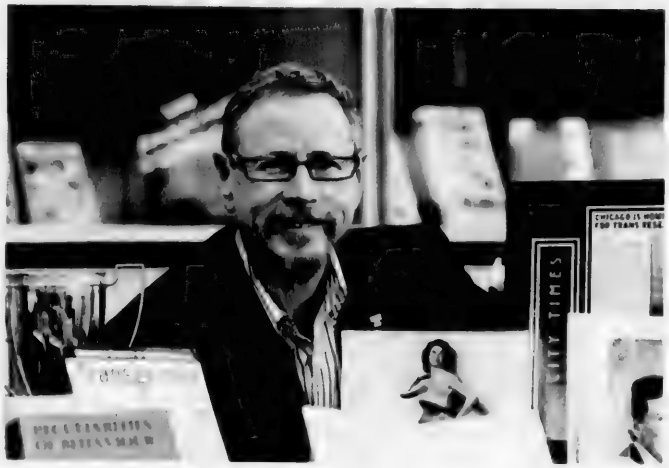
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
JANUARY 28, 2016

Aaron Devor: Blazing a path for trans people

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT

Recently appointed the inaugural research chair in transgender studies at the University of Victoria, Prof. Aaron Devor, has been studying and teaching about transgender topics for more than 30 years. He is the author of *Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality (1989)*, *FTM: Female-To-Male Transsexuals in Society* (1997, 2016), and *The Transgender Archives: Foundations for the Future* (2014). He is also founder and academic director of the world's largest transgender archives at the University of Victoria.

An American Jewish billionaire philanthropist in Chicago has pledged $1 million (US) to establish Devor's new position, which is believed to be the first chair of transgender studies at a major university. The foundation has also pledged to donate up to $1 million more to match gifts from other sources. Jennifer Pritzker, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who is believed to be the only transgender billionaire in the world, made the gift through her Tawani Foundation to the University of Victoria.



Prof. Aaron Devor

What is your background?
I was born in the Bronx but have lived in Canada since 1969. I became a faculty member at UVic in 1989, and UVic was my first tenure-track job.

When did you begin getting involved in transgender studies, and what was the impetus for you to do so?
I have always been interested in gender variance and people who challenge conventional gender norms and stereotypes. I started my master's thesis in the early 1980s studying women who identified as women, but who strangers often mistakenly thought were men. That turned into my first book *Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality*. At that time, there was no such thing as transgender studies, and only a handful of people even used the word transgender. That book is seen by many as one of the classics of transgender studies.

Why is it important that UVic have a chair in transgender studies?
One in 200 people is transgender or gender non-conforming. While in the past year or so we have seen unprecedented positive attention to trans people in the popular media, social change is uneven, and despite glamorous celebrity coming-out stories, far too many trans and gender non-conforming people still live in poverty and fear.

Good research forms a solid foundation for better laws and policies, and for changing hearts and minds. The chair in transgender studies will assist in both the creation and transfer of reliable knowledge about and for trans and gender non-conforming people. The chair will also act as a resource locally and internationally for those needing information for their own research, media reports, policy development, or for use in classrooms.

What should the Jewish community know about the relevance of transgender studies?
The Jewish community should be aware that there are many trans and gender-non-conforming Jews – one in 200. Reform Judaism just passed new policy welcoming trans people, and Conservative Judaism's law committee will be considering updating their policies shortly. I advised on the development of the current policy, which was adopted in 2003.

Why did the Tawani Foundation donate this money to UVic specifically?
In her remarks at the announcement of the chair, Jennifer Pritzker said that the issue of human gender identity is something all humans deal with every day of their lives and that there should be at least one institution of higher learning that addresses this on a high level of scholastic and scientific research.

She noted that UVic has made itself a leader on this topic, with first-class archives that are the largest and most comprehensive in the world, as well as leading scholars in the field. She said her support is an investment in success, and it's her personal goal that this chair in transgender studies will stimulate outstanding work at other institutions and create a global network for the study of this topic.

> *Good research forms a solid foundation for better laws and policies, and for changing hearts and minds.*

What will be the first things you do as new chair?
My main research focus over the past few years has been on building the Transgender Archives and historical research on trans activism. That work will continue, but I will now begin to establish further collaborations with researchers in other disciplines. I plan to build local, national and international linkages with others working in transgender studies, foster research and scholarship in transgender studies, host visiting academic and community scholars, mentor students and junior colleagues, do community outreach and knowledge mobilization, teach in the area of transgender studies and do development work in support of the chair in transgender studies at UVic.

How long will $1 million sustain this chair?
The university has approved the chair for a standard five-year term. We will review and consider a renewal after that time.

Where else is transgender studies being studied?
Transgender topics are being studied at most universities around the world. For example, I had an email this week from a junior researcher working on a transgender topic at a university in Islamabad. The University of Arizona is working on developing a graduate certificate program in transgender studies and hopes to expand it into a degree program in the coming years.

Regarding the Transgender Archives at UVic, how was all this material collected? What is its significance?
The materials were donated by individuals who had collected them because they understood their historical significance. They are the raw materials from which history is written.

In my book *The Transgender Archives: Foundations for the Future*, which is downloadable as a free PDF file, I noted that as the largest collection of transgender archival materials in the world, the archives are a unique and invaluably rich resource from which to learn about the complexity of human gender variation. Our collections bear witness to the courage, vision, and perseverance of our elders and forebears. They had the wisdom to see that there was much important work to be done to make the world a more just place for all. Each in their own ways took on a piece to the job of making the world safer and more hospitable for people who do not easily fit within prevailing simplistic binary and hierarchical systems and structures of gender. They all took risks in doing this. Some suffered significantly for their boldness. All contributed to advancing gender freedoms. We owe them more than we can know.

The archives stand as a testament to those brave souls who risked so much to forge a pathway for today's advances. By keeping their names alive, and by preserving the records of the work they have done, we can repay some of our debt to our pioneers. Thus, those who have had the foresight to do the work of collecting and preserving, also do the work of advancing social justice. All people need to know their history, and this is even more so for people who have been so abject that through much of our history, our very survival has depended on our ability to keep our gender variance hidden.

We welcome community members, scholars and independent researchers, activists and allies to come to the archives to explore our diverse collections and through them to learn about who we are, and how we got to where we are today. The archives are open to the public, free of charge. They safeguard a broad spectrum of trans heritage, so that the work our pioneers have done will not be forgotten. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Trump, Ford and 'The International Jew'

Backstory

ALLAN LEVINE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Donald Trump's surprising success thus far in the Republican presidential nomination race is based in part on his bullying bravado and his loud rebuke of the political establishment, and partly on the power of fear. In Trump's campaign, it is about the fear of illegal immigrants overwhelming the United States and Muslims, who whether they were born in the United States or not, are collectively portrayed as potential Islamic State recruits and terrorists.

Such targeted scapegoating, which uses propaganda and the exaggeration of tragic events to smear millions of people who also happen to be Muslim, is an old political trick that dates back to ancient Rome and attacks on Christians. Jewish history, too, is rife with such examples, from medieval Spain to Nazi Germany, but also nearly a century ago in the United States when the spectre of the "International Jew" was conceived by American nationalists, Trump-like supporters of the nativist and racist 100 Per Cent Americanism movement.

As in Canada, anti-Semitism that excluded American Jews from a range of professions and jobs, universities, social clubs and resorts was common from the 1880s well into the 20th century. During and after World War I, as the fear of left wing radicalism spread, all Jews were seen to be Russian revolutionaries, Bolsheviks who put the American way of life in peril. These attitudes were given more credence during the Red Scare hysteria of 1919.

The Red Scare coincided with the dissemination of *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. An alleged blueprint for a Jewish conspiracy to rule the world, the tract with its 24 "protocols" was published in Russia in 1903 and 1905. It was, as the *London Times* later showed, "a clumsy plagiarism," stolen from a variety of French and German sources which had nothing to do with Jews. Nevertheless, after the 1917 revolution, it was translated in many languages and widely distributed by a group of pro-Czarist immigrants, and is still referenced today by hate groups on the Internet.

In the United States, the *Protocols* were championed by automobile innovator and pioneer Henry Ford, an "American First" supporter. Influenced by Social Darwinism and eugenics, Ford had long believed that Jews, especially those who were bankers and moneylenders, were the curse of civilization, who "encouraged the breakdown of the family, of morality, of order." Starting in May 1920, Ford's journal, *The Dearborn Independent*, ran a series of 91 articles on "The International Jew: The World's Problem," based on the nonsense in the *Protocols*.

The *Independent* had a weekly circulation of a million readers and every customer who purchased a Model-T Ford also purchased a subscription. After the series was concluded, it was reissued as a pamphlet entitled, *The International Jew* and reached millions more across the United States, Canada and Europe. It was particularly popular in Germany, where the Nazis, still a fringe party in the early '20s, distributed many copies. Adolf Hitler regarded Ford as "great man."

American Jewish groups condemned Ford, who really never understood what all the fuss was about. He truly believed that international Jewish financiers were behind World War I and were plotting to take over the global economy. In the spring of 1924, the *Independent* ran a new series about "Jewish exploitation of Farmers' Organizations" that slandered Aaron Sapiro, a Jewish lawyer who was involved in organizing farm co-operatives in Canada and the United States. He filed a libel suit against the *Independent*, which after several years Ford agreed to settle with a public apology.

In 1923, Ford was touted as a possible presidential candidate. His anti-Semitism, paternal attitude toward assembly-line factory workers, moralizing about the evils of liquor and tobacco and the fiasco of the trip he financed to Europe aboard his "Peace Ship" in 1915 to try to stop the war did not initially count against him. "To millions," as historian John Higham wrote, "he embodied the old pioneer virtues: a farm-bred simplicity contemptuous of elegance or intellect, a rugged individualism, a genius for practical achievement."

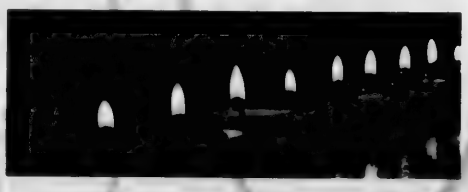
But unlike Trump, he did not have the requisite "big" personality for the political arena, stage presence and ability to fend off his critics with insults. ■

Historian Allan Levine's most recent book is Toronto: Biography of a City.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

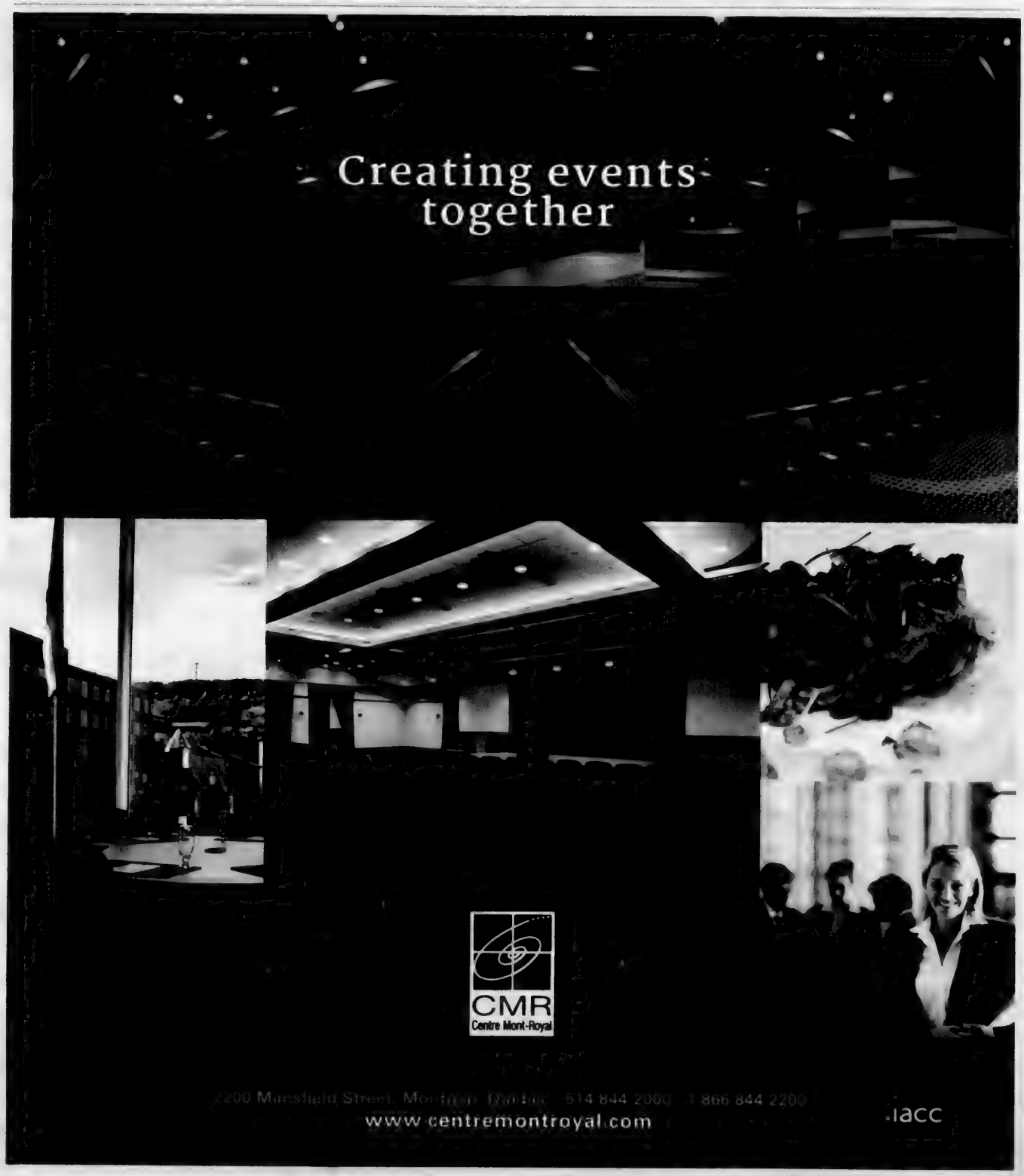
BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Paul Levin	Jan 8/16	4005 Bayview Avenue
David Katz	Jan 9/16	52 Patrice Crescent
Isy Pratzer	Jan 10/16	645 Castlefield Avenue
Eugenia Cork	Jan 9/16	16 Eugenia Court
Janna Richmond	Jan 8/16	1830 Bloor Street West
Gordon Greenberg	Jan 8/16	18 Standish Avenue
Hyman (Hy) Schwartz	Jan 10/16	288 Betty Ann Drive
Sidney Laufer	Jan 11/16	616 Briar Hill Avenue
Elisabeth Yanowski	Jan 12/16	10 Delisle Avenue
Karyn Gelespy	Jan 14/16	2600 John Street
Marvin Zelsman	Jan 13/16	1955 Valley Farm Road
Shirley Auerbach	Jan 14/16	4005 Bayview Avenue
Chickie Mendelow	Jan 14/16	1068 Avenue Road



Steeles Memorial Chapel

Kertesz, George	January 13, 2016	546 Steeles Ave W
Fruchtman, Marion Vera	January 13, 2016	110 Glenmanor Way
Aleinikov, Arkadi	January 13, 2016	Private
Meyers, Louis	January 12, 2016	24 Leith Hill Rd
Levin, Claire	January 14, 2016	1925 Steeles Ave E
Streichik, Mara	January 16, 2016	Private
Nudelman, Betty	January 15, 2016	150 Waterloo Ave
Stern, Ernst	January 15, 2016	3636 Bathurst St
Landauer, Michael	January 14, 2016	Private
Georgiadis, Sonia	January 16, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Keyes, Charlotte	January 17, 2016	37 Tucker Court
Shulman, Ida	January 18, 2016	880 Isaac Phillips Way
Weiss, Violet (Ibolya)	January 18, 2016	18 Prescott Court
Saviov, Mildred	January 19, 2016	541 Finch Ave W
Cohen, Isaac	January 19, 2016	9700 Bathurst St
Cohen, Leonard	January 20, 2016	1622 McBrady Cres


Creating events
together
CMR
Centre Mont-Royal
2200 Mansfield Street, Montreal (Quebec) 514 844 2000 1 866 844 2200
www.centremontroyal.com
iacc

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

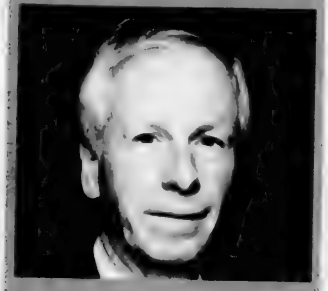
CJN

FEBRUARY 4, 2016 • 25 SHVAT, 5776

$2.00 • 44 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside



Responding to Dion's Israel comments

Jewish groups offer mixed reviews of foreign minister's Mideast statements. **PAGE 14**

Waterloo undergrads reject BDS motion

Referendum called on the university to sever ties with Israeli institutions. **PAGE 13**

Mishpatim

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:10 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
Montreal	4:48 p.m.	5:54 p.m.
Ottawa	4:56 p.m.	6:03 p.m.
Toronto	5:15 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Winnipeg	5:11 p.m.	6:22 p.m.
Calgary	5:15 p.m.	6:28 p.m.
Vancouver	4:57 p.m.	6:07 p.m.

York University's mural conundrum

A controversial painting in the school's student centre has become a lightning rod for debate about free expression. What should the administration do? **PAGES 6, 8, 9 and 12**

A compromise at the Western Wall

Egalitarian worshippers get new space under deal brokered by Natan Sharansky. **PAGE 27**

Will a new prenup help free agunot?

Montreal's Rabbi Michael Whitman thinks his document can, but others disagree. **PAGE 16**

Chaimie and Leizer take on Trump

The guys from YidLife Crisis explore Jewish approaches to the The Donald's candidacy. **PAGE 31**

Kinky Boots
TORONTO'S BIG, FAB, FUN MUSICAL!
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 MIRVISH.COM

Anne Frank's stepsister rips Trump, and Abe Vigoda finally confirms rumours

Sitcom actor dies – for real this time

Abe Vigoda, a Jewish actor best known for playing a cranky detective in the 1970s sitcom *Barney Miller*, died Jan. 26 in Woodland Park, N.J. He was 94. *People* magazine mistakenly reported that the sunken-eyed Vigoda had died in 1982, which became a running joke in Hollywood and beyond for more than 30 years. In addition to his role as Sgt. Phil Fish on *Barney Miller*, the Brooklyn, N.Y.-born Vigoda is best known for playing turncoat mobster Salvatore Tessio in 1972's *The Godfather*. He also starred in a shortlived *Barney Miller* spinoff sitcom called *Fish*.

Sgt. Fish is sleeping with the fishes.

Republican hopeful likened to Hitler

The stepsister of Holocaust teen diarist Anne Frank compared U.S. Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump to Hitler. In a *Newsweek* essay published on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Eva Schloss, 86, said Canada and the United States should accept more Syrian refugees and compared their experience to that of Jews in the Shoah. She also said "it would be a complete disaster" if Trump became president, adding, "I think he is acting like another Hitler by inciting racism." Schloss' mother married Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father, after World War II. The families were friends in Amsterdam and the two girls played together before the Franks went into hiding. Schloss, who survived Auschwitz, was 11 years old when her family left Nazi-annexed Austria in 1938 for Belgium.

Rapper goes flat out for Irving

In his new single, Grammy-nominated rap star B.o.B. offers support for Holocaust denier David Irving, along with reiterating a Tweet that said the earth is flat. The track, released Jan. 25 in response to a Twitter argument with astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson about the shape of the earth, focuses primarily on the rapper's conviction that the earth isn't round, but in the second verse, B.o.B., whose real name is Bobby Ray Simmons Jr., urges listeners to "Do your research on David Irving." "Stalin was way worse than Hitler," the song continues. "That's why the POTUS gotta wear a kippah," he adds, presumably referring to U.S. President Barack Obama. ■

Gematria

0

The number of Jewish victims cited by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, for which he was criticized heavily on social media and by right-wing pundits. His office later said the incorrect draft was issued in error and posted a tweet linking the statement to fighting anti-Semitism.

$100M

The value of a fund launched by U.S. media tycoon Mort Zuckerman to foster scientific collaboration between researchers in Israel and the United States.

Quotable

[Police leaders] have to better create a balance for officer safety and sanctity of life. These are the hallmarks of civil society.

— Julian Falconer, the lawyer representing the family of Sammy Yatim, who was shot dead by a Toronto police officer. See p. 42.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	29	Parshah	39
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	36	Q&A	42
Cover Story	8	International	24	Social Scene	38	Backstory	43

COVER PHOTO BY PAUL LUNGEN

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

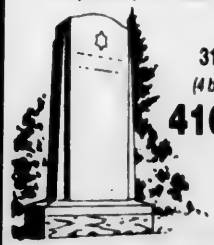
Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.



3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein
Certified Financial Planner
416-221-0060
Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Don't write off the Liberals

In his column, ("Why Jews will continue to support the Tories," Jan. 21) Michael Taube predicts that Jewish voters in Canada will continue to mark their ballots overwhelmingly in favour of the Conservatives.

It is probably too early to make such a prediction. The party is getting a new leader in 2017 and it is possible that he or she will rub the Jewish community the wrong way. Beyond that, the next federal election in Canada is not until 2019. That is a lot of time for Jewish voters to evaluate how the Liberals handle the economic situation in Canada and to see what they do in foreign affairs.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has already shown himself to be loyal to Israel and the fight against anti-Semitism. The new government has voted against anti-Israel motions at the United Nations and the prime minister himself, a man who despises racism in all forms, has spoken out against the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement and other forms of hatred against Jews. That, coupled with pictures of Trudeau wearing a kippah, lighting Chanukah candles and getting along with his counterpart in Israel, may just shift some of the Jewish vote back to the Liberals.

Joshua Ram
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.

The Shoah was different

I am a 95-year-old Holocaust survivor, and I would like to comment on an article written by Bernie Farber, "The genocides are different but the pain is the same," (Jan. 21).

I wonder how Farber can compare the harsh treatment of the children in northern Canada to the systematic killing of Jewish children by the barbaric German soldiers. One-and-a half million Jewish children were killed just because they were Jewish. You probably have seen the image of a child with his hands in the air and a German soldier pointing a gun at him. Is this harsh treatment? This child likely didn't survive.

I believe Farber should have refreshed his memory on the history of the Holocaust before comparing the genocide of the indigenous, Armenian, Rwandan, or other peoples to the Jewish tragedy of World War II. The pain is not the same.

You should amend your article after you brush up on your history.

Samuel Wishinski
Ville Saint Laurent, Que.

The politics of kashrut

I hated reading this headline: "Does marijuana need a hechsher" (Jan. 21) and then this line in the article: "Any product which is ingested... must bear kosher certification, council executive director Rabbi Saul Emanuel told *The CJN*."

Nothing "needs" a hechsher. A hechsher symbol just assures a nervous public that the food was made in accordance with halachic law.

If it wasn't supervised, but made the same way, would it still be kosher? This question is rhetorical. The answer is yes.

But wait! If we don't need kosher certification on this, maybe we won't need the guy who said that everything that is ingested must bear kosher certification? And then he might be out of a job! *Sacre bleu!* This is a slippery slope indeed.

Only a Jewish newspaper would ask the guy who does the job whether we need his job, and then when he says yes, we say, "Well I guess that's that."

Yigal Rifkind
Toronto

Question of the week

Are the Liberals wavering in their support for Israel?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!
At Corwin Mortgage Capital
We work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000[illegible]
[illegible] | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS $1,337 including all taxes.
Book by March 4, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar 10-21
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer July 03-14, July 24 – Aug 04, Aug. 07-18, Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND • One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
LIVELUBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to keep costs down."

The expense of a funeral wasn't something we had anticipated. So when we needed to plan a service, we went to Hebrew Basic Burial. They took care of everything, giving us a Jewish graveside service that was the lowest cost in the city.*

* as per current costs in the GTA

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

How will you use your extra month?

This Jewish leap year, let's make Adar I a time of Jewish growth centred on learning, spirituality, tzedakah and joy

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Scheim: The month of February has 29 days once every four years, when, as is the case in 2016, we have a leap year in the Gregorian calendar. But gaining a single day pales in comparison to a leap year in the Jewish calendar, like this year, where we gain an entire month. One week from now, we will mark the beginning of Adar I. Who said there is no benefit to being Jewish?

Other than yahrzeit observances and holidays following later than usual on the Gregorian calendar (including the unusual juxtaposition of the last night of Chanukah and New Year's Eve 2017), the additional month in the Jewish calendar has limited impact on our everyday lives, since our schedules and routines are so much more tied to February than to Adar.

How do we make more of this gift of a month added to our current Jewish year? With time so precious, and often seemingly so scarce, should we not be celebrating the fact that 5776 gives us 29 extra days to add Jewish meaning to our lives?

What will we do with the extra time? Sure, we can binge-watch five seasons of *The Good Wife*, but can't we find some meaningful ways to strengthen our Jewish lives?

Rabbi Finegold: Well, for starters we could publicize the fact that we get two Purims. We could easily get a boost in communal participation if we chose to celebrate that holiday twice.

In all seriousness though, the Talmud mentions that when farmers were not in their busy season, the yeshivot would hold study months, referred to as *yarchei kallah*, literally the easy months.

But while many movements have designated times to study, and many have even chosen to do it at times when people are typically on vacation (the Limmud movement, which started in the United Kingdom, meets during the last week of the secular year), our extra month falls right when many people are so busy at work or with the inevitable weather delays that our northern environment provides.

What if we used Adar II as an opportunity to integrate some facet of Jewish life into our day-to-day activity. Imagine if we promoted Adar II as a make-it-to-minyan month, or a sign-up-for-a-Jewish-class month?

In fact I would like to lead by example: anyone who reads this and signs up for my Jewish Learning Lab adult education classes in Montreal during Adar II can bring a friend for free!

Rabbi Scheim: One of my most memorable teachers in my university years was the late Prof. Yonah Frankel of Hebrew University. A renowned scholar of midrash and aggadah, Prof. Frankel was also a confirmed *yekke*, making every second count. Heaven help the student who would show up one minute late to his class. Prof. Frankel refused to relinquish even a millisecond of usable time.

Every minute offers mitzvah opportunities. This year's benefit of an additional month in the Jewish calendar, as you suggest, can spur us to add to our learning, and spirituality. It can also lead us to explore opportunities to volunteer, to engage in tzedakah work, to plan that put-off trip to Israel.

I am with you in suggesting the marketing of the added month of Adar to the benefit of our Jewish growth. Maybe that's what the sages intended when they taught, "when Adar comes, we increase our joy."

Rabbi Finegold: You know what happens when a *yekke* marries a Chassid? You have a wedding that starts exactly two hours late.

Let us not forget to add the joy in our lives this month as well. Indeed, if we ignore the dialectic between the driven, focused part of ourselves and the joyful "chassidic" parts of ourselves, we can miss out on much that Judaism has to offer.

Our proposed month of increased Jewish growth should certainly be one where the *yekke* marries the Chassid. I know for me what that ends up looking like is ensuring that I am quite meticulous about bringing joy into my life. I am sure that we all have our particular ways of expressing the merger of the exacting and the messy, yet fun parts of our nature. I hope we use the extra Adar to express them fully. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 5 (2,231)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We would like to thank all our consignors and customers.

Since 1996 ...of Things Past has been providing consignors with a venue to sell their quality items and a beautiful showroom for customers to purchase unique pieces.

Come celebrate with us on February 12, 2016 at our Bridgeland showroom.

20% off everything in the store

Enter to Win 1 of 3 Prizes

Win a $200.00 Gift Certificate to be drawn at 11:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Our Grand Prize drawn at 1:00 pm, win a $200.00 Gift Certificate and an "On the Spot Shopping Consultation with Jane Lockhart."*

Jane Lockhart is an award winning Designer and celebrated Host of W Network's Colour Confidential. The grand prizewinner must be present in our showroom at the time of the draw and available to shop with Jane immediately. (Fabric Swatches and Paint Samples welcome).

We look forward to serving you in the future!

For more detailed information on our Anniversary Celebration, visit us on Facebook or call (416) 256-9256.

Bridgeland Showroom
185 Bridgeland ave
(416) 256- 9256

Rosedale Boutique
1096 Yonge St
(416) 924- 9256

OTP *Living*
1120 Caledonia Rd
(416) 548- 9256

www.ofthingspast.com • www.otpliving.com

Disclaimer: No purchase necessary to enter to win. One entry per person. All entries must be made at our main Store location, 185 Bridgeland Ave, Toronto, M6A 1Y7. Ballots available for entry February 4, 2016

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Michael Goldbloom, Ira Gluskin, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Executive committee

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

The Borochow Young Poale Zion executive committee, taken in New York in 1927. Pictured at front left is Morris Lofsky of Toronto.

SeeJN | View from the tower

AVI SHTENSHUS/ISRAEL SUN PHOTO

Avi, a flight controller, took this photo of a perfect rainbow, from the Eilat airport control tower Jan. 26.

From Yoni's Desk

The mural and the damage done

Last week, *cjnews.com* was first to report Toronto businessman Paul Bronfman's decision to pull funding from York University over a painting entitled *Palestinian Roots*, which hangs in the school's student centre. In this week's *CJN*, we take a closer look at the debate surrounding the controversial painting.

Frequent *CJN* contributor Michael Diamond argues that *Palestinian Roots* acts as a "negative symbol" for York's Jewish students. "Its presence," he writes, "reflects the negative experience of many Jewish students at York... who are aggrieved by what appears to be a callous disregard for their feelings and emotional welfare." The painting's impact, he notes, might have been muted were the situation on campus more positive for York's Jewish and pro-Israel students. Instead, "for the many Jews on campus who identify strongly with Israel, [the painting] is a warning of public denunciation, verbal attacks or worse to come from fellow students, graduate students and professors."

Lorne Sossin, dean of York's Osgoode Hall Law School, sees room for more nuance when it comes to *Palestinian Roots*. "Some saw it as an incitement to violence, as it appears not just to depict a Palestinian about to throw a rock at an Israeli outpost but to glorify doing so," he writes. "Others I spoke with saw it as an expression of the self-destructive impulse of a young person about to engage in senseless violence. Still others saw it as an unfair and damaging portrayal of Palestinians as rock-throwers rather than a community defined by its culture, shared hopes and values."

Diamond wouldn't disagree that the meaning of art lies in the eye of the beholder, nor that freedom of expression is an essential characteristic of the university experience. But he contends that "free speech does not actually exist at York," where "one's freedom to express a point of view is judged more or less acceptable depending on the point of view expressed." "To support the *Palestinian Roots* mural on the basis of free speech is unacceptable," he adds, "because free speech, in its true sense, is absent at York University."

For its part, the university claims its hands are tied, since the student centre is "a separate and distinct legal entity." "The students who run the [student] centre," Sossin explains, "have the right to decide what art is put on its walls." (For his part, Bronfman dismissed that argument. "It's a bunch of political, bureaucratic rhetoric," he told *The CJN*.)

And yet, ultimately, Diamond and Sossin agree that *Palestinian Roots* should be taken down, albeit for different reasons. For Diamond, "the mural is offensive and uncomfortable to anyone who is aware of its symbols," while Sossin's reasoning is more technical: "[S]ince the contest under which the mural was displayed specified a specific two-year term which has now passed, to continue to display the mural at this point... appears to reflect a specific intention to see some York students as unwelcome in their own centre."

For now, though, *Palestinian Roots* continues to hang in York's student centre, a stark reminder of the rising temperature on campus. The question is whether all sides can come to some sort of understanding before this situation gets even worse. ■ — YONI

AN OPEN LETTER

Rekindling the light of Jewish social justice

We are a group of authors, artists, human rights advocates, scholars, rabbis, Jewish communal professionals and others who are concerned by the growing scarcity of Jewish-led social justice in Canada. We call for a renewed social justice effort to shine a Jewish light on issues of power and vulnerability in Canada.

Taking inspiration from Jewish values, Jews have, historically, been active at the forefront of every social justice movement in North America. Jewish social activists have a great legacy of addressing issues of justice, human rights, equity and dignity for all human beings. From being a strong voice on poverty, to supporting organized labour, to in engaging in interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, the Canadian Jewish community was long a model for others. And the community's ongoing fight against anti-Semitism was never simply about protecting Jews from prejudice, but also about fostering a culture of human rights and dignity for all Canadians.

Yet, with the important exception of the concerted move by many synagogue congregants across the country to open their hearts to Syrian refugees, we have found that issues around poverty, racism and dignity for the country's most vulnerable – as well as for suffering populations around the globe – have taken a back seat in the organized Jewish community to the much narrower agenda of Israel advocacy.

We seek to build on the Jewish legacy of social justice commitments by suggesting the creation of a coalition similar to the U.S.-based Jewish Social Justice Roundtable, which captures 52 organizations under a Jewish umbrella. Such an endeavour would elevate, expand and enhance the work of national Jewish movements and rabbinic groups in Canada as well as

the array of organizations currently working in areas of refugees, immigration and resettlement, domestic abuse, poverty, hunger, addiction, and employment. It would also bring together individuals unattached to specific organizations who nevertheless bring a range of similar values and expertise.

At present, most of the existing Jewish community organizations involved in helping the vulnerable are direct service agencies. A new and enhanced Canadian Jewish coalition would not only seek to forge linkages across them, but would enable the community to identify strategies to address deeper structural social ills. In partnership with other communities, such a coalition would be well placed to suggest new responses to systemic forms of oppression in Canada and beyond.

For many Canadian Jews, Jewish activism and repair of our world, popularly known as tikkun olam, are central to their Jewish identity. Yet they currently lack substantive outlets in the Jewish community for deep engagement. For all of us, Canadian democratic values along with Jewish values call us to respond to systems that continue to marginalize, disempower and cause harm. Moreover, the level of resources, organizational finesse and social capital that our community possesses, and our acute historical experience of being a collective outsider, makes us well placed to live and model a collective politics of compassion in the service of economic and social justice.

How do we, as Canadian Jews, engage in the great issues facing our country? How can our advocacy organizations become directly accountable to the values held by the public they seek to lead? And does Judaism call on us to care only for our own, or to create a world rooted in justice and dignity for all inhabitants? These and many other questions need answers, and we hereby initiate the conversation. In the darkness of winter, let us strive to relight the candle of Jewish participation in our tradition of tikkun olam. ■

Signed:
Mark Anshan
Philip B Berger
Frank Bialystok
Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld
Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton
Andrew Cohen
Michael Dan
Isser Dubinsky
Rabbi Ed Elkin
Bernie M. Farber
Rabbi Steven Garten
Adam Goldenberg
Gabriella Goliger
Rabbi Lisa Grushcow
Belle Jarniewski
Fran Klodawsky
Barbara Landau
Michele Landsberg
Howard Levine
Rabbi Aaron Levy
Noa Mendelsohn-Aviv
Karen Mock
Allan Moscovitch
Hannah Moscovitch
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz
Anita Neville
Mira Oreck
Rabbi Schachar Orenstein
Zach Paikin
Derek Penslar
Helen Poisner
Avrum Rosensweig
Benjamin Shinewald
Maureen Silcoff
Alan Simons
Mira Sucharov
Jon Telch
Harold Troper
Ayelet Tsabari
Mark Zarecki
Ferderick Zemans
Joyce Zemans
Carol Zemel
Rabbi Deborah Zuker

IF YOU'RE IN GICs TODAY, YOU'RE NOT AN INVESTOR.
YOU'RE A PHILANTHROPIST.

Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

YEAR	NET RETURN	YEAR	NET RETURN
2005	9.9%	2010	8.7%
2006	10.3%	2011	8.2%
2007	10.5%	2012	7.7%
2008	9.9%	2013	7.4%
2009	8.7%	2014	7.8%

With a 49-year history of capital preservation and consistent returns, our commercial mortgage fund is ideal for accredited investors, foundations, endowments and pension funds seeking a low-volatility asset that performs like anything but. To discuss your investment of $150,000 or more:
Dianna Price diannaprice@romspen.com | 416 928 5105

Results from January 1, 1995 to January 16, 2008 are those of a pool of individually syndicated mortgages managed by the manager of Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund (the "Fund"). The indicated rates of return are historical returns calculated on a cash-on-cash basis, after fees, and the annual compounded net returns assume a monthly reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not take into account income taxes, charges on unit values, third-party redemptions or redemption charges that would have reduced returns. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy units of the Fund, which are offered to investors who meet eligibility requirements under applicable securities laws. Fund units are offered only by offering memorandum, which contains important information about the Fund's fees, objectives, and risk factors, and which should be read before investing. Consult your financial advisor. The Fund's returns are not guaranteed, unit values may change and past performance may not be repeated.

ROMSPEN

The limits of free expression at York U

Universities cannot thrive when some students feel unwelcome, marginalized

LORNE SOSSIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

My views on the controversy surrounding the Palestinian Roots mural in the York University Student Centre are clear and simple. First, I believe the art has offended many York community members – both inside and outside the Jewish community – and these very real concerns have not been adequately addressed by the leadership of the student centre. The centre is a gathering place for all York students – not just for some, or those who subscribe to a particular view of Middle East politics.

Second, the students who run the centre have the right to decide what art is put on its walls, subject to legal limits (whether it be the Human Rights Code, Criminal Code, or York's own Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities).

Third, universities ought not become places of academic boycotts, attempts to silence debate or efforts to shout down those who disagree or make any community members unsafe.

The issue of artwork in York's student centre appears to pit support for the Jewish community and Jewish students at York against support for freedom of expression. This characterization of the issue is inaccurate and unhelpful. Support for the Jewish community and Jewish students at York, in my view, *requires* support for freedom of expression, and vice versa.

Throughout history, Jewish culture and community have thrived in settings with robust and effectively protected freedom of expression. By the same token, anti-Semitism flourishes where, and to the extent that, expressive freedom is curtailed. Jewish law and thought have been shaped over centuries by debate, discussion and dissent, not by disengagement or doctrinaire truths developed by some and imposed on all.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The controversial mural hangs in the university's student centre. PAUL LUNGEN PHOTO

Allan Newman, H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M.
Greg Newman, B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M.
HELPING OUR CLIENTS PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH
We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca
416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com
The Newman Group
ScotiaMcLeod®
® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod
ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI") SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund

For many Jews on campus, the mural is a warning of denunciation, attacks

MICHAEL DIAMOND
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Paul Bronfman took a strong position when he announced he would withdraw his company's significant financial support from York University unless a mural titled *Palestinian Roots* hanging in the school's student centre was removed. For this, we should be thankful. He has taken a public stand on behalf of the Jewish students of York, and our community at large.

The mural is offensive and uncomfortable to anyone who is aware of its symbols. Palestinian colours, a map of all of Israel, a man holding rocks and looking out over a bulldozer that is about to remove an olive tree – these are reflective of an anti-Israel narrative. They suggest that Israel is the aggressor, deserving of condemnation and, possibly, violence. In the context of the current rash of knife and vehicle attacks in Israel, including the recent deaths of a mother of six and a young woman, the image is that much more offensive.

And yet the reason that the continued existence of the mural in the student centre is important has little to do with the impact of its message on the general student body. That impact is limited to the relative few on campus who notice the mural and recognize its symbols. Rather, its presence reflects the negative experience of many Jewish students at York who do see and understand it, and who are aggrieved by what appears to be a callous disregard for their feelings and emotional welfare. The mural is a negative symbol for Jewish students.

No, the mural is not the major issue confronting Jewish students at York, or, indeed, most universities today. In truth, if the environment on campus were otherwise positive and if Israel was not the perennial whipping boy of the ideological left, which finds a willing host in the so-called progressive halls of today's universities, the mural might not matter. But instead, *Palestinian Roots* acts as a stark reminder that there are many at York who have very strong and very negative, opinions about Israel and Israelis. And for the many Jews on campus who identify strongly with Israel, it is a warning of public denunciation, verbal attacks or worse to come from fellow students, graduate students and professors.

The argument in favour of the mural's continued display is based on the principle of free speech.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Art can provoke uncomfortable thought and discussion

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

What I find most remarkable about those who have purported to convey the "truth" of what is going on at York in relation to the student centre artwork is the conviction they demonstrate that they have nothing at all to learn from others, especially those who disagree with them. Nothing, in my view, could stray further from Jewish traditions or what makes Toronto's – and Canada's – Jewish community so vibrant and strong, and what makes me so proud to be a part of these communities.

People who think they have nothing left to learn, who demonstrate no humility or interest in why other thoughtful and engaged people disagree with them, are precisely the people who are most unsettled by universities. Universities are premised on the proposition that we all have something to learn, new perspectives to consider and old perspectives to reconsider, and that the best way to do this is in an inclusive atmosphere of respect for others and open and free debate, whether reflected in a class, lecture, article or piece of art.

Before the issue became of interest to the media, when it was primarily of interest only to community members, I heard a range of views about the art itself. Some saw it as an incitement to violence, as it appears not just to depict a Palestinian about to throw a rock at an Israeli outpost but to glorify doing so. Others I spoke with saw it as an expression of the self-destructive impulse of a young person about to engage in senseless violence. Still others saw it as an unfair and damaging portrayal of Palestinians as rock-throwers rather than a community defined by its culture, shared hopes and values.

Which perspective is "true"? The answer is easy. They all are – and there are many other interpretations of the art I no doubt haven't yet heard. Art is often created for the purpose of provoking thought and discussion – even uncomfortable thought and discussion.

While all this explains my support for the right of the York student centre to display the art in question, I should also explain why I believe the art should *not* continue to be displayed.

First, since the contest under which the mural was displayed specified a specific two-year term which has now passed, to continue to display the mural at this point, after the leadership of the student centre have become clearly aware that some York students find the art offensive and hurtful, appears to reflect a specific intention to see some York students as unwelcome in their own centre. Whether or not intended, that is how reasonable community members would likely view it, and this perception is corrosive to the values of inclusion and community that ought to animate the student centre.

Lorne Sossin

While a university cannot thrive where free and open expression is undermined, similarly, it cannot thrive where members of the university community feel unwelcome and marginalized. Navigating between these shoals is challenging work – and it is exactly the challenge universities were created to do.

If we can successfully resist those who would prefer to see complex reality as black/white, love/hate, pro/anti, I have no doubt we will come out of these kinds of discussions with a stronger and more inclusive university, and a stronger and more inclusive Jewish community. ■

Lorne Sossin is dean and professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, and presidential adviser on community engagement at York University.

For pro-Israel students at York, free speech doesn't exist

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Whatever the message it imparts, so the theory goes, it is art, and as such depicts a point of view, whose reception will vary based on the viewer. Since universities are supposed to be bastions of free speech, the mural is judged a reasonable expression of a point of view.

Fine, except that free speech does not actually exist at York. In fact, at York, and many other campuses, one's freedom to express a point of view is judged more or less acceptable depending on the point of view expressed. That is why pro-Israel – not to mention plain, old Jewish – events are routinely crashed by protesters. It's why Jewish students had to be locked up in the Hillel office, for their own protection, a few years ago.

Consider this test: instead of the mural in question, assume that the content depicts two young Palestinians. Instead of holding rocks behind their backs, the two figures are concealing knives in their waistbands. Not far away stands a mother, identified as Jewish, with small children. The meaning would be clear – in fact, it would reflect the reality of life in Israel today.

Michael Diamond

It would be art. It would be presenting a point of view. If we are to have free speech, it should be permitted. But ask yourself this: would that mural ever be hung in the student centre? And would we even want it to be?

Free speech must allow for multiple sides of an issue to be explored – freely, without antagonism or threats. But when it comes to being pro-Israel on campus, I would suggest that this sort of freedom simply does not exist. To support the *Palestinian Roots* mural on the basis of free speech is unacceptable, because free speech, in its true sense, is absent at York.

> *If Bronfman feels aggrieved, why wouldn't he remove his support from York, and in so doing effectively announce: 'Not in my name, and not with my dollars.'*

Coming back to Paul Bronfman and any other university donor, Jewish or otherwise, they have a right to know that their dollars are generating a positive return, as defined by the donor. If not, there is no point in making the donation. If Bronfman feels aggrieved because of the mural, why wouldn't he remove his support from York, and in so doing effectively announce: "Not in my name, and not with my dollars." Perhaps he has decided to redirect those funds to an initiative that will counter the one-sided nature of Middle East political commentary at York or other universities. After all, that is his right and, some would say, his obligation.

Those benefiting from the opportunity to be part of a university environment should remember that they do so only with the support of the larger society, through taxes and donations. That support suggests no group should experience the noxious environment that too many Jewish students feel today at York. Paul Bronfman has brought this issue to the surface where it belongs. The university administration has responded – it will be judged on the outcome of the process it puts into place, not on the process itself. ■

Remembering Eugene Borowitz

Rabbi John Moscowitz

The great theologian Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz died Jan. 22 at age 91. The author of a dozen and a half books on contemporary Jewish theology, Rabbi Borowitz taught hundreds of rabbinic students during a long and distinguished career as professor at the Hebrew Union College (HUC) in New York.

I was one of those students, and one day in the fall of 1981, Rabbi Borowitz forcefully – but fairly – rearranged my thinking, even if I didn't understand this at the time.

The practice at HUC was for final year rabbinic students to preach their "senior sermon" before the entire community of students and faculty – and, afterwards, to receive feedback in a public forum. When it came my turn, I delivered a good sermon, I thought, maybe even a very good one. During the feedback session that followed, it became clear that others thought so, too. (At the end of that year, mine was awarded best senior sermon.)

But as things were wrapping up that day, the one person I'd kept a wary eye on all the while finally piped up. Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz rose and cleared his throat. "I hate to crash your party, John," he said.

The room grew quiet.

He continued: "All the nice things you said just now are wrong. This was not a good piece of work. In fact, it can't properly said to be a 'sermon.' When you spoke about the relationship between Abraham and Sarah as you did this morning, in effect, you taught through the lens of therapy. Rabbis choose the prism of the Torah as the primary way to understand the world. Yours was not a sermon – it was a message to us to go into therapy. I'm not adverse to therapy, but in shul, I prefer Torah, not Freud. Shouldn't you?"

I told Rabbi Borowitz that he had not heard what I'd said correctly: I was

> *Rabbi Borowitz forcefully- but fairly- rearranged my thinking.*

teaching Torah, I asserted, as respectfully as I could. We went back and forth for a few minutes, and I wondered to myself, had I gotten it all wrong? The leading Jewish thinker seemed to be saying so. I took the subway home to the Upper West Side that afternoon feeling jostled intellectually, a little uncertain and a lot curious.

I thought often about Rabbi Borowitz as the years went by. We'd speak here and there. I always brought up my student sermon, and he'd always remember with a kind of curious twinkle – almost as if saying, "You're coming along, aren't you?"

It all remained vague for me until a decade or so later when, while listening to Rabbi Borowitz speak at a conference in Montreal, I understood not only how right he'd been, but more importantly, that I'd been changing all along. I had, in fact, become accustomed to teaching and thinking less in a therapeutic vein, and I was becoming far more animated by the remarkable intellectual tradition of the Jews. Specifically, the minds of the great rabbis, of whom Rabbi Eugene Borowitz was surely one.

I approached Rabbi Borowitz after his speech that day and confessed my full realization that he'd gotten me right years earlier. I thanked him for setting me straight that day in an unvarnished and, actually, loving way.

I don't quite remember his words in response, but I do remember that he was hardly surprised by my change. More than that, his twinkle, his look of pleasure, was brighter than ever. After all, the student had finally learned the Torah of the teacher. ■

Rabbi John Moscowitz is rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and the author of Evolution of An Unorthodox Rabbi *(Dundurn Press, 2015).*

Finding strength through leadership

Daniel Held

There are many ways to measure the strength of a community.

We can count individuals: affiliation rates, Jewish knowledge, attachment and attitudes. Demographic surveys such as the Pew study describe the community through this lens.

We can assess the strength of institutions: the number of students enrolled in day schools or attending Jewish summer camps, membership rates at synagogues or donations to federations.

Both of these types of measures offer important snapshots of the current state of affairs. But in looking to the future, they offer little more than the ability to extrapolate current trends.

A stronger predictor of the Jewish future is the strength of communal leadership.

Late last month, the boards of five agencies, each serving large networks of American Jewish day schools, voted to dissolve themselves and merge into one new entity. In a bold move, Pardes, serving Reform day schools; PEJE, the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education; the Schechter Day School Network, representing Conservative schools; RAVSAK, strengthening community day schools; and the Yeshiva University School Partnership, serving modern Orthodox schools, all committed to folding their own structures into a new, unified Jewish day school organization. Together they serve nearly 100,000 students in over 375 schools.

It's an audacious decision, breaking down silos and redeveloping the landscape of agencies serving day schools. It's also risky. The new organization will have to overcome barriers to change and decades-old entrenchments, and bring together what can be disparate elements of the field.

This is the type of bold leadership that foretells a strong community. The five agencies each had its own area of expertise. Some were good with curriculum and others at placing staff, some focused on professional development and others on integrating technology. The boards recognized that combining efforts will allow these strengths to be accessed by all schools. Moreover, they saw duplication. The merged entity will facilitate streamlining of services, fundraising, staffing, advocacy, marketing and other areas.

It's this view of a unified field that marks the critical leadership lesson of the merger. Too often we fall into the trap of the status quo, perpetuating the functions and structures that have been in existence for decades. At times, these entrenched positions lead to territorialism, with organizations – of all types – vying for constituents, donors or members. While individual organizations often seek to grow their piece of the pie, today's reality necessitates that the pie itself will grow. The new merged entity will develop a unified voice for day school education, a single repository of data and knowledge, and a strong voice to advocate for and represent the field.

The decision to merge will surely benefit day schools, but the lessons learned should be applied more broadly.

How could our community benefit from greater collaboration across agencies? Are the denominations that once stood at the centre of Jewish communal life still relevant to the institutional needs of a new generation? Are our fundraising organizations – many of which tap the same donors to meet similar philanthropic needs – optimized to raise the funds necessary to fuel our community's growth? Is the constellation of communal agencies – schools, synagogues, camps, advocacy organizations, kashrut supervisors, etc. – many of which were established in generations past, still the right kind of grouping?

The boards of the five day school agencies exercised strong communal leadership. They looked beyond the narrow scope of their own organization to consider the changing needs of field they serve. They exercised leadership that, while risky, resulted in a dramatic change in a historically stagnant the landscape.

Our strength cannot be measured only by looking at the individuals or the agencies that currently constitute the community. Rather, in looking forward, our strength will be measured by the leadership needed to serve a changing community. ■

Are we placing stumbling blocks before the disabled?

Jean M. Gerber

"You shall not place a stumbling block before the blind"

Some time ago, I wrote about the many varieties of Jewish life within our communities, ending with a take on the motto, *e pluribus unum*, out of the many, one.

For Jews, I argued, it should be: "Out of the one, many." The "many" include children and adults with special needs.

Is it true, as recent billboards have it, that "I have a career because someone could see my ability"? Or, too often, is it a turning away from people whose abilities no one can see? These individuals may be invisible. That is, we see them – but we don't. Whether the issue is a mental illness, delayed development, autism spectrum or other disabling manifestations, they often melt into the woodwork.

The love Jewish parents show their children cannot be measured. Parents link us to the past, children point toward the future. Children have always been the precious jewels of the community.

But children with special needs, whether physical or developmental challenges or mental illness, often find short shrift. They may be denied a Jewish education, or their parents may be continually exhausted by the search for treatment, not to mention compassion and understanding.

Of course, adults with special needs started out as children, usually with the same issues. And while we have made some strides forward in accommodating children in day and supplementary Hebrew schools, we may forget about them when they reach adulthood.

They become the clients of an agency – or not. Maybe one agency has a staff position finding jobs for immigrants – but not for those who have grown up in the community. Sorry, no help here. Try the government job bank.

What is the numerical estimate of Jews with special needs? We got some estimates from local federation sources. These "guesstimates" are for British Columbia, so I assume that similar percentages apply to other communities.

There are approximately 27,000 Jews in B.C. Estimates are that mental illness affects 10 (maybe 15) per cent of the general population at any time. Thus 2,700 Jews in B.C. have chronic or episodic mental illness. Those with a developmental disability or on the autism spectrum cannot be accurately counted. What is known (Vancouver's federation produced a 2014 study of services for the mentally challenged) is that services provided through Jewish community agencies are woefully under-resourced, and over-worked.

Some – repeat some – assistance can come from government. (An example: according to the federation study, professionals agree that the pitiful monies provided by British Columbia are useless, and some people come to the end of their tether, if not their lives, never having received a dime.)

The main challenge for families is finding considerate and constant help. Here is where Jewish community services are vital.

One example of community awareness is a program of our local Jewish community centre, which serves up to 40 adults and 10 youths through social programs, training and employment, and parent education. Given the number of Jews with needs, it is small, and funding, staff say, is a big hurdle. The Jewish Family Service Agency provides some counselling, referral services, employment and housing assistance. But in the face of increasing demand, it is frustrating for staff to come up short in the assistance they can provide.

In the book of Exodus, which we are now reading in synagogue, there is a lot of seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing, not listening, not really understanding.

There can be a deafness overtaking communities when they face the scope of need. If you have never had a family member with special needs, you may not hear, may not understand the despair that overtakes those seeking help.

Maybe we are not physically placing stumbling blocks in front of blind people. But as a community we should see and hear the need and be able to respond. ■

Iranian elections may be a barometer of things to come

Paul Michaels

On Feb. 26, Iranians will elect members to both the 290-seat parliament and the more influential 88-member "Assembly of Experts."

On the surface, this looks like Iranian democracy in action. Yet, like any elections since Ayatollah Khomenei established the "Islamic Republic" in 1979, the upcoming ones will hardly be free.

The "Guardian Council," a 12-member body of ultra-conservative clerics, determines who runs in either election and excludes even moderate, let alone reform-minded, candidates – and certainly those calling for political freedom and improved relations with the West.

In January, the council excluded 8,000 of 12,000 candidates from running in the parliamentary elections and allowed a scant 30 of 3,000 to run for the Assembly of Experts, which, among other things, chooses the Supreme Leader, currently the ailing Ali Khamenei.

It was this hardline council that disqualified Hassan Khomeini, the 43-year-old grandson of the founder of the Islamic revolution, as having reformist tendencies and, therefore, lacking necessary "revolutionary credentials."

Iran's current president, Hassan Rouhani, often called a "relative moderate," was considered sufficiently revolutionary to run in 2013, but won on a promise to improve the economy – that is, to get biting UN-imposed financial sanctions, imposed because Iran had repeatedly violated the terms of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), removed. This path required reaching a nuclear agreement with the international community. That was achieved last July, amid huge controversy, and was followed mid-January by the removal of sanctions when the agreement was "implemented," after United Nations nuclear inspectors certified Iran's compliance with restrictions to its nuclear program.

These restrictions, the key ones lasting 10 to 15 years, defer the time required for Iran to "break out" earlier to develop a nuclear weapon, a move that would cause the theoretical – but impractical – re-imposition of sanctions. Meanwhile, Iran remains a nuclear-threshold state.

At the same time, Iran benefits by the release of approximately $100 billion in previously frozen assets, unrestricted access to formerly forbidden oil markets and unlimited foreign investment opportunities. In short, Iran is open for business.

In theory, all of this should benefit Iran's beleaguered middle class, which has long suffered under sanctions that devalued Iran's currency and fanned inflation.

Yet much of the country's economy is controlled by the fanatical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which, throughout the years of sanctions, always found ways to profit from illicit trade and other corruption. Now many predict that sanctions relief will enrich the IRGC, not the middle class. Moreover, because the IRGC fears any acceptance of the West or accompanying liberalizing trends, it has clamped down even harder on reform-minded citizens, imprisoning and torturing many journalists and human rights activists.

During the most difficult economic times, the IRGC funnelled billions to its terrorist proxies, including Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas. It will now be flush with cash to funnel even more to these groups as Shia Iran seeks to dominate the region.

Even U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry recently admitted that a portion of Iran's sanctions relief will almost certainly be used for terrorist activities. Yet, along with President Barack Obama, Kerry believes that reaching a nuclear deal with Iran will help to bring Iran, as a "responsible" actor, back into the family of nations.

Again, this optimism must be weighed against the aims of the 150,000-strong IRGC, led by Gen. Mohammed Ali Jafari, who is hostile to the United States and the West. Reporting directly to Ayatollah Khamenei, he's in charge of major aspects of Iran's nuclear and missile development programs. On both, he has cheated in the past and almost certainly – as with Iran's recent test firing of ballistic missiles in defiance of the UN Security Council – will in the future.

In this broader context, the results of Iran's approaching elections may well indicate how much worse things could get – for citizens of Iran and stability in the region and beyond. ■

News

York U reviews policies in wake of painting controversy

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

After a tumultuous week at York University over a painting hanging in the school's student centre that some argue promotes violence toward Israel, university president Mamdouh Shoukri issued a statement intended to calm tensions at the school.

"It is clear that the subject of the artwork is offensive to some individuals and groups, particularly Jewish members of our community," Shoukri wrote in a statement issued Jan. 29. "The mural has given rise to a broader conversation about whether, as an institution and as individuals, we are doing all we can to ensure that all members of our community feel welcome and supported."

The school will form a President's Advisory Committee on Inclusion to "ensure inclusive respectful exchange of ideas, particularly on social and political issues," the statement said.

As well, the university is reviewing its policies to "better foster and protect an inclusive and positive learning environment." The process will include looking at the rules for student groups and organizations. The entire review is to be completed by the end of the year.

Shoukri's statement came in response to a decision last week by media mogul Paul Bronfman to withdraw his support for York's film and creative programs over the controversial mural.

Debate about the artwork, which has been covered widely in the media, has also brought into focus long-standing complaints about anti-Israel and anti-Semitic tensions at the university.

"As a Canadian, never mind as a Jew, the fact the administration would allow this piece of garbage to be displayed in a student lounge… This is something concrete I could point to and say, 'Take that thing down or you'll lose our support,'" Bronfman said in an interview.

As chair of Pinewood Toronto Studios and William F. White International, a supplier of film equipment and expertise, Bronfman has donated thousands of dollars worth of production equipment, invited students to open houses and offered seminars, learning labs and technical training to students in York's programs.

The painting in question, titled *Palestinian Roots*, was a winner in a student art contest and has hung in the student centre since 2013. It depicts a man holding rocks looking at a field and a bulldozer. On his back is a Palestinian flag and a map of Israel. Underneath the painting are the words "justice" and "peace" in several languages.

Bronfman, a director of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC), learned about the painting recently when the organization's CEO, Avi Benlolo, highlighted it in an email to supporters. Bronfman spoke with Shoukri and other senior administrators before making his decision, but he said their responses were inadequate.

"Their position is indefensible. It's a bunch of political, bureaucratic rhetoric. That's all I got from the president himself," he said. "It was just a bunch of legal nonsense and jargon."

Shoukri dropped into York's Hillel offices Jan. 27 and spoke informally with students for about an hour, said Anna Baev, director of Hillel York.

Paul Bronfman

"He was very sympathetic. He understood their perspective," Baev said. "It made them feel that they are being heard."

Many of the conversations were about the mural, and Shoukri stressed that the painting hangs in the York student centre and does not fall under the university's control.

In an earlier statement, the university wrote that it consulted with legal experts and concluded it could not compel the student centre to remove the painting.

Hillel has written to the student centre previously, and York's Hillel student president Natalie Slavat wrote an open letter to executive director Scott Jarvis, which was published in the *Times of Israel* Jan. 27, asking for the mural to be removed. Representatives of the student centre have not responded to Hillel, Baev said.

A spokesperson for the student centre also did not respond to *The CJN's* phone calls or emails.

In an email to the *Globe and Mail*, Gayle McFadden, the centre's vice-president of operations, said, "This artwork is not hateful and is the artist's depiction of the resistance to the occupation of Palestinian land.

"This painting is not anti-Semitic, as it is merely critical of the State of Israel and its continued occupation of Palestine."

In an earlier statement, the university said it "remains firmly committed to its values of freedom of expression, open dialogue and constructive discussion."

"We deeply regret Mr. Bronfman's decision and would like to thank him for his support. Our arts, media, performance and design students have benefited from the experiential learning activities made possible by his generosity," the university's statement concluded.

Hillel Ontario noted that according to the student centre art contest's own guidelines, the picture was only supposed to be on display for two years.

"Hillel has continued to stress to the university administration that we are deeply disturbed by the ongoing display of this mural," Hillel Ontario CEO Marc Newburgh said in a statement.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) concurred that the painting should have come down long ago.

"It is unfortunate that that the irresponsible decision of the student centre has put film students at York at a tremendous disadvantage, as they will no longer benefit from the multiple resources contributed by this generous donor," said Joel Reitman, CIJA's GTA co-chair.

Bronfman agreed York's students will bear the brunt of his decision, but said they can "blame the faculty, right up to the president.

"The tone in my company is set by me. The tone of that university is set by the president." ■

ATRIUM
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Invest with the best. Fifteen years of consistent high yields. The security of mortgages backed by real estate.

Waterloo students vote No to boycott of Israeli universities

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

University of Waterloo students have voted No in a referendum that called on the university to sever ties with Israeli academic institutions.

A two-week campaign to persuade students to vote either for or against the boycott followed, and on Jan. 28, Waterloo's Federation of Students (Feds) said 4,216 students had voted, with 2,329 of them voting No. Waterloo has about 30,000 undergraduates.

In October, a student group called Ethical Collaboration UW submitted a petition with about 4,400 signatures to Feds. It claimed that Palestinian students and teachers are routinely prevented from reaching their schools because of military checkpoints and roadblocks, and that they face systematic discrimination at the Israeli institutions that Waterloo has academic partnerships with, including the University of Haifa, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University and Weizmann Institute of Science.

After the submission, Feds was tasked with verifying the signatures to ensure they came from registered undergraduate students. In early January, a referendum was called when the minimum requirement of 10 per cent of undergraduate student signatures was met.

Ilia Sucholutsky campaigns for the No side.

"Following this result, the official stance of the Federation of Students is that we do not have a stance on the University of Waterloo severing ties with the institutions mentioned in the referendum question," said Stéphane Hamade, Feds' vice-president of education. "This means Feds will not be advocating for this because of the results."

Ilia Sucholutsky, 18, a second-year mathematical science student who was part of the No campaign, said he was approached last year while waiting for a bus on campus.

"A couple guys were going down the line approaching each person, saying, 'Do you believe in human rights?' Of course we all said we believe in human rights, so they said, 'OK, sign this paper here.' I was put off by that and asked them what I was signing. Then they started talking about Israeli institutions and Palestinian human rights violations," Sucholutsky said.

After that encounter, he approached the student union and convinced them that part of the verification process should include a confirmation email to all the students who signed the petition to make sure they understood what they had signed.

"According to what I was told afterward, over 1,000 signatures were dropped from the petition based on those processes, so it came to about 3,000, which is just barely enough [to trigger a referendum]," Sucholutsky said.

Supporters of the No campaign drafted letters against the boycott that were signed by students and Waterloo faculty members, and they also took part in a public debate that was streamed live on the student union website.

Although students voted against severing ties with Israel, Sucholutsky said a Yes result likely would not have made a difference to the administration.

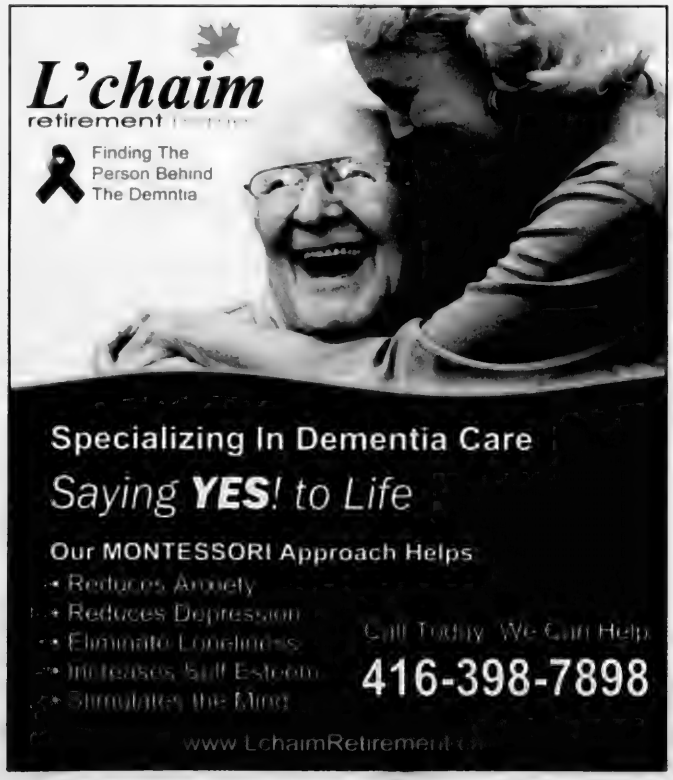
"The administration is very much committed to their relationship with Israel. The president of the university spent a month in Tel Aviv last semester building relationships with Technion, but for the student union, [if students had voted Yes] it would be binding on them to do something about it," he explained.

"For me, it's never been about these ties actually getting severed. We know that it's not going to happen, but it is more about how it is polarizing the student body. It is creating this toxic environment," he said.

He credited the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Hillel Ontario and StandWithUs Canada for giving pro-Israel students the guidance and resources they needed to mount an organized response to the anti-Israel movement on campus.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center called the result "a stunning victory" and "another blow to the BDS movement on campuses across the country."

Waterloo spokesperson Nick Manning said that the university "values free speech and freedom of expression and we believe that it is important that universities provide an environment where students can debate the issues that are important to them." ■



Chinese Kangxi Buddha,
Realized $144,000

SPECIALIZING IN ESTATE SERVICES,
DOWNSIZING AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through our auction

www.ahwilkens.com • 416.360.7600 • info@ahwilkens.com
299 Queen St East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7

☐ Hibernation
☑ Celebration

Warm up your winter

At V!VA Thornhill Woods, Vaughan's newest all-inclusive retirement community, we believe our Community Members should get the most out of every season. That's why we offer a lifestyle that can help beat those winter blues. Enjoy a live musical performance in the pub, a cooking demonstration in the V!VA*craft* Kitchen or just curl up with a good book by the fire. We take care of the ice and snow so you don't have to. Call us today to see how V!VA is taking the chill out of winter.

Celebrating Love and Friendship
Thursday, February 11th at 2:00pm
Join us for an afternoon of live entertainment featuring the Gold Band with Rita and Alex and Valentine's Day inspired treats in *Perks!* Café.

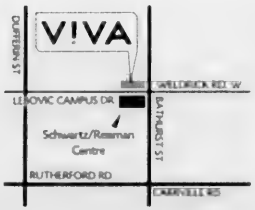
Call Wendy Teperman at 905.417.8585 to RSVP!

Enjoy the premier Jewish retirement lifestyle at an unbeatable price!

Winter WARM-UP SPECIAL

SAVE HUNDREDS EVERY MONTH!! Call for Details

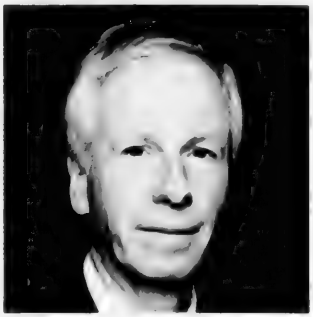
V!VA Retirement Communities
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

Dion's Israel comments spark concern, support

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca


Stéphane Dion

Under the government of former prime minister Stephen Harper, Canada pledged to stand beside Israel "through fire and water," but critics say the government of Justin Trudeau hasn't stood by Israel for even four months.

It was a Jan. 24 statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion that raised concerns – at least in some quarters. Dion delivered a message to his Israeli counterpart warning against expansion of Jewish settlements.

"Canada believes strongly in a two-state solution and that negotiations provide the only viable path to peace," he stated. "As a steadfast ally and friend to Israel, Canada calls for all efforts to be made to reduce violence and incitement and to help build the conditions for a return to the negotiating table. Unilateral actions, such as Palestinian initiatives toward statehood in international forums and continued Israeli settlements, are unhelpful and constitute serious obstacles to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

A day later, Joe Pickerill, Dion's spokesperson, told the *Jerusalem Post* that, "We're steadfast allies and good friends, and good friends can occasionally deliver tough messages, but it's by no means to suggest that we're somehow retreating from any kind of support of Israel."

Canada was not trying to create a "faux balance" by equating violence by either side, Pickerell told the *Post*. "We're not necessarily equating the violence by any means on both sides, but there have been issues, and we need to be in a position to point that out."

Dion's remarks came only days after Israel announced the end of an 18-month settlement freeze, during which the Palestinian Authority not only failed to resume negotiations with Israel, but continued violent incitement, praised terrorist attacks on Jews and named public spaces after terrorist perpetrators.

Commentators noted the difference in tone between Dion's statement and those of the previous Conservative government, which was acknowledged to be steadfastly pro-Israel. Within the Jewish community, elements from left and right interpreted Dion's comments differently.

Hart Schwartz, acting chair of JSpace-Canada, a left-wing Zionist organization, said, "Any true friend of Israel should indeed point out the harm caused to Israel by the expansion and proliferation of settlements. A good friend does not let a good friend drive drunk. The ongoing development of settlements is bad for Israel, bad for Israeli democracy, bad for Israel's economy and bad for Israeli security.

"First, they are widely perceived to be an effort to sabotage a peace treaty that would include Palestinian sovereignty.

"Second, when all 27 ministers of foreign affairs of the European Union claimed in 2012 that the expansion threatens to make a 'two-state solution impossible,' followed by the failure of the Kerry initiative [to bring the two sides back to negotiations based on pre-1967 borders], Israel cannot be surprised that the response, in 2015, is the odious labelling requirement on Israeli goods from the West Bank.

"Third, settlement expansion leads to despair among the disenfranchised Palestinian population, making extremism that much more attractive and undermining Israeli security from within.

"[The Jan. 24 Israeli] announcement giving the green light to more settlements should be criticized by the Canadian government, not ignored. While not condoning violence from the Palestinians, the foreign minister's balanced, careful, comments, should not be seen as anti-Semitic, but rather as decidedly pro-Israel," Schwartz said.

Paul Rotenberg, vice-president of the right-wing Toronto Zionist Council, offered a different perspective. He suggested Dion had ignored the context of the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which he traced back decades.

Before 1948, Jews could build anywhere in the area, he said. When Jordan occupied Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), it excluded Jews from living in the area, but that was reversed in 1967 following the Six Day War. He also wondered why the period of "ethnic cleansing" is held up as some sort of standard that should be emulated today.

Turning to the issue of peace talks, Rotenberg said the blame for the absence of negotiations lies squarely with the Palestinians.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Shimon Fogel

"Israel has asked the Arabs to return to the negotiation table so many times you can't count them."

In fact, Rotenberg continued, "[Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas has resisted pressure from [President Barack] Obama to go to the negotiating table and [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's requests to go to the negotiating table."

"If Dion wanted to be balanced, he would have addressed Abbas and asked him why he doesn't return to the negotiating table," he added.

Abbas has a plan for Judea and Samaria, which "is ethnic cleansing. He's said all Jews must leave," Rotenberg added.

University of Toronto pyschology professor Stuart Kamenetsky, a Tory supporter, said, "I'm obviously not pleased with Dion's comments. It's not even about the settlements. It's back to the moral equivalence between Palestinian murderous terror and Israel's actions. It's the hollow and superficial approach of condemning violence on both sides to end hostilities. This shows no understanding of the situation, let alone history."

Commenting on Dion's statement, Avi Benlolo, CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, "We are disheartened to learn the government seems to place the blame for the failure of peace talks on the settlements, when it is clear that settlements are used as a smokescreen to hide the real reason for lack of progress: the utter unwillingness of the Palestinian leadership to accept the existence of Israel within any borders whatsoever.

"Abbas himself admitted he rejected a peace offer in 2008 'out of hand.' If the new government wishes to play a significant role in helping the peace process along, it must first address the ongoing provocation in the West Bank, the rockets fired by Hamas, and the general acceptance of and praise for anti-Jewish violence and incitement to terror."

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) cut the government more slack. Shimon Fogel, the organization's CEO, said, "We identify no change in the level of support for, or appreciation of the challenges facing Israel. While the Liberal government's overall approach favours engagement (e.g., Iran), there has not been any change in its understanding of the considerations that should determine the orientation of Canadian policy.

"Justin Trudeau has been unequivocal and clear: Canadian policy under a Liberal government will not change as to the nature and quality of support for its only democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel," Fogel said.

However, Fogel suggested the government was on the wrong track in focusing on Israeli settlements as an obstacle to peace. "We reject that view, insofar as the actual historical record is absolutely clear on the extent to which various Israeli governments have been willing to compromise in order to achieve peace, including the dismantling of communities in disputed territory," he said.

"In a recent meeting with the minister, CIJA asserted that there has been virtually no construction in Judea and Samaria over the last number of years and none at all outside the settlement blocs already established. So the false narrative of settlements being a defining impediment is more a fiction today than a reality. The only true obstacle is the rejection of the legitimacy and permanence of a Jewish state in our ancestral homeland."

Conservative spokesmen Tony Clement and Peter Kent said Dion's statement did not blame Hamas for recent terrorist rocket and knife attacks. "The statement only expressing 'concern,' and by omission, equates such terrorist attacks with Israeli settlement construction. This is unacceptable." ■

Advertising Feature

10 Things We Must Know about Anti-Semitism – If We Want It Stopped

Dr. Michael Laitman
Professor of Ontology

I believe the time has come to clear up some misconceptions about anti-Semitism.

1) What is anti-Semitism, and what it isn't? Anti-Semitism is not about religious disputes. The Holocaust had nothing to do with religion, and everything to do with race. But anti-Semitism is also not about race, since the Christians in the Middle Ages and Muslims today cite religious reasons. Anti-Semitism is also not because the Jews are rich, since the majority of Jews killed in pogroms in Eastern Europe and in the Holocaust were destitute and practically penniless. This didn't win them any mercy. Today anti-Semitism is disguised as anti-Israelism, but we mustn't forget that the worst horrors happened to the Jews when there was no state of Israel to blame. Actually, anti-Semitism is an intense gut-feeling that the Jews are the cause of all the troubles in the world. This is why there is anti-Semitism where there aren't any Jews, and why the Jews are blamed for problems that cannot logically be attributed to them.

2) Easy scapegoats: The going narrative is that whenever things get bad, the Jews are the easiest scapegoat, so leaders and policy makers divert the public's anger toward them. This is not the case. People always feel that the Jews are to blame for everything that's wrong; it's just that when life is bearable the anger toward them is muffled by a cloak of culture and political correctness. Therefore, the worse off things become worldwide, the more we can expect global anti-Semitism to increase.

3) Anti-Semitism is a result of ignorance: Many of us think that anti-Semites are ignorant and therefore anti-Semitic. Those who think so believe that if anti-Semites knew how much the Jews have contributed to the world in science, culture, and arts, they would change their minds about us. Indeed, some anti-Semites are ignorant. But the majority of them, especially the fierce and outspoken among them, are well educated people. They know very well what Judaism has done for the world, but they don't care because they feel that compared to the harm that Jews are causing, our contribution is inconsequential. This is how demonic they see us.

4) It's a political problem: Many Jews feel that if Israel were to allow more freedom to the Palestinians it would mitigate anti-Semitism. Of course we should be as humane as possible toward all people. But thinking that giving the Palestinians land will mitigate anti-Semitism is simply wishful thinking. Anti-Semitism has been around before the establishment of the Jewish state, and it will continue to exist even if we give away the entire country to the Palestinians, because land is not the issue, it's that gut feeling described above.

5) Our gift to the world: The one thing we Jews have given and that everyone would love to embrace is the tenet, "love your neighbour as yourself." Yet, the anti-Semites' most passionate argument is that we are warmongers and spread hatred throughout the world. This is the exact opposite of the tenet that everyone agrees is wonderful, and none can implement.

6) Living up to our word: In keeping with item 5, the one thing that the world would like us to give, in addition to the tenet we've already given, is a way to implement it. With the world on the brink of global mayhem, the ability to live by this concept is the one thing that everyone desperately needs, will passionately embrace, and that will dissipate anti-Semitism. However, it is contingent upon our ability to prove that we are true to our word, that we practice what we preach.

7) Who's your foe? According to the previous item, our biggest challenge is not ISIS. It is also not Fatah, or even the overt anti-Semitism of the UN. Our biggest challenge is our own hatred for one another. We cannot offer a viable solution to the clouds of war amassing on the horizon unless we implement the tenet we have "exported" among us first. At the same time, we cannot sit by idly and let these clouds rain down because the world will say that we have brought them down on them.

8) Don't change; connect above the differences: The beauty of the "love your neighbour as yourself" solution is that we need not agree on anything. We can continue to merrily disagree on anything and everything under the sun: how to solve Israel's security problems, why the world hates us, how to reverse the warming climate, the origins of Falafel, or whether Cleveland Cavaliers owes all its success to LeBron James or perhaps some credit should also go to Coach David Blatt. We don't need to worry about our disagreements; we need to worry about our hearts! The more we can unite our hearts atop the disagreements, the better example we will set to the world. A united Jewish people cannot be regarded as a warmonger, since our unity is not aimed against anyone; it is unity for the sake of enjoying its benefits.

9) Setting an example: As said above, anti-Semites blame us for causing all the troubles in the world. But think about this: Have you ever looked at a peaceful looking person and thought, "He's a warmonger?" Accordingly, when we stop quarreling among ourselves the world will regard us as peaceful. We will become an example of implementing the tenet, "love your neighbour as yourself," which everyone so craves. When people see us as an example of mutual care and mutual responsibility, they will no longer hate us.

10) One step at a time: "Love your neighbour as yourself" was a lofty goal even back in the days, so Old Hillel said we can start from "That which you hate, do not do unto others." This starting point will also work for us. Connection and friendship are more than means for a more fun life; they're literally a life saver.

Follow Dr. Michael Laitman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/laitman

DIRECTOR, ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, among the most dynamic Jewish Federations in North America, is looking for a senior professional charged with maximizing the relationship of Jewish Toronto with Israel.

This individual will be responsible for leveraging the strengths of UJA Federation and local Jewish partner organizations, with the support of the Jewish Agency, donors, philanthropic foundations, and the Israeli Government in order to realize the strategic goal of a strong connection between Jewish Toronto and Israel.

The successful candidate will oversee the operation and growth of the Israel Engagement Initiative's flagship programs; develop a plan and nurture strategic partnerships; expand the strategy to include new sectors; provide direction to staff and work with a lay committee.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Completion of a post-graduate degree in a relevant field of study
- Minimum of five years of related experience in the Jewish formal and/or experiential education and/or Israel education sector
- Experience managing in a politicized environment with multiple stakeholders; in change management and team building; working with strategic plans
- Knowledge and understanding of UJA Federation's mission, programs, and vision
- Knowledge of the Jewish community of Toronto
- Strong leadership, organizational and communication skills
- Superior writing and researching abilities
- A self-starter who requires minimal supervision
- Charismatic, resourceful and inspirational leader

DESIRABLES:
- Masters degree in a relevant discipline; fundraising experience; prior success working with program evaluation.

This is a permanent position with a leadership salary and excellent benefits.
Evening and weekend work may be required. Ability to travel to Israel as required.

Submit resumes quoting REF# DIE-CCB-311
by February 17, 2016 to: hfinder-guttman@ujafed.org

Only those applicants invited for interview will be contacted
UJA Federation is an equal opportunity employer

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Canadian Mortgages Inc.

INVEST INTO CANADIAN MORTGAGES WITH OUR
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Opportunities Available from $25K to $1M+ with ROI from 6-15%+

Fully Managed Loans With No Servicing Fees

OVER $40M+ in funded loans with very few defaults!

CASH OR REGISTERED(RSP) INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE IN GTA, GOLDEN HORSESHOE, ONTARIO, AND CANADA WIDE

www.canadianlending.ca/investors

888-465-8564

FSCO #10661

Montreal rabbi promotes prenup to address agunot

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Rabbi Michael Whitman

South of the border, rabbis have been able to address the problem of agunot – women "chained" to their husbands because of the men's refusal to voluntarily grant a Jewish divorce – by promoting adoption of a pre-nuptial agreement that includes a stiff financial penalty for recalcitrant spouses.

It might be effective, but that type of prenup isn't enforceable under Canadian law, because courts here won't uphold monetary penalties imposed by rabbinic authorities. With that in mind, a modern Orthodox Montreal rabbi has crafted his own agreement that he believes is halachically compliant, meets Canadian legal standards, and is intended to substantially reduce, if not eliminate, the problem of agunot.

Rabbi Michael Whitman, senior rabbi at Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff, recently released his "Halachic Prenup for Canada" and is urging rabbis who perform marriages to recommend it to couples about to tie the knot. In his case, he goes further. He won't marry couples who refuse to sign it.

But he may face resistance. Rabbi Elisha Schochet of the Toronto beit din (rabbinic court), who sits on matters of divorce, said the prenup he's seen isn't acceptable. "I don't think it will pass the beit din of Toronto or of Montreal," he said, adding, "In my opinion, it's not correct. There are positions stated there that are not halachically correct."

Rabbi Schochet, who lauded Rabbi Whitman's "good intentions," declined to say where the prenup fails. "This is a discussion for rabbis," he said. "Rabbinic discussions do not have a place in newspapers."

Rabbi Whitman believes his prenuptial agreement would work in Canada. It names a specific beit din in New York – the Beth Din of America – to adjudicate disputes and pledges the parties to comply with its orders. It also includes a provision requiring the couple to each get independent legal and rabbinic advice.

Rabbi Whitman said the prenup was developed in consultation with retired judges, lawyers and law professors to ensure it conforms to Canadian law.

It does so by not asking Canadian courts, which adjudicate matters such as civil divorce, from deciding issues of a religious nature, nor does it allow rabbinic courts, sitting as arbitration panels, to impose financial repercussions, which a civil court would not enforce.

Instead a Canadian court would be asked to look at a legally-binding document that obliges the parties to appear before the Beth Din of America, or another rabbinic court it designates, "for the purpose of following the direction of that beit din concerning giving/receiving a *get* (religious divorce) only."

The prenup goes on to require the parties to follow the beit din's suggestion of removing "barriers to religious re-marriage by obtaining a *get*... It is our intention to address any other issues that may need at that time to be resolved between us, separate from the giving and receiving of the *get*, outside the beit din proceeding."

Rabbi Whitman said that when similar prenups were adopted in the United States and Israel, "there are no cases of agunot." But, he continued, "it's like the polio vaccine. All we need to do is get people to take it."

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is skeptical the prenup would be as effective as U.S. versions, which include provisions for a recalcitrant husband to pay support to their wife at a rate of $150 per day until he grants the *get*. That inducement is "essential" to its success but is missing in the Whitman prenup, rendering it virtually "toothless," he said.

"In a typical agunah situation, it's not that the person has forgotten to give a *get*," he said. Often the situation is heated and one of the parties "is trying to take revenge on the other. If you have a bad actor, this is not going to help."

Yael Machtinger has studied the situations faced by agunot and is preparing to defend her dissertation at York University's socio-legal studies program on the subject. In the past year or so, she's interviewed about 40 agunot in Toronto and New York.

She's discussed the issue with Rabbi Whitman and lauds him for trying to find a solution, but says its effectiveness is still debatable. Until a civil court rules on the prenup's validity and a rabbinic court addresses it, it's unclear whether it's enforceable, she said.

Furthermore, Rabbi Whitman's prenup bypasses the Toronto-based beit din and refers disputes to the Beth Din of America, an arm of the U.S.-based Rabbinical Council of America. "There might be some people whom that makes uncomfortable," she said.

Despite her concerns, Machtinger said "on its face, I think it's a wonderful that this document exists, whether it is legally valid or not. It creates a social movement, a social conversation." ■

Two states still possible with leadership, panel agrees

From left, Peter Beinart, Mira Sucharov, Yossi Beilin and Emanuel Adler JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

All three panelists at the first-ever Bronfman Debate on the Future of Israel, held Jan. 28 at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, agreed that it's not too late for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but Israeli leaders have shown little willingness to bring it about.

Entitled "Beyond the Two State Solution," the event was the first of four debates in a series on Israel's future hosted by U of T's Andrew and Charles Bronfman Chair in Israeli Studies.

It featured Yossi Beilin, a former Israeli justice minister and initiator of the Oslo peace process and the 2001 Geneva Initiative; *Ha'aretz* columnist Peter Beinart, associate professor of journalism and political science at the City University of New York; and Mira Sucharov, associate professor of political science at Carleton University and a columnist at *Ha'aretz* and *The CJN*.

The focus was the speakers' responses to the question – posed by moderator Emanuel Adler, the Andrew and Charles Bronfman Chair in Israeli Studies – about whether they agree with the oft-stated assertion on the Zionist left that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has reached such a dire point that it's now, or will soon be, "too late" for a two-state solution.

Each stressed that two states remains achievable and is preferable to a one-state solution, and that the status quo of occupying the West Bank continues to threaten Israel's democratic character.

Beilin diverged somewhat, however, in that he said his ideal scenario for the region is a variation on – though not, he stressed, "mutually exclusive to" – a two-state solution: an Israeli-Palestinian confederation.

He said this would mean having separate Israeli and Palestinian states, as well as the establishment of an independent third government that jointly represents both peoples.

He held up the European Union, in which "sovereign states decide together which authorities to hand over to a joint authority," as an optimal model.

"I've come to the conclusion that it's better to speak about a confederation now than at a [later] stage… because then we won't have to evacuate settlements all. Some of them will be under Israeli sovereignty once we decide upon a new border, which we'll negotiate on the basis of the 1967 borders, with symmetrical land swaps," Beilin said

"Rather than evacuate the settlers, we'll tell them, 'We're leaving the territories, if you want to stay there…you'll remain an Israeli citizen, but a resident of Palestine. If you want to go back to Israel, you'll be compensated. And Palestinian citizens who want to live in Israel as residents can remain in Israel if they wish," he added.

In the next several years, demographic trends will leave a minority of Jews dominating a majority of Palestinians and that "the world, or rather, America, won't accept it," Beilin said.

"When [this becomes a headline] in the *New York Times*… then whoever the Israeli prime minister is will do what [former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon did [in Gaza] and unilaterally withdraw from the West Bank."

Sucharov said Israel's status quo is tenable, but unacceptable.

While it's currently less difficult and more plausible to reach a two-state solution, she said a one-state solution should, "in its democratic form, remain as an alternative if the two-state solution doesn't come to fruition. That's something everyone's going to have to decide in their own hearts, because we don't know when it's 'too late' [for two-states]."

Beinart argued that a two-state solution, while harder to achieve than before because of West Bank settlement growth, isn't impossible, but said, "I see no evidence that this Israeli government is interested in moving toward a two-state solution or encouraging signs in Israeli culture that things would move in that direction."

While he prefers two states to one, he said there must be serious pressure on Israel for it to move toward the former.

"I wrestle with to what degree could the idea of a one-state solution be useful as a threat even if it's not the outcome I want." ■

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Among the most dynamic Jewish Federations in North America, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has approved a new strategic plan with an ambitious new fundraising strategy. As a result, we are looking for senior professionals interested in launching new initiatives.

SENIOR FUND DEVELOPER
(DONOR RELATIONS/STEWARDSHIP OFFICER)
REF# DRS-CAM-312

The Senior Fund Developer (Donor Relations/Stewardship Officer) ("DRSO") will launch and lead a new supplementary giving initiative, consistent with UJA Federation's core values and mission, which will augment donors' annual gifts. The DRSO will be an organizational leader in efforts to ensure collaboration, accountability and donor stewardship.

The successful candidate will be an effective writer of philanthropic proposals and documents, using this material as a core element of a comprehensive stewardship and donor relations program.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Bachelor's degree in Jewish communal work, public policy, management, or related field of study
- 7-10 years of experience in a development environment, writing donor proposals and stewardship documents
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong organizational, interpersonal, analytical, and program management abilities
- Ability to work with strategic plans, with the ability to translate into achievable goals, strategies and deliverables
- Creative and determined professional who creates momentum and positive energy
- Knowledge and understanding of UJA Federation's mission, programs, and vision
- Proficiency in computer skills

DESIRABLES:
- Masters degree in a relevant discipline; fundraising experience; familiarity with and understanding of the Toronto and/or Canadian Jewish community.

SENIOR FUND DEVELOPER
(MAJOR GIFTS OFFICER)
REF #MGO-CAM-313

The Senior Fund Developer (Major Gifts Officer) will focus on enhancing long-term relationships with leading donors, as well as with high potential prospects, in order to better understand donor motivations and fulfillment. The cultivation of donors will be for a variety of streams of fundraising, including annual, endowment, capital and unique initiatives.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Bachelor's degree in Jewish communal work, public policy, management, or related field of study
- Significant fund-raising experience, with a track record of successfully interacting directly with donors/potential donors and making gift asks; or relevant experience in the business world
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- General knowledge of and interest in business, world affairs and community matters
- Knowledge and understanding of UJA Federation's mission, programs, and vision
- Knowledge of the Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish world
- Ability to organize and multi-task; ability to make decisions independently
- Ability to assimilate a broad range of information and articulate with passion and integrity
- Diplomatic; great listener; strategic thinker

These are permanent positions with a leadership salary and excellent benefits. Some evening and weekend work may be required.

Submit resumes quoting Ref #s by February 17, 2016 to: hfinder-guttman@ujafed.org

Only those applicants invited for interview will be contacted. UJA Federation is an equal opportunity employer.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Montreal cantor and choir sing at UN Holocaust event

CJN STAFF

Cantor Gideon Zelermyer and the synagogue choir of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim performed at the United Nations' Holocaust memorial ceremony on Jan. 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the day designated by the UN for international commemoration of the victims since 2005.

The 12-member, all-male choir was conducted by Shaar Hashomayim's music director Roi Azoulay.

"It's an important honour for us in Montreal, which we know has one of the largest survivor communities in the world," said Zelermyer, a Connecticut native.

"For me personally, my family is from Holland, and at least 50 of my relatives were killed in the Holocaust. It is a privilege to honour their memory in this way."

He added: "And Roi Azoulay comes from Strasbourg [France], another community deeply affected by the Holocaust."

Zelermyer said he was approached by a UN representative after he performed at a concert in New York and was invited to sing at the next Holocaust commemoration.

"Two of my closest friends are cantors in New York who had sung [at the event] in previous years, [but] they had never had a choir, as well as a cantor, at the event," he said. "I insisted that what made music at the Shaar so special was the collaboration between the choir and myself, and [the UN] agreed."

Director Roi Azoulay conducts the choir in the UN General Assembly Hall.

They were not only the first shul choir, but also the first Canadians to participate in the event, held annually at the UN General Assembly. They performed *Ani Ma'amin* and *Kel Malei Rachamim*, the memorial prayer. The ceremony included remarks by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and a keynote address by Beate Klarsfeld of Germany, an advocate for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, as well as testimonies by two Holocaust survivors. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point Jewish Chapel Choir also sang.

Shaar Hashomayim, established in 1846, has a strong musical tradition. It's had a male choir dating back to 1887.

Zelermyer, a graduate of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute, has performed around the world as a soloist. He and the choir have toured North America and the United Kingdom, and their series of recordings, *The Music of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim*, has received critical acclaim.

Azoulay, previously music director of Strasbourg's Great Synagogue Choir, was born and raised in Dimona, Israel, the son of Moroccan immigrants. He's a graduate of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Zelermyer added: "The UN is clearly one of the important forums in the world for major world issues, and it is appropriate that this calamitous event is commemorated there."

The UN invitation was also a fitting follow-up to the shul's production of *Sacred Echoes* last November in commemoration of Kristallnacht. This multimedia cantata, featuring two cantors, an orchestra, children's choir and narration, is a tribute to the German Jewish liturgical repertoire.

In Montreal on Jan. 27, close to 600 high schools students heard Shoah survivors speak about their experiences in an educational program at the Grande Bibliothèque sponsored by the Azrieli Foundation.

Paris native Marguerite Elias Quddus, who was hidden as a child in farms and convents for three years, addressed the French session. The English speaker was Hungarian-born Leslie Vertes, who endured time in both Nazi and Soviet labour camps. Both are among the 42 survivors in Canada who have had their books published by the Azrieli Foundation over the past decade. ■

Students learn about Shoah victims their own age

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

In honour of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27, students in Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Quebec took part in a twinning program that educated them about Jewish children who were killed during the Holocaust.

Through the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's Twinning to Remember program, students were paired with a child victim of the Holocaust as a way of forging a connection between two identities.

"I thought this was a fantastic opportunity for my students to celebrate the life of the victims from the Holocaust," said Gina Lavine, a teacher at Collège Laflèche, a CEGEP school in Trois-Rivières, and a 2013 graduate of Yad Vashem's three-week educators seminar in Jerusalem.

More than 200 educators have been sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem to take part in the course, which trains them to teach about the Shoah.

"When I told one of my students, 'You're going to be twinned with a victim of the Holocaust,' he said, 'Well, what's that?'" Lavine recalled. "A lot of them didn't even know what the Holocaust was. They had to do research on the Holocaust first to figure out what it was. They had not learned it. It's not in their curriculum."

Lavine, a Manitoba native, thinks she may be the only Jew in Trois-Rivières. "That's why for me it is so important to take on this mission to educate them about the Holocaust."

Larry Miculcik, a social studies and history teacher at the William Derby School in Strasbourg, Sask., said he never met a Jewish person until he went to university.

"I'm from a very small, rural community... I knew nothing about what it meant to be Jewish, and the best immersion into that was when I took a March of the Living trip for educators in 2010," he said.

Two years later, he took part in Yad Vashem's three-week program, and with the lessons he learned, he implemented the twinning program with the help of his fellow teachers. He said students learned about the origins of the Shoah and the rise and fall of the Nazis. "We covered what it means to be anti-Semitic and how Israel was created after World War II and that the Jewish People created a nation of their own after the war."

He said he'd been working with teachers of younger grades, from grades 5 to 9, to introduce the subject matter to them.

Each student was given a profile of a child along with a photo, and they were asked to access the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names to conduct research about who they were. The students then created a name tag to be worn on Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a larger photo of the child victims they researched was put up in the school hallways.

Grade 5 students in Saskatchewan on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

"It's a reminder to us that these were young people whose potential was never fully realized," Miculcik said, adding that this helps humanize numbers that are hard to fathom.

He said the project elicited many questions from the kids about human rights, "questions that I couldn't even answer, like, how was this possible? That's the big question, of course."

Lavine said we often hear testimonies of those who survived, but this was a chance to learn about those who didn't. "No one celebrates their lives. We talk about the survivors, but we don't talk about those who passed away, and I wanted to give a face to their name and make a connection to my students and the young people who passed away in the Holocaust," Lavine said.

"It was a very moving experience. I had students in tears because the way I worked, it was not just about reading a name and talking about a person."

Her students could choose to create a collage about the victim's life, write a poem or reflection, or write and present a monologue. "The authors of the monologues broke down in tears as they told their stories, because they felt the pain in the story." ■

Montreal rabbi to meet Pope to further Arab-Jewish ties

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

A Montreal rabbi has been granted a private audience with Pope Francis, whom he wishes to thank for his outreach to the Jewish community and to appeal to him for support of Arab-Jewish dialogue in Israel.

Rabbi Boruch Perton of Beth Zion Congregation is scheduled to meet the pontiff at the Vatican on Feb. 24.

Rabbi Perton is an advocate for Hand in Hand, a network of fully integrated public schools for Arab and Jewish students that promote equality between the two peoples.

"I believe they hold the key to creating a shared society that can bring peace to the region," said Rabbi Perton. "I am going to see the Pope because I want to make a difference in the world and need the support of leaders of all faiths to do that."

He's encouraged that this rare opportunity indicates Pope Francis is open to hearing more about the schools, which now number six and want to expand They're located in Jerusalem (where the first one opened in 1998), Jaffa, Galilee, Haifa, Wadi Ara in northern Israel and, the newest, in Kfar Saba.

Enrolment and administration are equally divided among Jews and Arabs, and instruction is bilingual. There are more than 1,300 students and some 3,000 adults involved in the running of the schools.

Rabbi Perton said demand is high for more schools. "There are 10 additional communities begging for such schools to be built. There are over 1,000 children on the waiting list."

Rabbi Perton, an Orthodox rabbi, has made a personal effort to reach out to Muslim leaders in Israel and Montreal. His experience in Catholic-Jewish rapprochement, however, is limited.

Nevertheless, he did not hesitate to write to the Holy See's diplomatic envoy in Canada for a meeting. That was in September. Within a couple of months, he was in the office of Apostolic Nuncio Luigi Bonazzi in Ottawa.

Rabbi Boruch Perton

Rabbi Perton was accompanied by Father John Walsh, a Montreal priest who has long been active in interfaith dialogue, particularly with Jews, "who established my credibility." The two have worked on humanitarian projects together.

Bonazzi was enthused by Hand in Hand's mission and understanding of the rabbi's desire to express his appreciation for the Pope's respectful relations with Jews, especially the December statement issued by the Vatican against proselytizing, Rabbi Perton said.

"The Pope is trying to build bridges, and that is what Hand in Hand is also doing... Even if there are two states, there will still be 1.5 million Arabs living in Israel," he added.

"My goal is to raise the profile of the grassroots work of Hand in Hand in order that it can continue to move forward."

An official endorsement from the Pope would go a long way to giving the organization the "exposure" and "credibility" it needs to do that, he said.

It's not pie-in-the-sky, he added. The organization's approach "is working, it is making inroads, it's able to show results."

Hand in Hand has established an interfaith council of world religious leaders who believe in its goals.

"The Pope is a world leader and his support would impress a lot of people, inside and outside Israel, just as when [U.S] President [Barack] Obama had a Hand in Hand student light the menorah at the White House during Chanukah [of 2014]," Rabbi Perton said.

He estimates that 10 to 15 per cent of the Arab students at Hand in Hand schools are Christian. The Haifa one also has Ba'hai children.

But before discussing the schools, the rabbi plans to say yasher koach to the Pope for his "bold and brave" statements against anti-Semitism and the Church's historic attempt to convert Jews.

He said he's also grateful for the Pope's visit to Rome's Great Synagogue on Jan. 17 and for his earlier convivial relations with Jews in his native Argentina, particularly, Rabbi Abraham Skorka.

While some in Israel, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, were critical of Francis' praying at the security barrier during his 2014 visit to the Jewish state, Rabbi Perton is sympathetic to the Pontiff's gesture. "Every time I pass the security wall when driving in Israel, I also feel pain... Even though I view the wall as a necessary reality... It represents an inability to live in peace with our neighbours. It represents two sides that have not been able to build a lasting trust of one another."

While in Rome, he also hopes to meet with the Jewish community and possibly its chief rabbi, as well as Israeli embassy officials. And, of course, Rabbi Perton will invite Pope Francis to visit Beth Zion, a modern Orthodox congregation in Côte St. Luc of about 500 families, if he ever comes to Montreal. ■

FOR ACCREDITED INVESTORS ONLY.

Compare Israel's returns to the Toronto market's.

BE A CHOCHOM!

ANNUALIZED RETURNS*

Capital Returns	Tel Aviv 25	
2015	4.35%	-11.1%
41 MONTHS	40.0%	9.3%

GO WHERE THE SMART MONEY GOES!

The Holy Land Investment Fund

The Holy Land Investment Fund (HLIF) is a conservative mix of Israeli investments predominantly in publicly traded Energy, Real Estate, Financials and Technology sectors - all of which have shown tremendous growth. It also invests in government and corporate bonds.

The HLIF is also a perfect RRSP diversification tool. With Israel's, low unemployment rate, population growth and booming all-round economy, the future looks even brighter.

HLIF is RRSP and RRIF eligible
Call us today 647.341.2663!

Zale Newman, President • zale@bondstreetmercantile.com

*CAPITAL RETURNS TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

Put your money where your heart is.

Bond Street Mercantile/BSM Capital Corporation • Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance

What happened to the books?

Libricide and Bibliocide During the Holocaust

Date: Sunday February 7th
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
All are welcome

Special guest:
Eric Gertner, LLB, BCL

BETH DAVID
participate • learn • grow

For more information
www.bethdavid.com
(416) 633-5500

Winnipeg synagogue sponsors two Yazidi families

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Winnipeg's oldest and largest congregation, has joined the local Jewish community's efforts to bring Yazidi refugee families to the city.

On Jan. 17, 70 members of Congregation Shaarey Zedek attended a meeting at the synagogue that officially launched Shaarey Zedek's campaign to sponsor two Yazidi families.

"It was nice to see that degree of support," said Lorne Weiss, vice-president of the synagogue's board of directors and co-chair of the Yazidi sponsorship campaign (along with board member Anita Neville, who is also a former Liberal member of Parliament for Winnipeg South).

"We received a significant number of pledges of financial support, and 15 congregants with specialized skill sets volunteered to help in the families' settlement," Weiss said. "We have also had a number of our shul members who are south for the winter call and pledge their support."

With their involvement, the Shaarey Zedek congregants have joined Operation Ezra, a Jewish community-wide effort to bring endangered Yazidi families to Winnipeg.

The Yazidi people are a Kurdish religious minority who were based in northwestern Iraq. An ancient people who practise a religion derived partly from Mesopotamian religious practices, they have long been persecuted by the surrounding Muslim society. Stories of their plight hit the headlines in August 2014 when Islamic State (ISIS) swept into their communities. Those who were unable to flee were taken into slavery – the younger women and children – or massacred. Many of the survivors are now living in refugee camps in Turkey.

Danita and Michel Aziza MYRON LOVE PHOTO

"The need is urgent," Weiss said. "The Yazidis have their own refugee camps because they would not be safe living in refugee camps among displaced Syrian or Iraqi Muslims.

"As Jews, we cannot help but connect the Yazidis' plight with the situation of our own people in prewar Europe."

Operation Ezra was initiated last April by a relatively new pro-Israel Jewish group called Winnipeg Friends of Israel, who had made a connection with Nafiya Naso, a Yazidi living with her family in Winnipeg, who spoke at a meeting of Winnipeg Friends of Israel.

Naso has become the voice of the small Yazidi community in Winnipeg and has spoken to several other Jewish groups, including the Shaarey Zedek, over the past few months.

Operation Ezra is headed by co-chairs Michel Aziza and Belle Jarniewski. Among those who have joined the campaign are Jewish Child and Family Service, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and other Jewish community groups. Aziza said that, with Shaarey Zedek now involved, Operation Ezra is sponsoring seven Yazidi families, a total of 35 people.

"In 10 months, we have raised close to $180,000," Aziza said, "but we can always use more."

The first two families have been interviewed in Ankara by Canadian immigration officials and passed their medical exams, he said. "We hope that they will be arriving within the next few weeks. They are just waiting for visas."

Weiss said the Shaarey Zedek board decided last fall to look into sponsoring Yazidi families after hearing Naso describe the plight of her people.

"We determined that we were in a position to offer financial and emotional support to two families," he said. "We filled out the sponsorship applications with the help of the Mennonite Central Committee, who will be the legally recognized sponsorship holder. We will be functioning as a sub-agent."

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg will write the charitable receipts for the campaign, Weiss said, as the Shaarey Zedek constitution doesn't allow charitable receipts for this type of fundraising.

Shaarey Zedek must have $90,000 in place to support the two sponsored families by the time they arrive, he said. The congregation will also be responsible for finding adequate furnished housing and the other necessities of life.

"It will be a few months before our sponsored families come," Weiss said. "That gives us time to prepare. It isn't going to be easy finding a place to live for a family of 10. And we want to find them a place in a neighbourhood where there are already other Yazidi families."

Weiss said Operation Ezra has received enquiries from other Jewish communities about sponsoring Yazidi families.

Aziza said organizers would eventually like to bring up to 15 Yazidi families, including five sponsored through church groups who have expressed an interest in working with Operation Ezra. ■

Event mixes fun, support for SickKids

FRANCES KRAFT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Looking for something to do with your kids on Family Day this year – and do a mitzvah at the same time?

Jay Papernick, a Toronto-based financial advisor, is sponsoring his third annual "FUNdraiser" on Family Day, Feb. 15, to benefit the Hospital for Sick Children.

The event, geared for families with children age two to 10, is again at Active Kids Zone, an indoor playground and gym on Alness Street. It will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with bouncy castles, arts and crafts, bumper balls, an open gym and a pizza lunch.

There will be "more and better prizes" than in the past, including hockey tickets and a signed Maple Leafs jersey, Papernick said.

Admission is free with a donation to SickKids. There is no minimum amount, but, if pressed, Papernick would suggest $10 to $20. Last year, almost 200 people attended, and the event raised $3,200 for SickKids Foundation, the fundraising arm of the hospital. Papernick hopes to raise even more this year. He is gratified to have heard parents at the event explain to their children where the money is going.

In fact, the initiative grew out of Papernick's own attempt, along with his wife, Amy, to teach their oldest daughter, now eight years old, and later their two younger children, about tzedakah and giving back to the community.

The Papernicks' daughter Layla was only three when a neighbourhood lemonade stand caught her eye while the family was driving past. They stopped, and Layla told her parents, "We should do that!"

Jay and Amy, a former teacher at Bialik Hebrew Day School, liked the idea, and recognized a teachable moment. They explained that the money raised by selling lemonade was used to help people, and asked Layla where she might want to donate money from her own lemonade stand.

Layla liked the idea of helping children who were sick, having just been to SickKids herself because of a broken leg.

A lemonade stand at the Papernicks' home expanded the following year into a lemonade stand plus garage sale. The family has continued with the home-based event every summer except one, even after Jay decided to help the hospital through the larger event involving his office staff.

The Papernicks have always been passionate about giving to people in need, Amy said. In 2006 they raised $16,000 in three days to provide a Rosh Hashanah meal for Ethiopian olim in Safed, in the wake of the Second Lebanon War. They also paid their own way to Israel to be there for the dinner.

A branch owner of Assante Capital Management for the past couple of years, Jay, 43, encouraged his younger staff members early on to think about what they would like to do in the community. He particularly liked the idea of an event on Family Day, partly because he deals with many young families in his work, and also because the holiday was relatively new (it started in 2008), so he thought that many families with young kids wouldn't have set plans.

The Papernick family holds a cheque from last year's fundraiser

Other office initiatives include a bake sale at a downtown seniors home where one of the team volunteers.

Amy, who works in her husband's office, says the entire staff "jumped on board" with the idea of being involved in the community. "We deal with money every day, so it's nice to step outside and do something for the greater good." ■

Four marketing legends inducted into hall of fame

SUSAN MINUK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Some 300 marketers came out Jan. 21 to honour Jeanne Beker, Joe Mimran, Luke Sklar and the late Marshall McLuhan as the newest inductees into Canada's Marketing Hall of Legends at the American Marketing Association's (AMA) 11th Annual Marketing Hall of Legends.

The award was created to spotlight the stories, people and brands behind Canada's greatest marketing successes, recognizing a body of work and a lifetime of achievements in four categories: builder, visionary, enabler and mentor.

TV personality Ben Mulroney was the master of ceremonies at the event, held at the Liberty Grand.

All the inductees spoke about their business model and how their parents shaped their futures.

"Builder" Beker is best known as host of *Fashion Television*. She's written five books and curated her own fashion lines. Today, Beker is style editor at the Shopping Channel and a *Globe and Mail* columnist. In 2014, she became a member of the Order of Canada for her support of Canadian fashion and design.

From left Michael McLuhan, Jeanne Beker, Joe Mimran and Luke Sklar
WILLIAM SUAREZ PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

"The sweetest thing of all is to receive an honour of this magnitude in your own hometown," Beker said.

"My parents were Holocaust survivors. My dad's big motto was, 'Don't be afraid and never give up. As long as you are fierce and tenacious, you will get through anything.'

"I felt I owed it to my parents to try to make something wonderful of my life, and I just went for it in a big way. Putting myself out there in myriad ways has really contributed to making me a kind of brand, because I wanted to experience it all."

"Enabler" Sklar and his team at Sklar Wilton & Associates has created longstanding partnerships over almost 30 years with many of Canada's most iconic brands, including Molson Coors, Canadian Tire, Tim Hortons and Shoppers Drug Mart.

"My dad was an entrepreneur, a creative guy, and an Olympian," Sklar said. "He and his brother started Sklar furniture. I watched him walk through the factory. He would pull the production guys together with the design guys, and they would just solve the problem. More smart people thrown at the problem was always a better solution for him. My work ethic and desire to help people comes from years of watching my father and his disciplined routine. We just try and live that and reward that and improve that everyday."

McLuhan was inducted in the "mentor" category. Known as the father of modern media studies, the communications theorist was a progressive and controversial figure who famously coined the term "global village" in his 1962 book *The Gutenberg Galaxy*. His groundbreaking 1964 book *Understanding Media* introduced one of McLuhan's most paradigm-shifting concepts: "the medium is the message."

Accepting his award was son Michael.

"Marshall McLuhan was the most amazing inclusive encyclopedic mind I have ever met or known, and I had the honour of being his son. A lot of people today don't know that somebody came up with the concept of the global village, which, of course, led to the term 'globalization.'"

"Visionary" Joe Mimran is best known for creating a succession of brands and retail concepts, including Club Monaco, Caban and most recently Joe Fresh. He currently stars on the popular CBC show *Dragons' Den* and chairs Gibraltar Growth Corp., a private investment company in Toronto. He also chairs the Fashion Design Council of Canada.

"I think every brand has a journey and a story to tell. That is what we are as brand builders: we are storytellers," he said.

"It was my mom who got me interested in fashion. She used to make clothes for me. My mom was one of the hardest-working women. She worked during the day as a seamstress. When she came home at night, my background music was a sewing machine." ■

Markham Chabad shul feeds homeless downtown

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

"God bless you," Jean Paul Boulanger, a young man down on his luck, yelled out to a group of about 100 people gathered near a table piled with blankets, scarves, gloves and hats in the parkette at the corner of Queen and Church streets.

Boulanger, who became homeless after a car accident, was sipping a Tim Hortons double double and clutching a couple of blankets and some gloves that were given to him by a group of congregants from Chabad Lubavitch of Markham on Jan. 24.

He was one of the many homeless people milling about the parkette in downtown Toronto, where Chabad of Markham congregants of all ages were distributing warm clothing and blankets, and offering coffee and hot chocolate, courtesy of a Tim Hortons canteen truck parked nearby.

They even festooned trees in the parkette with colourful scarves, left for those homeless people too shy or proud to have direct contact with the volunteers who might come by after the shul congregants had left the area.

One of the people on hand to add some glamour and excitement for the many children who showed up with their parents was Jake Goodman, 13, the star of YTV's *Max and Shred*.

Organizers of Chabad of Markham's tikkun olam event to help the homeless pose with actor Jake Goodman, second from left. With him are, from left, Stella Saul, Diane Gelb, Goldie Plotkin and Matti Schurder. BARBARA SILVERSTEIN PHOTO

"I'm blown away by all the people who have come out and left their cushy homes in Thornhill," Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin said.

She said the social action day was organized by Chabad of Markham's monthly tikkun olam program.

Her daughter, Matti Schurder, the youth program co-ordinator and an organizer of the event, said the turnout was excellent. "So many families came together to help out. We're all on a high to see the difference we can be making."

Each tikkun olam event is put together by a team of two volunteers from the sisterhood committee, she explained, noting that on this day, Stella Saul and Diane Gelb were the co-ordinators.

"It was spectacular," Saul later said in a telephone interview. "It was amazing to see all the volunteers who came out on a cold day and gave their time."

A bin was put out at the shul a few weeks before the event for members to donate blankets, scarves and hats, etc., and Saul said she was also able to get some corporate donations.

She praised Tim Hortons for offering a special truck allocated for community events. "The guys from Tim Hortons were amazing, and so were the police."

Saul said that one of the highlights of the day happened after many of the families had gone home. She and a few other volunteers went to a homeless shelter at Queen and Sherbourne to distribute the remainder of the items and serve coffee.

"There was a family who had once been homeless giving out containers of food they had made themselves. So we teamed up with them. They gave out food and we gave out coffee and blankets. It was amazing," she said.

"The rebbetzin and rabbi should be really be commended for their leadership."

The rebbetzin told congregants that this day's event had been timed to coincide with Tu b'Shvat. "On Tu b'Shvat we thank God for the trees and the fruit... We are fortunate. You are doing tikkun olam to share our good fortune with others."

Rabbi Avraham Plotkin said his congregants were getting more out of the day than the homeless recipients. "They're giving us life lessons, like what it is to be without socks and gloves."

He also said this kind of event gives Jewish people positive exposure outside of the community. "Things like this go a long way to fight anti-Semitism." ■

To our Campaign Executive Cabinet and to some 70
United Jewish App
Thank You!

UJA Campaign 2016 Executive Cabinet

Executive Cabinet 2016

Back Row: (L-R)
Michael Halbert, Evan Cooperman, Mitchell Oelbaum, Karen Seidman, Leanne Matlow, Melissa Muskat, Corrine Spiegel, Craig Walters, Moni Lustig, Shoel Silver, Jamie Davis, Simon Yakubowicz and Howard Biderman

Front Row: (L-R)
Felicia Posluns, Israel Mida, Randy Shiff, Evan Pilz, Fern Simpson Reich, Rochelle Reichert, Laurie Sheff, Sara Gottlieb, Ruth Ekstein, Marcy Abramsky, David Dulberg, Stephen Altbaum, Anne Matlow, Glennie Lindenberg, Errol Tenenbaum, David Weisdorf, Alison Himel and Harold Seidel

Missing from Photo: Richard Bennett, Mike Fox, Mark Grammer, Adir Koschitzky, James Merkur, Sherryn Roth, Evan Shear, Darren Sukonick, Dodi Wei

Hosts and Chairs of Major Events - Campaign 2016

Leonard Abramsky
Julie Albert
Blair Bernholtz
Howard Biderman
Judy Nathan Bronfman
Golda Brown
Andrea & Trevor Cohen & Family
Daniel Cohen
Tony Cohen
Richard & Rhonda Diamond
Risa & David Dulberg
Leslie Flatt

Paul Godfrey
Anita Greenberg
Carol Grubert
Carole Gruson
Alison Himel
Madison & David Isaacman
Suzy Kauffman
Henry & Julia Koschitzky
Dale Lastman
Bruce Leboff
Ruth Ekstein & Alan Lechem
Stephen Libin

Kyle Lichtman
Moni Lustig
David & Leanne Matlow
Israel Mida
Melissa Muskat
Alex & Matthew Nisker
Felicia & David Posluns
Renat Reubeni-Zaltz
Shelley Richler
Jordan Robins
Harry Rosenbaum
Gale Rubenstein

Lissie Sanders
Issy & Rosalie Sharp
Evan Shear
Laurie Sheff
Eric Sherkin
Faith Sherman
Shoel & Eileen Silver
Senator Linda Frum Sokolowski
& Howard Sokolowski
Ed Sonshine
Craig Walters
Randi Woloz

Thank you all for speaking with our generous donors about the enormous impact their support
Toronto, in Israel, and around the world. Helping each other is what we do. You made it possible

0 volunteers who make up the engine that powers the eal Annual Campaign:

תודה רבה!

UJA Canvassers

Les Aaron
Yoel Abells
Allan Abramovitch
Aubrey Abrams
Brendon Abrams
Leonard Abramsky
Marcy Abramsky
Beverley Abramson
Robert Adam
Sheldon Adelson
Micah Adler
Stephen Adler
Jonathan Ain
Anthony Alberga
Wayne Allen
Heshy Altbaum
Stephen Altbaum
Michele Alter
Nurit Altman
Zelick Altman
Vladimir Amurjuev
Maurice Amzallag
Gabriel Anidjar
Deborah Anschell
Eleanor Appleby
Cheryl Appleby Jackson
Anat Avitzur
Chantal Azriza
Norman Bacal
Benjamin Bach
Justin Bader
Aubey Banack
Mara Banack
Barbara Bank
Marilyn Bank
Alexandra Barak
Sasha Barak
Tammy Baruch
Rivka Beer
Charles Bell
Donald Bennett
Richard Bennett
Rebecca Ben-Shlomo
Amalia Berg
Sandy Berkal
Daniel Bernholtz
Bradley Berns
Jeffrey Bernstein
David Beron
Eric Beutel
Howard Biderman
Aaron Blatt
Warren Blatt
David Blinick
Adina Bloom Somer
Seth Blumenstein
Avi Bogler
Yael Bogler
Sylvia Bornstein
Cecil Brauer
Amanda Braverman
Matthew Braverman
Michael Bregman
Yetta Bregman
Adam Breslin
Calvin Breslin
Jennifer Brodtieb
Allan Brown
Jason Brown
Sarah Brown
Evatar Brunschtein
Lior Brunschtein
Bobby Brykman
Jesse Buckstein
Michael Buckstein
Adam Budd
Adina Burden
Jason Burstein
Arnold Cader
Donald Carr
Leah Carr
Stephanie Carr
Lynn Catzman
Aditi Chadha
Joshua Charlat
Robert Cherniak
Lawrence Chernin
Joshua Chisvin
Nathan Choran
Alexandra Ciobotaru
Andrea Cohen
Aubrey Cohen
Betty Cohen
Betty L. Cohen
Jeffrey Cohen
Michael Cohen
Robert Cohen
Trevor Cohen
Yirmi Cohen
Sara Cohen-Gelfand
Ellen Cole
Jeremy Cole
Stephen Cole
Maddy Cooper
Richard Cooper
Sylvia Cooper
Harvey Cooperberg
Evan Cooperman
Alexandra Cuperfain
Ronald Cuperfain
Rachael Czutrin
Lisa Dack
Andrew Dales
Nicole Dason
Dan Daviau
Michael Davidson
Roslyn Davidson
Jamie Davis
Laurie Davis
Drew Dawson
Gurion De Zwirek
Michael Diamond
Richard Diamond
Stephen Diamond
Sheldon Disenhouse
Noah Dolgoy
Haley Draper
Lisa Draper
Philip Draper
Mark Driman
David Dulberg
David Eisen
Elliott Eisen
Robert Eisen
Anita Ekstein
Carly Ekstein
Ruth Ekstein
Stella Ekstein
Uriel Elituv
Gary Elman
David Engel
Paul Engel
Aaron English
Daryn Epstein
Tina Erlich
Frances Eydlin
Michelle Factor
Omry Farajun
Talia Feder
Jeffrey Feldman
Michael Feldman
Daniel Ferman
Annette Filler
Solomon Fischhoff
John Fisher
Matthew Fishman
Joel Flatt
Sandra Florence
David Fogel
Gary Fortinsky
Eric Foster
Michael Fox
Stephen Freedhoff
David Freeman
Sheldon Freeman
Jack Freiberg
Mathew Freiberg
Susan Friedrich
Maxie Friendly
Harvey Frisch
Stefanie Frisch-Rakowski
Baruch Frydman-Kohl
Jeffrey Frymer
Stephanie Gaber
Leslie Gales
Jeff Gans
Steven Garmaise
Michael Gary
Caroline Gelber
Shel Geller
Sandy Gennis
Fern Gitter
Dalna Gladman
Daniel Glazerman
Eddie Glick
Herschel Glickman
Mitchell Glickman
Samantha Glied-Bellak
Abe Glowinsky
Ehren Gluckstein
Steven Glustein
Norman Godfrey
Sharon Goelman
Peter Gold
Carly Goldberg
Ian Goldberg
Ronda Goldberg
Davida Goldenberg
Gerald Goldenberg
Jenna Goldenberg
Neil Goldenberg
Bernard Goldhar
Arlene Goldman
David Goldman
Benjamin Goldstein
Carol Goldstein
David Goldstein
Lorne Goldstein
Daniel Gonsenhauser
Noah Gordon
Irving Gottesman
Michael Gottesman
Sara Gottlieb
Mark Grammer
Brian Green
Cindi Green
David Green
Evan Green
Irving Green
Heather Greenberg
Laura Greenberg
Matthew Greenberg
Mallory Greene
Amy Greenspoon
Avi Greenspoon
Lori Greenspoon
Lorne Greenwald
Mark Grenville
Jesse Grief
Ezra Grossman
George Grossman
Justine Grossman Posluns
Carol Grubert
Jamie Grundman
Carole Gruson
Elaine Gudofsky
Marcie Gurr
Fred Guth
Jack Gwartz
Alana Halberstadt
Gerald Halbert
Michael Halbert
Pearlene Halfin
Earl Haltrecht
Mira Hamat
Jessica Handelman
Robert Handelman
Jordana Hart
Helen Hatzis
Bailey Hauer
Daniel Haworth
Noam Hazan
Warren Hellen
Hart Heller
Jay Heller
Stephanie Hill
Alison Himel
Sharon Himel
Romy Hirshowitz
Lea Hoffman
Gonen Hollander
Michael Hollend
Amanda Honigsberg
Jonathan Horovitz
Adam Hummel
Yoav Ickowicz
Jacob Itah
Monique Isaacson
Elizabeth Isack
Ilan Ishai
Daniel Israelsohn
Harley Joffe
David Jonas
Vanessa Judelman
Liat Kadosh
Artem Kaikov
Michael Kalles
Neill Katvin
Yael Karol
Rita Karp
Stephen Karr
Carol Kassel
William Kassel
Maxwell Kates
Andrea Katz
Joy Kaufman
Jodie Kaufman Davis
Steven Kelman
Sherry Kelner
Avi Kerbel
Michael Kerbel
Orli Kessel
Kayla Kessler
Michael Kestenberg
Sylvia Kestenberg
Debbie Kimel
Ronald Kimel
Warren Kimel
Jessica Kimmel
Ayelet Klaczkowski
Leon Klaiman
Gary Klein
Lirad Kligman
Jesse Klimitz
Talia Kniznik
Danielle Kofler
Avel Koganov
Henry Korenblum
Lauren Korzinstone
Adir Koschitzky
David Koschitzky
Henry Koschitzky
Julia Koschitzky
Sarena Koschitzky
Knowlton Kotansky
Elise Kovac
Julie Kovac
Steven Kraft
Albert Krakauer
Ruby Kreindler
Simon Kreindler
George Kreiser
Debbie Krofchick
Michael Krofchick
Aaron Kroll
Ronen Kroparo
Andy Krystal
Peter Kuretzky
Francy Kussner
Jeff Landis
Sarah Laski
Dale Lastman
Judith Laxer
Marvin Lean
Bruce Leboff
Lianne Leboff
Lorne Lebow
Murray Leiter
Elisa Lerman
Eric Lerner
Phillip Lev
Russell Leve
Oded Levi
Gal Levin
Michael Levin
Simone Levine
Josh Levitan
Malka Lewittes
Stephen Libin
Laura Licht
Kyle Lichtman
Sharla Lichtman
Danna Lieberman
Glennie Lindenberg
Anthony Lipkin
Ira Lipkin
Gary Lipovetsky
Jeffrey Lipsitz
Sheryl Lipton
Paul Litwack
Michelle London
David Lubek
Moni Lustig
Louise Maerov
Agi Mandel
David Mansell
Jack Markle
Ira Markus
Joshua Marlowe
Lee Marzin
Anne Matlow
David Matlow
Leanne Matlow
Naomi Matlow
Perri Maxwell
Frank Mayer
Meyer Mechanic
Mordechai Mednick
Jonathan Meital
Steven Mendel
Ashley Menkes
James Merkur
Lorne Merkur
Paul Merkur
Alona Metzer
Berry Meyerowitz
Israel Mida
Jonah Midanik
Daniel Milstein
Harley Mintz
Idan Mizrahi
Michal Mizrahi
Steven Mlotek
Benjamin Mogil
Larry Moncik
Paul Morton
Eldon Moses
David Muallim
Melissa Muskat
Talia Myers Varley
Michael Nadel
Judy Nathan Bronfman
Janice Nathanson
Audrey Neamtan
Osnat Nemetz
Daniel Neufeld
Allan Newman
Alex Nisker
Allie Novack
Jordan Novack
Mitchell Oelbaum
Lesley Offman
Jeffrey Olin
Jen Olsen
Leslie Orbach
Yaron Orgil
Kelly Ostro
Gilbert Palter
Gordon Pape
Tamara Paull
Aaron Pearl
Gary Peires
Michael Peiser
Idan Peleg
David Peltz
Morris Pertis
Sarah Pertis
Heather Perlmutter
Jeremy Pertman
Ben Pichette
Evan Pitz
Gary Polan
Sondi Pollock
Heather Popliger
Shimshon Posen
David Posluns
Felicia Posluns
Wendy Posluns
Howard Price
William Prusin
Robyn Ptasznik
Allan Rabie
Estenta Rajsky
Alissa Raphael
Rochelle Reichert
Melissa Reiter
Jill Reitman
Joel Reitman
Michelle Render
Leslie Richmond
Jeffrey Roberts
Andrew Robins
Anita Robins
Helaine Robins
Jillian Robins
Jordan Robins
Marlene Rochwerg
Sara Rodier
Zach Roher
Aniella Rohringer
Adam Romanov
Perry Romberg
Cory Rosen
Joshua Rosen
Noel Rosen
Harry Rosenbaum
Aaron Rosenberg
Miriam Rosenberg
Joshua Rosenblum
Allan Rosenbluth
Lorna Rosenstein
Jeffrey Rosenthal
Lori Rosenthal
Sherryn Roth
Gale Rubenstein
Aviva Rubin
Ronna Rubin
Jason Rubinoff
Yotam Saban
Jeffrey Sackman
Carly Sacks
Jared Saltz
Jordan Samery
Lissie Sanders
Alan Sandler
Lorraine Sandler
Mark Satok
Randi Satok
Brian Schachter
Mark Schachter
Marcia Schnoor
Noah Schwartz
Jarrad Segal
Rachael Segal
Harold Seidel
Hayley Seidel
Jamie Seidel
Sydney Seidel
Tracie Seidel
Karen Seidman
Barry Seigel
Snir Seitelbach
Barry Serebrennikov
Benjamin Shapiro
Kortney Shapiro
Evan Shear
Sari Shear
Jason Shedletsky
Ralph Shedletsky
Laurie Sheff
Merav Sheinberg
Eric Sherkin
Faith Sherman
Honey Sherman
John Sherrington
Michaela Shimansky
Adell Shneer
David Shore
Jeffrey Shore
Robert Shore
Alexander Shorser
Mena Shupak
Ryan Shupak
Isabel Siegel
Ken Siegel
Hinda Silber
Jay Silber
Josh Silber
Aaron Silver
Adrienne Silver
Eileen Silver
Shoel Silver
Ari Silverberg
Raina Silverberg
Sheldon Silverberg
Steven Silverberg
Vivian Silverberg
Helen Silverstein
Martha Simmons
Barry Simon
Ruthie Simpson
Karen Simpson Radomski
Benjamin Singer
Joshua Singer
Joanna Sinukoff
Peter Slan
Randal Slavens
Ellen Smoskowitz
Stanley Solomon
Gary Solway
Daniel Sonshine
Edward Sonshine
Shelley Sonshine
Corrine Spiegel
Jonathan Spiegelman
Leanne Spier
David Spiro
Joshua Starr
David Steckel
Barry Stein
Rodeen Stein
David Steinberg
Susan Steinberg
Fred Steiner
Arthur Stern
Gary Stern
Lani Stern
Norman Stern
David Stoller
Martin Storm
Steven Strauss
Brittany Sud
Reesa Sud
Darren Sukonick
Cheri Szereszewski
Joyce Tanner
Adam Taras
Jerome Teitel
Errol Tenenbaum
Jordan Teperman
Janice Tkatch
Marni Tolensky
David Topper
Joe Trager
Leslie Train
John Utmer
Mark Usher
Karen Vadasz
Aaron Vale
Jonathan Vandersluis
Richard Venn
Lisa Villeneuve
Josh Vinegar
Frederic Waks
Adam Walman
Craig Walters
Kimberley Walters
Brian Waltman
David Warshafsky
Dodi Weill
David Weinberg
David Weinberger
Paul Weinberger
Shael Weinreb
David Weisdorf
Allison Weiss
Janice Weiss
Aryella Weisz
Eddie Weisz
Edward Weisz
Jessica Weshler
Michael Wexler
Ora Wexler
Kenneth Wiener
Daniel Winberg
Lisa Winberg
Jay Wintraub
Joshua Wise
Kenny Wise
Rebecca Wise
Andrew Wiseman
Liz Wolfe
Henry Wolfond
Harold Wolkin
Talia Wolkin
Randi Woloz
Liora Yakubowicz
Simon Yakubowicz
Karen Yehudaiff
Jacob Young
Rebecca Zagdanski
Jeffrey Zaltzman
Ofir Zamir
Jeffrey Zicherman
Terry Zive
Carole Zucker

to UJA will have on the many thousands of our fellow Jews in
– Felicia Posluns and Shoel Silver, Chairs, UJA Campaign 2016

United Jewish Appeal
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

INTERNATIONAL

Gaza tunnels show Hamas preparing for a first strike

AVI ISSACHAROFF
JERUSALEM

After quite a few attempts at concealment and denial, Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, on Jan. 28 released the names of "the seven heroes, men of Allah" who were killed earlier last week in the collapse of an attack tunnel in the Tufah neighbourhood in the north-eastern part of Gaza City, only a few hundred yards from the Israeli border.

At first, Hamas leaders tried to hide the fact that any of its members had been killed in the tunnel. Then they claimed that the men were merely missing. Finally, they released the names of seven of the 11 excavators who were there at the time of the collapse.

Hamas' statement read in part: "We trod the path of death for your lives' sake."

Several days earlier, Faiz Abu Smala, a journalist with close ties to Hamas, wrote on his Facebook page about a meeting with the local commander of Hamas' military wing: "He admitted to me that they were still working night and day, around the clock, and that the battle they faced would be a matter of the utmost importance, of life and death, and that they had no alternative but to work under all conditions."

IDF soldiers infiltrate Hamas tunnels during Operation Protective Edge in 2014. ISRAEL SUN PHOTO

The seven Hamas operatives who were killed were not the first victims Hamas' tunnels have claimed during their post-2014-war construction and reconstruction. Last month, one of Gilad Shalit's captors was killed inside a tunnel that collapsed near Khan Yunis. According to sources in Gaza, 12 other Hamas operatives were killed in tunnel collapses last year.

According to the commander, Hamas has already restocked its rocket supply and is ready for a new war. He also said that in the next round of fighting, Hamas would operate "inside the territory of 1948." This was a broad hint that Hamas plans to engage in terror attacks inside Israel using, among other means, its new and restored cross-border tunnels.

Some might say that these are empty threats of the kind that Hamas makes every so often. But a close look at what is happening right now in the Gaza Strip gives the opposite impression: 18 months after the last war, someone in Gaza is preparing the ground on the public level, and making preparations below ground on the military level, for large-scale escalation leading to another conflict with Israel.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Netanyahu vows to destroy Hamas tunnels

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded on Jan. 31 to critics charging his government was failing to deal with newly dug tunnels under the Israel-Hamas frontier, threatening to blow up the underground passages if need be.

"We are working methodically and calmly against all threats, including threats from Hamas, both with defensive and offensive measures. And of course, in the event we attack the tunnels in the Gaza Strip, we will act very forcefully against Hamas, and with much more force than Operation Protective Edge," Netanyahu told a conference of diplomats, referring to the 50-day war in the Gaza Strip in 2014.

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) officials and southern residents have expressed concern in recent days that Hamas is rebuilding a series of subterranean passages, used for attacking Israel, which were destroyed during the 2014 war between Israel and Gazan fighters.

During that war, Israeli troops uncovered and destroyed dozens of tunnels, but only after Netanyahu approved a ground invasion of the Strip.

Netanyahu told the diplomats that Jerusalem would have international backing for such a move, and warned Hamas not to "try us."

"I think they understand this in the region, understand this in the world," he continued. "I hope we won't need to, but our capabilities – both defensive and offensive – are developing rapidly."

Hours earlier, opposition leader Isaac Herzog called for the government to take action and bomb the tunnels, accusing Netanyahu's cabinet of being "idle" in the face of the Hamas threat.

"The political leadership must provide a clear public answer to the citizens. [It must] stop hesitating.... They must instruct the IDF to bomb the tunnels and destroy this threat. Especially if there are tunnels that have already crossed the border into Israel," Herzog said.

"Why are we waiting? For terrorists, with their weapons drawn, to emerge in a kibbutz or a moshav? The prime minister and the defence minister must provide an answer to the citizens.

"One day, we'll wake up and discover that, once again, we underestimated the seriousness of the threat," Herzog warned. "It will cost us in blood and terrible sorrow."

Last week, a senior defence official said Hamas' military wing had rehabilitated itself and was ready for a fresh round of hostilities with Israel. Other military leaders have said intensive tunnel rebuilding is underway.

On Jan. 30, the terror group publicized a new video clip, lauding what it called the unknown fighters who are "toiling day and night" to build the attack tunnels.

Over the weekend, residents of areas near the Gaza Strip complained that tunnel digging into Israel from the Hamas-run territory has come so close to their homes that it has caused their floors to shake.

The head of the Eshkol Regional Council, Gadi Yarkoni, told Israel Radio that many residents have been complaining of hearing – and feeling – increased underground digging activity in recent weeks. In addition, they were disappointed that the IDF has failed to build protective barriers against the cross-border terror tunnels – as it had promised it would after the summer 2014 war in Gaza.

Hamas, the Islamist terror group that rules the Gaza Strip, built dozens of tunnels into Israel, many of which were used to carry out attacks against soldiers during the 2014 war. The IDF said it destroyed over 30 tunnels during the war, and some officials said the army was surprised at the extent of the tunnel building.

A number of tunnels were used during the war to attack army installations. The IDF later said the tunnels had been dug as part of a plan to carry out a massive attack against an Israeli community, but when war broke out, Hamas fighters abandoned the plot. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Conditions in Gaza are deteriorating, residents say

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

The question is when and under what circumstances.

The numbers throw into sharp relief Hamas' determination to rehabilitate its tunnel project, which was badly damaged during Operation Protective Edge: Hamas has more than 1,000 people working around the clock, six days a week, to dig more and more attack tunnels under the border and into Israel. The inclement weather has not slowed the pace of the work, as the incident in Tufah demonstrates. This is because the tunnel project is deemed central, since Hamas believes it can use the tunnels (among other weapons) to carry out an "opening strike" that will give the impression of victory in any future round of fighting with Israel.

There are a few tunnels estimated to be crossing into Israel, but there may be more. Hamas is using concrete to line the tunnel walls, as it did in the past, and has sufficient access to such materials.

These tunnels are not the antiquated ones that were built along the Philadelphi Route at the beginning of the past decade; those were dug by amateurs at a medium depth of 7-8 metres. These new tunnels are being dug 30 metres deep, with sophisticated engineering equipment and more advanced technological support, including engineers' blueprints.

> *Every time it seems that the situation has never been worse, it plummets even further.*

Hamas probably does not want an escalation or another round of war at this time, as former Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniyeh hinted in his latest speech. But not everyone in Hamas hangs on to Haniyeh's every word.

For the military wing, it is crucial to restore Hamas' image, which took a serious hit in the last war. That is why an "opening strike" is almost obligatory, certainly in light of the state of affairs in the Gaza Strip, where Hamas' popularity is steadily dropping because of the economic situation, among other reasons.

Other high-ranking Hamas officials, such as Yahya Sinwar, prefer the military wing's urgent approach to Haniyeh's more patient one. In their view, maintaining the status quo is untenable in Gaza, where rising unemployment and poverty rates, closed borders, and the erratic supply of electrical power could damage Hamas' ability to survive, particularly in light of the Egyptian embargo and the cutback in support from Iran.

Gaza keeps surprising us. Every time it seems that the situation has never been worse, it plummets even further. One example is this week's storm, which set a new record for electricity consumption in Israel. In Gaza, it caused a particularly long power outage. Instead of eight hours with electricity followed by 16 without, the people there had four hours on and 20 hours off.

The cold was particularly bad in Shejaiya, Beit Hanoun and several other neighbourhoods, where thousands of people whose homes were destroyed in the last war are living in prefabricated mobile homes with no proper insulation. Many homes were flooded in Khan Yunis, Hiza'a and several other places that had already been reduced to rubble during the last war with Israel. Almost everywhere in the Strip, groups of people could be seen huddling over burning barrels, trying to warm themselves in the frigid weather.

"The animals in your safari in Ramat Gan have it better than the people here," said Hisham, a resident of Gaza City, who visited the animal park near Tel Aviv in the 1990s.

Gaza has never been in such a bad humanitarian situation, residents say, calling it much more difficult than it was on the eve of the last war.

"Nobody is working, there are no construction materials in the market, and there is no money because there are no salaries," said H., also a resident of Gaza City. "Hamas officials do not receive regular pay; rather, they receive NIS 1,000 to 1,200 (about $350) every 50 days. The members of Islamic Jihad have no money either.

"This is going to lead to an explosion," said H. "It will be a miracle if 2016 ends without a war. It's not up to Hamas or Israel anymore." ■

The CJN Prize (FOR YOUNG WRITERS) Awards Ceremony

Come support and celebrate great writing!

Honouring the literary achievements of young Jewish writers from across Canada. Enjoy the stories read by their authors.

Special Guest Speakers:
Barbara Kay (Renowned Journalist)
Sara R. Horowitz (Professor of Literature, York University)

February 10, 2016
Reception 6:30 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m.

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
York University Keele Campus
Accolade East Building, Main Floor
(Paid parking is available at the student services parking garage at James Gillies St. and Fine Arts Rd.)

Free tickets available at CJNews.com
Register by February 5

Sponsored by
Presenting Sponsor
Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות
Applause Elegant Kosher Cuisine
CJN

French bid rewards Palestinian intransigence, PM says

STUART WINER
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Jan. 31 took France to task for its latest Israeli-Palestinian peace talks pitch, saying the proposal would spur Palestinian inflexibility by guaranteeing recognition of a Palestinian state in advance.

"This will be an incentive for the Palestinians to come and not compromise," Netanyahu said of the proposal in a press briefing before the start of the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius had announced on Jan. 29 that France would shortly try to convene an international conference with the hope of enabling new Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, but that if the effort hit a dead end, Paris would recognize a Palestinian state regardless.

"The substance of negotiations is compromise and the French initiative, as it has been reported, in effect gives the Palestinians in advance reasons not to do so," Netanyahu said, adding that he expected the French to take their peace-making efforts seriously. "I believe that we will see a sobering up on this issue. In any case, we will work to bring this about and our position is very clear: We are prepared to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions and without dictated conditions."

> *We are prepared to enter into direct negotiations without preconditions.*

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the weekly cabinet meeting Jan. 31. FLASH 90 PHOTO

Senior Palestinian Authority (PA) official Saeb Erekat, for years the PA's top negotiator with Israel, said last Sunday that successful talks would be a boon for Israel and the Palestinians.

"I think if we succeed it is a win for both of us," Erekat told Army Radio, blaming the moribund state of negotiations on Netanyahu's government.

"This Israeli government believes that establishment of a Palestinian state is a losing situation for Israel," he said. "That is the crux of the matter, that is the crux of the problem."

When challenged over the Palestinian refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, Erekat countered that the Palestinians had already recognized Israel within the 1967 borders.

"You are registered in the United Nations as the State of Israel and that is your name," he said. "We have already recognized Israel's right to exist in the 1967 border in peace and security. I pray and hope that the day will come when I will hear one Israeli official from this government say that we recognize the right of the State of Palestinian to exist in peace and security in the 1967 lines. Stop with this broken record of yours."

In announcing the plan, Fabius said his country has a responsibility as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to sustain efforts to reach a two-state solution.

"France will engage in the coming weeks in the preparation of an international conference bringing together the parties and their main partners, American, European, Arab, notably to preserve and make happen the solution of two states," he said.

Paris is hoping to hold the conference in the summer.

"And what will happen if this last-ditch attempt at reaching a negotiated solution hits a stumbling block?" Fabius said. "In that case, we will have to live up to our responsibilities and recognize a Palestinian state."

The Palestinian envoy to the UN, Riyad Mansour, said earlier last Friday that PA officials are waging a new campaign at the UN to revive peace prospects, with the starting point possibly a Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlements. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

Come Celebrate Valentine's with us!
Book your reservation now for you & your special one.

Valentines Day Special
*2 Can Dine for $150. 4-course dinner & glass of champagne.

Experience our newly remodelled restaurant and expanded menu.
Menu includes Lobster, Chilean Sea Bass, Rack of Lamb and Venison

Trapper's Restaurant & Wine Bar
3479 Yonge St.
416-482-6211
www.trappersrestaurant.ca
*See website for menu details

Congratulations!

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

Please fill in the requested information and mail to PO Box 1324 Stn K Toronto, ON M4P 3J4 or fax to 416-932-2488

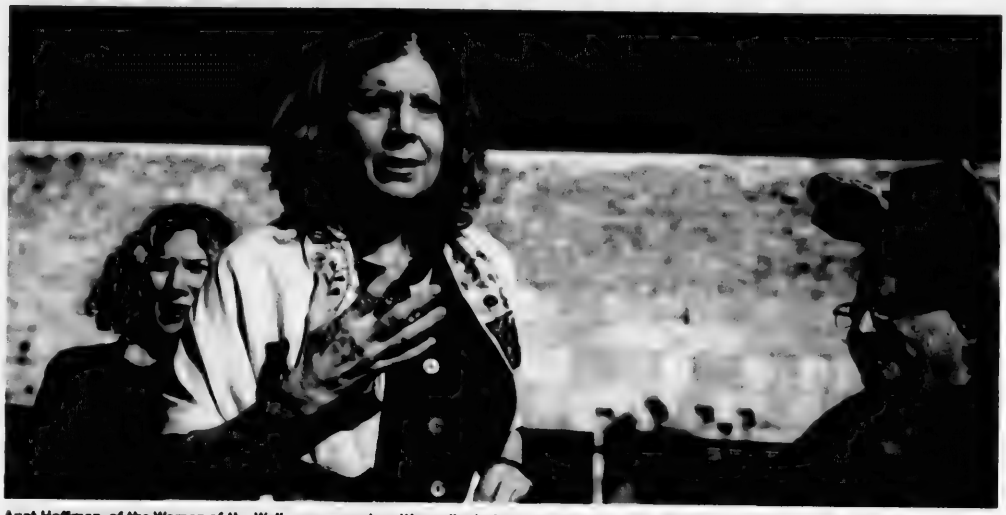
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
Phone number _____
Email _____

CJN

Doc key: W16FXCJN

Wall prayer fight ends with a historic compromise

BEN SALES
JTA, TEL AVIV



Anat Hoffman, of the Women of the Wall group, speaks with media during a press conference with the group's response to the Knesset vote on the group's rights of prayer at the Western Wall, on Jan. 31. HADAS PARUSH/FLASH90

Israel's government approved a compromise to expand the non-Orthodox Jewish prayer section of the Western Wall on Jan. 31, putting to rest the decades-long fight between Women of the Wall and Israel's haredi Orthodox religious establishment.

The deal achieves what had been an elusive goal: an interdenominational consensus on Judaism's holiest site with official recognition. The non-Orthodox prayer section at the wall will become much larger and more accessible. But haredi control of the Orthodox section will also be solidified, though non-Orthodox leaders have long protested that monopoly.

The deal, a copy of which *JTA* obtained ahead of the cabinet vote, still contains a few unknowns. It is unclear how long construction will take. It does not say whether clear signage will direct visitors to the non-Orthodox section. Nor does it say exactly when Women of the Wall, an embattled women's prayer group, will move its monthly services from the Orthodox Jewish main prayer section to the non-Orthodox one.

Still, the Conservative and Reform movements can declare victory. The size of the non-Orthodox section of the Western Wall will double to nearly 10,000 square feet – half the size of the Orthodox main section just to its north. A committee of non-Orthodox leaders and government officials will manage the non-Orthodox section. And a single entrance will lead to both sections.

The Western Wall's haredi Orthodox management, called the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, also safeguarded its interests. Non-Orthodox leaders had campaigned for a share of control of the Orthodox section of the wall, but the Heritage Foundation will retain full authority over it and the larger plaza behind the prayer sections. And when the plan is implemented, Women of the Wall will move to the non-Orthodox section, one of the Heritage Foundation's long-standing demands.

"They all came to the conclusion that they must make serious compromises because they want it to remain one Kotel for one people," Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Natan Sharansky told *JTA*. "It's the place that must unite us more than anything else, and it turned into the most ugly war."

Plans for the non-Orthodox section's expansion, spearheaded by Sharansky, began in December 2012. In October of that year, police had arrested the Women of the Wall's chairwoman, Anat Hoffman, for wearing a tallit during the group's monthly service – an act that at the time was illegal at the site.

Talks on a plan to expand the non-Orthodox section of the wall, located in an archeological park known as Robinson's Arch, began in April 2013. Sharansky and outgoing Israeli cabinet secretary Avichai Mandelblit led the negotiations, which included representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements, the Heritage Foundation and Women of the Wall.

Nearly three years later, the deal enacted last Sunday calls for the creation of an "official and respected," 9,700-square foot prayer space in the non-Orthodox section of the Western Wall, running along a 31-foot segment of the wall, that Sharansky said will fit approximately 1,200 people. It will have a government-funded staff, Torah scrolls and other ritual objects, and be open to all forms of Jewish prayer. Sharansky estimated its construction could take up to two years.

Even after it is completed, the non-Orthodox section will remain smaller than its Orthodox counterpart. The Orthodox section measures some 21,500 square feet, adjacent to a nearly 200-foot segment of the wall, and has some 27,000 visitors on an average day.

The area is divided into two sections: a larger one for men and a smaller one for women. The rules prohibit women from reading from Torah scrolls in the Orthodox section.

A committee composed of two Reform leaders, two Conservative leaders, two non-Orthodox women representatives, the Jewish Agency chairman and six government officials will run the non-Orthodox section.

The Orthodox and non-Orthodox sections of the Western Wall will share an entrance near the Old City of Jerusalem's Dung Gate, one story above the Western Wall plaza's current entrance. Currently, the path to the non-Orthodox section is long, narrow and accessible only through a gateway tucked in a back corner of the plaza. The deal will create a wide and visible walkway to the section.

The deal does not specify, however, whether there will be signs at the entrance informing visitors of the non-Orthodox section or anything else notifying visitors of its existence.

"The vision of the new section of the Kotel is a physical and conceptual space open to all forms of Jewish prayer," a statement from Women of the Wall read. "Instead of splitting up the existing pie into ever more divided, smaller pieces, we are making the pie much larger and sharing the new space."

The Western Wall's haredi management, headed by Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, has long pushed for Women of the Wall to leave the site. Under the deal, the women's group has agreed to move to the non-Orthodox section only once the deal is implemented. And a faction of Women of the Wall has vowed not to budge from the Orthodox section – regardless of what the deal says.

The Western Wall's religious status has been under contention for decades. Women of the Wall was founded in 1988 to advance women's prayer at the site, which is prohibited under haredi Orthodox Jewish law. Until 2013, much of the group's activity contravened the Heritage Foundation's regulations and thus was illegal. Police regularly detained members of the group.

Non-Orthodox groups also suffered persecution at the site. In 1997, an egalitarian Conservative Shavuot celebration behind the prayer section was attacked by protesters throwing bottles, diapers and refuse at the worshippers. The incident led to the establishment of the non-Orthodox prayer section at Robinson's Arch in 2000.

Following an international backlash to Hoffman's 2012 arrest, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tasked Sharansky with forging a compromise solution to the dispute. An outline Sharansky proposed in April 2013 called for the non-Orthodox section to be equal in size and elevation to the Orthodox section, but it proved unworkable due to objections from the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Waqf, the Islamic body that governs the Temple Mount.

In August 2013, Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett tried for an interim solution by building a 4,800 square-foot platform that created more space in the non-Orthodox section. Women of the Wall rejected the platform, calling it a "sundeck." Now the architects of Sunday's compromise hope that all sides of the debate will be able to put their differences behind them for the sake of the Western Wall's symbolism.

"This contains the hope that the Western Wall will no longer be an arena for disputes, and will regain the uniting character that befits its special place for the entire Jewish people," the agreement reads. "May this also bring peace among us." ■

ANALYSIS

If the U.S. can decrypt vital Israeli transmissions – who else can?

Judah Ari Gross
JERUSALEM

News that the United States and the United Kingdom have for years been tapping into the encrypted communications of Israel Air Force drones and fighter jets sent shock waves through Israel on Jan. 29, with the story dominating the front pages of the country's newspapers.

But America and Britain are Israel's allies.

And while it's never pleasant to learn that your friends are spying on you, the breach – considered by one official to be "the worst leak in the history of Israeli intelligence" – did not necessarily damage Israel's security.

The deeper concern is that Israel's numerous enemies, and not its allies, have also been able, or will be able, to hack into Israeli systems and decrypt Israeli cybernetic systems, which are of growing importance to civilians and militaries alike.

The breach re-emphasizes that possibility.

And the very nature of the revelations underlines another profound concern for Israeli intelligence: *The Intercept's* article detailing the 18-year breach of air force encryptions is based on information leaked by Edward Snowden. If the U.S. National Security Agency has its hands on Israeli intelligence, and the United States is hacked or has information leaked, all that top secret Israeli intel gets exposed as well.

According to the bombshell revelations last Friday, the Americans and British long ago intercepted and decoded in real time encrypted broadcasts between Israeli drones and F-16s, and the ground.

"This is an earthquake," a senior security source – who spoke on condition of anonymity – told the *Ynet* website. "It means that they have forcibly stripped us, and, no less important, that probably none of our encrypted systems are safe from them."

By monitoring the feeds from drones and planes, the American National Security Agency (NSA) and British Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) could track Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and also determine if Israel was gearing up to launch any attacks against Iran or other targets.

'We're seeing a tight relationship between the kinetic and the cybernetic.'

Needless to say, such information would also be of interest to Iran itself, Hamas and Hezbollah, all of which the Israel Defence Force (IDF) knows are working tirelessly to break into Israeli systems and decrypt Israeli operational communications.

"We know that the nations around us are putting a lot of effort into obtaining cyber capabilities," Oron Mincha, spokesperson for the IDF's C4I Telecommunications Corps, told journalists in December in a conversation at the Corps' base in Tzrifin, outside of Tel Aviv.

"When a country deals with the proliferation of rockets, we're not surprised to see that they are also using the cyber tools to help our enemies," the officer said, not saying the name of a country, but clearly implying Iran.

"We're seeing a tight relationship between the kinetic and the cybernetic," he said.

This breach was not the first time that foreign bodies intercepted Israeli drone feeds; indeed, Hezbollah is known to have done so, with fatal consequences. In 1997, Hezbollah managed to capture the (non-encrypted) feed from an Israeli drone and used the information to plan an ambush against members of the IDF's elite Shayetet 13 naval unit, killing 12 of them.

Such vulnerability is an inherent problem with wireless communication, one that advanced militaries have been facing for decades, as they seek to communicate across vast distances without having their messages plucked out of the air.

A remote-controlled drone with a camera attached to it makes it possible to photograph from the air. MOSHE SHAI/FLASH90 PHOTO

After the 1997 incident, known in Hebrew as the "Shayetet catastrophe," Israel began encrypting its communications – plainly, however, not to the extent necessary, as evident by the 18-year period over which the United States and England have been able to decrypt those transmissions.

"The challenge with using drones is how you manage your spectrum security," Mincha said.

Speaking in December, Mincha boasted that Israel was "pretty good" about cyber security, though he admitted that there are things that "keep my boss up at night."

"The IDF" – he knocked on the wooden lectern – "so far is maintaining the high level of defence capabilities, due to the manufacturing of homemade tools to defend our system," Mincha said.

Last Friday's revelations clearly undermine that confident assessment.

To try to ensure the secrecy of its drone feeds, the IDF has manufactured its own systems to protect the UAV's communication channels in-house; these measures are evidently vulnerable.

Though drones and their wireless communications capabilities are complex and expensive, the technology needed to break into them is surprisingly cheap and accessible.

In 2009, the United States experienced this first hand, when U.S. Forces discovered that they were the victims of a similar kind of cyber attack to the ones the NSA has been committing against Israel.

Iraqi insurgents, using store-bought equipment and a commercial computer program, were able to tap into the video feeds of Predator drones, which were not encrypted at the time, and monitor them.

"Anybody can go to a store and buy equipment for $10,000 that can mimic our capability," Robert Elder, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant general, told *Wired* magazine in 2014.

Because Israel uses encrypted transmissions, the NSA and GCHQ had to invest significantly more computing power than the Iraqi insurgents, according to *The Intercept.*

It was not immediately clear from Friday's reports if the United States and Britain are still capable of monitoring Israeli drone feeds, and the IDF would not officially comment whether news of this breach will prompt a response or change in policy for the air force.

Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz claimed Israel was "disappointed" but not "surprised" by the intel breach. Which begs the question: If, as Steinitz said, Israel assumes that the United States spies on it, why does it not take more sophisticated measures to protect its communications? ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

New Israeli dads to get eight days of parental leave

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Fathers in Israel will soon be eligible for eight days of paternity leave, if a bill green-lighted by a ministerial panel Sunday becomes law.

The leave, to run parallel to that granted to mothers, will comprise five days on the account of the father's sick-pay allocation, plus another three at his own cost.

Since May 1998, fathers have been allowed to take paternity leave instead of – rather than in addition to – their wives, as well as one day of leave when the baby is born and a second day for a circumcision if the baby is a boy.

The OK from the Ministerial Committee for Legislation means it will now receive government backing. The legislation must still go through other committees and pass three Knesset votes before becoming a law.

"The bill is an important step and a breakthrough in approach to parental equality," said MK Eli Alalouf (Kulanu), promising to shepherd the legislation through the Labour, Welfare and Health Committee he chairs.

Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel (Jewish Home) said fathers deserved to be with their babies after birth, while women deserved to have their partners by their side.

Recently, the Economy Ministry came out in opposition to the bill, saying that while it supported the principle of the legislation, the practice would hurt small businesses because it would be difficult for workers to find replacements for eight days. If the state wanted it, the state should pay, the ministry said, according to Channel 2 news.

By the time Sunday's vote came around, agreement had been reached between the sides.

In December 2015, the Knesset approved the preliminary reading of a separate bill, proposed by Kulanu party MK Rachel Azaria, to change "nursing hour" – which allows women to take off one hour from the working day during the first four months after returning from maternity leave – to "parenting hour," letting both parents use that time, if the mother of the child consents.

While fathers have been entitled – since 1998 – to replace their spouses during part of the maternity leave, most other post-natal allowances have applied only to women.

The bill notes, just 50 per cent of employable women are in the workforce, compared to 62.3 per cent of men; these women also have lower wages and work more in part-time employment. Furthermore, 26 per cent of women between the ages of 20-45 gave up their jobs after giving birth.

"The wage gap between women and men is a common phenomenon of childbirth and the associated absences have a direct impact on this, and as such require attention," the bill states. ■

Timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life

Siblings create film about their pop-culture obsession

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Who wouldn't want their own talk show? Samantha and Jesse Herman may not see television superstardom in their future, but the pop-culture-obsessed sibling duo is bringing their quick wit to the big screen – and living rooms – in their new movie *Let's Rap*.

"We always thought, 'we're funny, right?' And we decided to finally put it down on paper," says Samantha.

Let's Rap is somewhat autobiographical and follows Bo (played by Brendan Gall) and Melanie Shnurr (Rachel Wilson), two down-on-their-luck 30-somethings.

They're, as Samantha says, "A brother and a sister who have no marketable talents other than their gift for pop cultural banter, so they decide the best thing for them to do is to try and get their own talk show."

Back in 2013, Samantha and Jesse released a *Let's Rap* short; they put out a feature-length version late in 2015.

The two, however, started writing their script in 2008 and got it up and running through production company Landed Entertainment. Samantha, who is four years older than Jesse, works as producer and as the firm's general counsel.

And while Jesse and Samantha's on-screen personas may come across as slackers, both siblings work as lawyers, in Los Angeles and Hamilton, Ont. respectively.

They, however, grew up in Toronto and set their movie squarely in this city. The cast, directed by Neil Huber, is filled with local talent, including Gall and Wilson along with Randal Edwards, Peter MacNeill and Kristian Bruun of *Orphan Black* fame.

Canadian Jason Priestly also makes a cameo. Samantha describes his appearance as a dream come true. "I can die now and I'd be good," she jokes.

Though Priestly wasn't the Hermans' only coup. So far, *Let's Rap* screened at the Toronto Independent Film Festival and it'll be making its way to FilmFest DC, the Washington DC International Film Festival, this spring.

Thanks to an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign, Samantha and Jesse raised more than $30,000 for their project. They also secured private investors and Ottawa-based brewery Beau's jumped on board as a beer sponsor. "Beau's beer for Bo," says Samantha with a laugh. "It's in a lot of scenes, it's almost a drinking game."

> *We always thought 'we're funny, right?' And we decided to put it down on paper.*
> **Samantha Herman**

And indeed the on-screen siblings do drink a lot of Beau's Lug Tread beer, especially when they challenge each other to a round of mental Battleship. It's one of the many complicated, no-board board games Samantha and Jesse actually play in real life.

With fast-paced dialogue, plenty of references to television shows and movies – like *Game of Thrones* and the 1994 Keanu Reeves movie *Speed* – and two romantic storylines, *Let's Rap* is a feel-good comedy. But Jesse notes that much of it is based in reality.

That means, of course, the main characters are Jewish. "Our humour is Jewish humour," says Jesse. "That's what we grew up on, so that was important for us to keep."

The cinematic siblings are also incredibly close. And in reality, Jesse and Samantha are completely in-sync when script-writing together.

"We never fought during the actual production," says Samantha. "We only fight about non-movie stuff."

Let's Rap is distributed by the Toronto company 108 Media. It's currently available on iTunes, Amazon, Google, Vudu, Xbox and Vimeo. ■

The siblings in their younger days, top left. Jesse and Samantha today.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 4, 2016

German author pens a gripping detective novel

MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

There are many reasons to be impressed with *The Ice Queen*, the third crime detective novel by German author Nele Neuhaus to be translated into English.

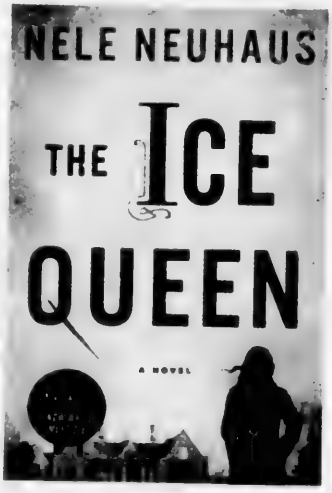
First, it is an intriguing mystery that pulls you into its labyrinthine story in its first three pages. Something is amiss right away. The perceptive reader will twig to casually adduced, seemingly benign, offhand references that grate just a little bit. Are they clues for larger developments later in the narrative, we are left to wonder? Perhaps.

The promotional material on the book's jacket cover sets the scene for the prospective reader: wealthy, elderly Holocaust survivor David Yossi Goldberg is found murdered in his home near Frankfurt. A five-digit number is smeared at the murder scene in the victim's blood. Shockingly, the autopsy on Goldberg's body discloses an old, partially visible, but unmistakable tattoo on his arm. This tattoo is an identifier of an individual's blood type etched into the inside of the arm of each member of the Nazi SS. Before any further forensic examinations can be conducted upon Goldberg's body, his family, accompanied by American and German government officials, swoops into the scene to remove the corpse.

Two other murders of seniors quickly follow. And in each case, the same five-digit number is daubed at the crime scene in the victim's blood.

That is the beginning of the tangled skein of undecipherable signs, disturbing developments and sometimes very subtle clues that must be unravelled to solve the murders.

Neuhaus is an experienced author. She has deftly constructed an intricately layered narrative that leads the reader to the story's final dramatic conclusion through a carefully manicured maze of conundrum and clue. All of the action occurs within a two-week period, and this compacted time frame helps establish an atmosphere of urgency and pressure.



The Ice Queen
by Nele Neuhaus,

Minotaur Books 2009
English translation 2014
by Steven T. Murray

Neuhaus is widely read in Germany, where more than four million copies of her books are currently in print. *The Ice Queen* follows her crime mysteries *Snow White Must Die* and *Bad Wolf*, which have now been translated into English. These books feature her two notable investigative characters, Oliver Von Bodenstein and Pia Kirchoff.

This leads to the second noteworthy aspect of *The Ice Queen*. Neuhaus' detectives are very well developed characters, which is not necessarily the norm for murder crime mysteries. Though von Bodenstein and Kirchoff are the police "heroes" of the story, by no means are they heroic in the familiar sense of the term. Neither displays particularly extraordinary traits or qualities. They are entirely "ordinary" human beings, emotionally resilient and responsive at some times, emotionally vulnerable and distant at others. Neither possesses that one great, defining skill or brilliance that leads – as we have so often seen in Hollywood finishes – to the climactic life-saving rescue. Instead, they are like anyone else plugging away at their work, despite headaches or hangovers or personal trauma at home. The one key difference, however, between their work and the work of most of the rest of us is that theirs leads them into the darkest corners of the world, and they travel mostly in the soul-shattering gutters and other low echelons of human nature.

Like the good detectives they are intended to be, von Bodenstein and Kirchoff constantly hover in the margins of the action, observing, noting, questioning and concluding. They attempt to control the investigation, but they know, in truth, that the constant unfolding of events actually controls them.

The detectives, however, are not the dominant characters in the story. The dominant characters are the individuals affiliated – as family, friends and acquaintances – with a prominent family within German industry, stalwart philanthropists, societal elites whose connections reach across continents. They are the individuals who comprise the large circle of players who stir the story's many mysteries and orchestrate its multiple murders, the core suspects in the murders and assorted other miscreants.

But darkly kept secrets and deceptions lie hidden deep within the centre of the circle. They have been assiduously interwoven over the years into a mesh that ultimately entraps and destroys all who become caught in its menace and pathology.

And this is the third compelling aspect of the work. The essence of *The Ice Queen* is the author's reflection upon the profoundly corrupting, corrosive and self-destructive effect of holding onto and constructing an entire life and personal history based upon a foundation of malevolent intrigue and dark, evil secrets. In the case of *The Ice Queen*, those guarded falsehoods reach back into the sinister days of the Third Reich.

For this reader, that was the fourth and most gripping aspect of the book. The story is a personal confrontation by a German author born after World War II with the hideous cruelties wrought by her countrymen fewer than three decades before she was born in 1967. The book examines, with considerable conscience and narrative flair, the unspeakable suffering brought upon the world by the Nazis. It also explores the devastation wrought upon Germans opposed to Nazis.

The Ice Queen powerfully depicts human devastation and suffering in its microcosmic form. The grotesque brutality perpetrated by the Nazis on an entire continent, on their own country, on countless suffering peoples – especially, of course, the Jewish People – can most truly be grasped in the cruelty perpetrated upon specific individuals and their families.

In *The Ice Queen*, Nele Neuhaus artfully reminds us that the flame that burns deep within the soul seeking justice, seeking to calm an anguish that echoes from a far-away scarred past, cannot be extinguished by deception and guile. Eventually, a house of evil collapses onto itself, toppled by the unbearable weight of its horrific sins. ■

Leizer and Chaimie get Trumped

Chaimie and Leizer

The following is an actual iMessage conversation between Chaimie and Leizer as recorded in the month of January 2016. Reader discretion is advised.

Leizer: Hey Chaimie, how do you like Trump's "schlonged" comment re: Hillary? He's one of us, I told you!
Chaimie: Hey Leizy, I suppose he is, if you mean he's an anti-Semite :(
Leizer: Are you jk?... One of his comments was that he wants the people counting his money to wear those beanies on their heads. What greater honour could there be?
Chaimie: Gee, I dunno – maybe electing the first Jewish American president, as opposed to a New Yorker who enjoys helping with the continued massacre of the Yiddish language?
Leizer: Massacre? You're totally getrumped... See, even his NAME is Yiddish... Schlong is clearly a German snake (or is that Merkel?)
Chaimie: BITE my German snake. You're joking, right? You're not actually into this guy? At a campaign fundraiser for N.Y. Jews, he referred to us as "You people," with barely veiled references to "us" being "good negotiators"... Now, don't get me wrong here – we are good – the best! – but HE can't say that!
Leizer: But that's his beauty. He speaks what's on his mind. He's fearless. He's like Jesus, if Jesus were the opposite of Jesus in every other capacity... Look, you know the old presidential test of who would you rather sit down for a beer with. Who would you rather sit down with for smoked meat? Of course it's Trump!... Bernie might be vegan for all we know (And meanwhile Hillary has a "ham" in her maiden name). Face it: Trump is going to make Yiddish great again!
Chaimie: You know who IS like Jesus? Bernie *farkakten* Sanders, the socialist, the Shalom Achshavnik, the defender of the poor, who CLEARLY doesn't give a *shoyt* about "appearances," his hair or otherwise. He's a kibbutznik, for Chrissake! And you're pro-Donald, Shallow Be His Name. Typical you.
Leizer: Would you put a kibbutznik in charge of a country? Breakfast, maybe, but that's it.
Chaimie: Look, I admit their not known for their cuisine, but they built Israel up from nothing, and that's what America needs right now, a builder. Not a gambler (who's own casinos go broke)...

Make that *they're and *whose
Leizer: (It's OK – you don't need to correct anything. In the world of Trump, nothing you write or say ever needs to get corrected. It's a mechayeh!)... Look, I think you've been spending too much time getting "gefiltered" at Phish concerts, Bern-ing a few too many in a Green Mountain state on one of your usual "cross-border shopping" trips and you've lost touch with your roots. The Donald, who, by the way, I now prefer to call The Dovid – full name, Dovid Trompldik – may not be perfect, he may not be nice, he may not even be a good businessman, but since we're hip to go back to trends like beards and mutton chops, why can't we go back to political incorrectness and infantile "my dad will beat up your dad" talk? Also, do you SEE the way he repeatedly repeats the word China? It's like he's a shmatte maven, cursing them out.
Chaimie: I can see how you appreciate him as the more "Judaic" candidate (albeit not the more Jewish), as he is a classic misogynist and xenophobe, like most of the ancient Israelites.
Leizer: There you go again, *epikoiris*! When the Dovid has spoken, there will be a registry of anti-Semites like you. And your name will be in capital letters.
Chaimie: Baruch hashish.
Leizer: What?
Chaimie: Ducking autocorrect.
Leizer: Ducking indeed.
Chaimie: *Gey duckin' in yam.* ■

Like this debate? Watch YidLife Crisis' Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion debate live in their recently released JDOV video from Limmud UK, on their YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/user/yidlifecrisis) And watch for their Valentine's Day episode starring Mayim Bialik, premiering Feb. 11!

Inbal
This Passover your kids will ask "why is this view different from all others"?
Celebrate Passover at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel with breathtaking views of the Old City and warm Jerusalem hospitality. Enjoy sumptuous gourmet cuisine prepared by the Inbal's Executive Chef whether at our festive Seder with fellow guests or in a private dining room with family and friends
VARIETY OF PACKAGES AVAILABLE
WWW.INBALHOTEL.COM
* Rates are for double room in USD ! More deta ils, rooms options and terms will apply
* Kashrut glatt meat ,mehadrin products only, no kitniyot, hand shmura matza for seder, gebrokts
* Reservations made by February 10th, 2016 will receive a 10% discount!

ISRAEL'S
THE JUDAICA CENTRE
MEGA
WINTER SALE
FEBRUARY 7 - 8, 2016 | 10am - 6pm
BOOKS, STARTING AT 30% OFF*
GIFTWARE, STARTING AT 40% OFF*
1172 Eglinton Avenue West • 416-256-1010
441 Clark Avenue West • 905-881-1010
www.israelsjudaica.com
*SOME EXCEPTIONS APPLY - IN STORE SALES ONLY
ISRAEL'S
THE JUDAICA CENTRE
SPEND $50 OR MORE AT OUR SALE, RECEIVE
$10 OFF YOUR NEXT PURCHASE
Over $50, before tax. Coupon valid February 15-29, 2016.
Some exceptions apply.

Fall Into Love at Valentine's Day concert

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Mitch Smolkin will sing songs of love on Feb. 14. Pictured at right is singer Amanda Martinez JOHNNY LOPERA PHOTO

> *To be able to love takes tremendous courage.*
>
> **Mitch Smolkin**

Looking for the perfect gift for Valentine's Day? Or maybe you want to make a reservation at a high-end Toronto restaurant, book a romantic winter getaway or even learn how to survive the day if you're single.

There's no shortage of ideas online, along with tips for avoiding stress and disappointment the next day. Apparently, people who put a lot of pressure on themselves and their partners to make Valentine's Day special can end up feeling disappointed when the reality falls short of their expectations.

Mitch Smolkin, a well-known local singer who, somewhat surprisingly, is also a certified couples therapist, said the cliché about holidays, including Valentine's Day, being a source of stress is true. Valentine's Day "should ostensibly be a time when you're focusing on the relationship. That certainly can be the positive effect. But if the intimate bond between the couple is not healthy, the stress of a holiday can highlight that," he said.

Smolkin suggested planning low-key activities that will make your partner comfortable. That could include going to his Valentine's Day concert, Fall Into Love, at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts to hear some of the most beautiful love songs ever written.

But you won't necessarily have to be in the company of a romantic partner to enjoy the show. "Music on a biological level taps into the part of our brain that is responsible for emotions. We hear a song and we're moved or taken back 30 years," Smolkin said.

The concert opens with a song about falling. To quote the show's webpage, "Falling is about being vulnerable, letting go and allowing your heart to lead the way."

Smolkin said there's a "part of ourselves, no matter how tightly we hold ourselves, that is always extremely vulnerable. To be able to love takes tremendous courage. Falling and being vulnerable is one of the scariest things to do in one's life."

Love songs have been around for centuries. The oldest one is thought to be *The Love Song for Shu-Sin*, written circa 2000 BCE in ancient Mesopotamia. One of several love songs composed for King Shu-Sin, it speaks of a close and personal relationship with the goddess of love.

On the popularity of love songs, Smolkin said we need attachments from the cradle to the grave. When we feel hopeless, when we fall and when we take risks, having someone next to us keeps us stable and helps us get through it, he added.

"In writing about love, it's a way to express a powerful emotion," he said. "I think it also betrays the fact that we desperately want to connect and to love and to feel safe."

The former artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival, Smolkin has performed around the world as a Yiddish singer. He wanted to learn some new repertoire, including songs in English, and the Valentine's Day concert snowballed from there.

"I love that I'm investing more in my music because training as a therapist really took over a great deal of my time, and I felt I didn't have the time to hit the pavement and tour," he said. He added that he's also a little daunted by this relaunch of his music career and "scared to death to take that leap again, both for practical reasons and probably because it's a gamble."

Along with Smolkin, the show features singers Gabi Epstein, Amanda Martinez and David Dunbar. They'll be performing songs in five languages, including French ballads of Charles Aznavour, love songs of The Beatles, melodies of Broadway, tunes from the Great American Songbook, Yiddish ballads and Hebrew spirituals. Guitarist Levon Ichkhanian, pianist David Warrack, violinist Anna Atkinson and mandolinist Eric Stein accompany the singers. ■

For tickets to Fall Into Love at 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts on Feb. 14, visit www.tocentre.com, call Ticketmaster at 1-855-985-2787 or visit the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts box office.

WE PAY TOP PRICE FOR YOUR JEWELLERY AND YOUR TIME

Bring your Gold, Diamonds & Jewellery for a Free Evaluation & Get Paid $50.00 per hour for your Time*

Everything is done in front of you & your jewellery never leaves your sight

There is no obligation to sell, but we will *GUARANTEE HIGHEST PRICE IF YOU DO*

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

MCD JEWELLERY

BUY • SELL • TRADE

2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

*By Appointment Only. Certain Conditions Apply. Please Enquire

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services

We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs

• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations

Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years

2 year warranty

WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*

Seniors Never Pay Tax

*on projects over $1,000. before tax.

Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement

CJN

We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.

Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com

We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

Show re-imagines the songs of Leonard Cohen

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Chelsea Hotel: The Songs of Leonard Cohen is part cabaret, part theatre, a show about a poet suffering from writer's block who's visited by five singers, some of whom are former lovers.

"The show is a re-imagining of Leonard Cohen's music," said Brian Goldenberg, executive director of Theatre 20, adding the writer goes on a journey through songs of love and loss.

Arriving in Toronto in February direct from Edmonton's Citadel Theatre, *Chelsea Hotel* is presented by Theatre 20 and Theatre Passe Muraille. *Chelsea Hotel* has played to sold-out audiences across Western Canada since 2012.

The show is loosely set in the infamous Chelsea Hotel in New York, where Cohen lived for a time in the 1960s and whose guests once ranged from Mark Twain to the punk rocker Sid Vicious. The title also refers to one of Cohen's well-known songs.

When introducing *Chelsea Hotel* in concert, Cohen used to tell a story about meeting a famous singer in an elevator at the Chelsea, which led to the sexual encounter he describes in the song.

A celebration of Cohen's music, the show features 26 of his songs. The cast of six plays 17 instruments, some of which you wouldn't expect to hear on his songs. "You may hear ukulele and cello in *Suzanne*; accordion, guitar and violin in *Take This Waltz*; accordion in *Joan of Arc*; banjolele in *No Way to Say Goodbye* and ukulele and guitar in *Lover, Lover, Lover*," said Tracey Power, who developed *Chelsea Hotel*.

"It's the arrangements themselves that I think bring a new sound to some of the songs."

In *Famous Blue Raincoat*, the instruments and voices have been arranged to reflect raindrops. Power asked her musical arranger, Steve Charles, to create a sound for the world of the show that was circus-like at times and highly imaginative. It embraces the element of surprise and allows an audience to hear well-known songs again for the first time, Power said in an email.

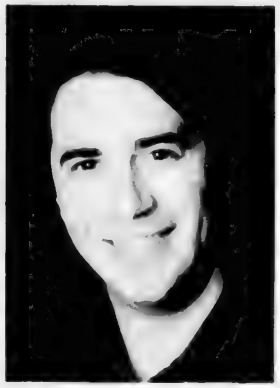
"This world would also allow audience members not as familiar with Cohen to be included and not feel like they were on the outside of a world so well known to others."

Surprisingly, Cohen's music was not the focus of the show in her original conception. "It started as a piece that was storytelling through purely movement and accordion music. Very much like what a silent film would look like," Power said. "I wondered what would happen if I took the same idea, but instead of accordion music, it was the music of Leonard Cohen. I never thought of any other artist. It was the poetic nature of his lyrics that inspired imagination and creativity and through his music could be beautifully interpreted on stage."

She added that the show's dance element supports the songs, like backup singers or dancers in a band. "I've expanded on that idea and used it to express emotions, action and to keep the show flowing and moving continuously from one song to the next."

The cast includes Rachel Aberle, Sean Cronin, Christina Cuglietta, Benjamin Elliot, Jonathan Gould and Power, who also directs the show. ■

The cast of *Chelsea Hotel* MAT SIMPSON PHOTO



Brian Goldenberg

> *It was the poetic nature of his lyrics that inspired imagination and creativity and through his music could be beautifully interpreted on stage.*
>
> **Tracey Power, musical's developer**

Chelsea Hotel: *The Songs of Leonard Cohen previews at Theatre Passe Muraille on Feb. 3, opens on Feb. 4, and runs to Feb. 21. For tickets, visit http://passemuraille.ca. A Valentine's Day Soiree, in support of Theatre 20, whose mission is to advance the development of musical theatre in Canada, includes dinner at the Banknote Bar near King and Bathurst, the show and a post-show reception with the cast in the Theatre Passe Muraille lounge. For more information about the soiree, visit www.theatre20.com.*

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

FEBRUARY FALL CLEARANCE
AT YOUR LOCAL NAOT STORE
Women's Collection
Magnolia
Sirocco
Kedma
Men's Collection
Pilot
Chief
Feb. 1 - Feb. 28
Check Out Our
Fall & Winter
Clearance Sale*!
Featuring Naot styles never before seen on sale!
Santana winter boots now on sale!
NAOT
*Sale items available while supplies last
968 Eglinton Ave W,
Toronto (416) 782-4596
16635 Yonge St, Unit 8
Newmarket (905) 235-5505

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Winnipeg playwright wins Jewish writing competition

ALAN ZEITLIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, NEW YORK

Once the fire started, the 123 mostly Jewish and Italian young women had virtually no chance to survive. Doors were locked to prevent stealing, an elevator only held 12 people at a time and the flimsy fire escapes collapsed. Some jumped to their deaths and 23 men died as well. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911, in Manhattan, was one of the most harrowing horrors of American history.

Playwright Alix Sobler made this the subject of her play *The Great Divide* and on Jan. 25 was named the winner of the 2015 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition for it. Sobler received a $1,000 prize and a public reading of this work will take place at Montreal's Segal Centre for Performing Arts on Feb. 16.

In addition, her play *The Secret Annex* which imagines Anne Frank's life if she survived the Holocaust, opens Jan. 31 at the Segal Centre. Its first run was in 2014 at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre.

As she ate a salad and prepared for a rehearsal for *The Glass Piano* that will open at Columbia University on Feb. 12, she spoke about winning the award and what drives her writing.

"To get noticed in that way is such an honour," she said. "I worry sometimes that people will be less interested in stories from the past, but every once in a while, you are reassured that people recognize the relevance today."

She said her writing is informed by her feminism, her Jewish upbringing and her study of the labour movement.

"It just felt like we learned this lesson over 100 years ago and yet still workers are facing those challenges," she said. "The immigrants who worked in the factories in those days were as far away from the people who bought those clothes as we are from the women and men who work in Indonesia and Taiwan who are making our clothes now."

Alix Sobler, winner of the 2015 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition

Her script shows the women making clothes being overworked and underpaid. But even in an environment like this, one character, Rosa Friedman, finds love. Anne Frank also falls in love in *The Secret Annex*.

Sobler is getting her MFA in playwriting from Columbia University. Born in New York, she now splits her time between New York and Winnipeg.

Sobler said unique depictions of women are needed. "Not just Jewish plays, but for plays in general, we like our heroines of history to be young, pretty and dead," she said. "What does it mean when a woman is alive and older than when we remember her but tries to tell her own story? Would we have cared what Anne had to say had she survived?"

> *Not just Jewish plays, but for plays in general, we like our heroines of history to be young, pretty and dead.*

She recalled how in 2014, Justin Bieber caused a stir when he visited the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.

Sobler, who is in her 30s, said the criticism was unfounded and believes Anne would have been a fan of Bieber.

"Anne Frank was obsessed with pop culture stars of the time and I think she probably would have been a 'Belieber,'" Sobler said. "I was impressed he went. When you're in the media like that, people are really hard on you and they pick on you a lot."

Sobler, whose writing is peppered with comedic elements, said she trusts her audiences.

"I don't preach to people," she said. "I don't claim to have anything figured out. Do I hope that my writing can inspire social change? Sure, but really, I encourage investigation."

Sobler's real-life love story was theatrical. While doing improv at The Fringe Festival, she met an actor at Lydia's Pub in Saskatoon.

"He was adorable," she said, dropping her fork in her bowl. "It was love at first sight."

She moved from a New York suburb to Winnipeg in 2005.

While the bar she met her husband at on Broadway Avenue in Saskatoon is now closed, she hopes to eventually open a play on Broadway in Manhattan.

"Someday," she said with a smile. "I like to dream big." ■

Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto seeks home for its books

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The future of an important Toronto-based Jewish library collection is up in the air as the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto (JGST) seeks a new home for its specialized collection of roughly 500 books and 45 periodicals.

The non-circulating collection has been housed since 1989 in the sixth-floor Canadiana room of the North York Central Library on Yonge Street, a branch of the Toronto Public Library system, where it has been accessible to patrons on an in-house, reference basis only. Although the Canadiana room has for decades been dedicated to genealogical research, the library recently announced it is "repurposing" the room, with renovation slated to begin in April or May.

Although the Toronto Reference Library has offered to take some of the JGST collection, it wants only select, non-duplicated items, which would be integrated into its present holdings, and has no interest in preserving the integrity of the JGST library as a specifically Jewish collection.

"We'd prefer to have a home for our library that would keep the entire collection intact, a place where our members and the public would have access to the collection," said Elaine Cheskes, the JGST's acting librarian. She has contacted numerous community centres, synagogue libraries, universities and other public institutions seeking a new home for the collection, but so far has found no takers.

According to Cheskes, the society also considered putting the library into storage, as was done with the former Toronto Jewish Public Library when it closed its doors in the Lipa Green Centre building some years ago.

"It's an expensive proposition, and we don't have the money," she said. "The Jewish Public Library has been in storage for eight years. We don't want that to happen to us. It's almost better to donate the collection and let the public have access to the books, rather than lock them up in a storage space."

The JGST collection includes many volumes of local Jewish family history, Who's Who guides to Canadian Jews, how-to guides to doing research, titles on Jewish surnames, numerous Yizkor books and Holocaust titles, and items related to Jewish communities across Canada, the United States, Europe, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, South Africa and elsewhere in the Jewish Diaspora.

Both Cheskes and JGST outgoing president Les Kelman concur that until an organization or private or corporate benefactor emerges with a rescue plan, the society's options are limited to the proposal from the Toronto Public Library, which would effectively mean the dissolution of the JGST library.

"We'd lose all control, all ownership, but at least the books would still be available to the public," Kelman said. "All credit to them. They're really trying to offer us an alternative, but it's just not our first choice." ■

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Morris Goodman, Lillian Vineberg, Monette Malewski and Clarence Epstein

Stephanie Coriat and Muriel Pariente

Rosalie Jukier, Mitzi Dobrin, Lauren Dobrin and Lewis Dobrin

Robert and Rhoda Vineberg

Stolen

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem couldn't have chosen a more fitting setting for a tribute to the Max Stern Art Restitution Project (a global initiative to reclaim Nazi-looted art) than an art gallery – in this case the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. A capacity crowd of 120 art enthusiasts were also treated to a showing of *Stolen*, a documentary film on the life of Max Stern. Funds raised will benefit the Hebrew University and the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism. ■ – *The Socialite*

Karys Marcus, Irwin and Sara Tauben

Ralph and Angela Lipper

Dr. Albert Cohen and Karen Cohen

Lillian Shiller and Evelyn Bloomfield Schachter

Miriam Shuster and Simon Bensimon

Paul Deegan and Rebecca Goldfarb

Naomi and Eric Bissell

RYAN BLAU PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining CôR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com
Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

FEB. 4 – FEB. 11

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Feb. 4

BREAKING THE STIGMA
A panel of experts including **Dr. Marshall Korenblum** and **Dr. Lesley Wiesenfeld** discuss "Depression and suicide in the Jewish community," 7 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

YIDDISH VINKL
Jack Newman discusses the publication of his father's Holocaust memoirs, noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20 (includes lunch). RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

LUNCH AND LEARN
Yakov Fruchter teaches Torah for people in their 20s and 30, at Rive Gauche Media, 920 Yonge St., 12:15 p.m. Email yfruchter@beth-tzedec.org

Saturday, Feb. 6

CAMP RAMAH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
New and returning campers in grades 1-4 are invited to laser tag and bowling at Rinx, 7-9 p.m., $5. RSVP www.campramah.com

MAD FOR MAIMONIDES
Rabbi Michael Satz discusses "Getting perplexed with Maimonides," after services. Author **Dara Horn** discusses her novel *A Guide for the Perplexed*, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

ISLAM AND JUDAISM
Prof. Liyakat Takim discusses "Islam and Judaism: interactions in scripture, ritual and history," 1:15 p.m., First Narayever Congregation.

Sunday, Feb. 7

ISRAEL'S HIDDEN TREASURES
Rachel Urowitz discusses "Israel's hidden treasures," at Beth David Synagogue's World Wide Wrap event, 9:15 a.m. RSVP 416-633-5500.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Feb. 18 is Feb. 8. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Welcome to the neighbourhood

Mendel Aisenbach, far left, delivered challah to MP Marco Mendicino Jan. 18, the day he opened his constituency office in Eglinton Lawrence. Also on hand were MPs Michael Levitt (York Centre) and Kamal Khera (Brampton West). Aisenbach was delivering challah on behalf of Rabbi Akiva Wagner and the Yeshivas Chabad Lubavitch of Toronto.

STOLEN BOOKS
Eric Gertner discusses "Law and restoration of books," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

WORLD WIDE WRAP
Beth Tzedec Congregation celebrates the World Wide Wrap and the mitzvah of putting on tfillin. *TSN*'s **Mark Masters** will speak at the minyan breakfast about "Wrapped up in hockey," 8:30 a.m. No charge, but RSVP 416-781-3511.

Monday, Feb. 8

ROSH CHODESH
Rosh Chodesh Society, a women's only class, with **Goldie Plotkin** meets at 8 p.m., Chabad Markham.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Deli Man*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz**. $5.

HOW DYNAMIC IS HALACHAH?
Rabbi Jonathan Ziring discusses "Why can Halachah be flexible under extenuating circumstances?" 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

FROM SUGARCANE TO SHUL
Jerry Kreindler discusses the history of Barbados Jews, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB MEETING
Israel Stamp Club discusses "Buying, selling and trading stamps on the Internet," Antibes Community Centre, 7 p.m. 416-226-2050.

REFUGEE CRISIS
Congregation Darchei Noam presents a panel on the multifaith efforts to help Syrian refugees, 7 p.m. $5/$10.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

LUNCH AND LEARN
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "The ethics of showrooming: browsing in store and buying online," 12:30 p.m., at Miller Bernstein, 5000 Yonge St. No charge, but RSVP 416-482-7050, ext. 288 or cchoi@millerbernstein.com

YIDDISH AND EBONICS
Prof. Kalman Weiser discusses the development of Yiddish and African-American vernacular English, 6:30 p.m., Temple Kol Ami.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for a volunteer to play piano in its musical matinee program. Call **Cheryl Besner**, 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

Circle of Care and Jewish Hospice Programs are looking for volunteers to visit and support individuals with a life-threatening illness and their families. A 30-hour training course is provided, starting Feb. 8. Contact **Arnold Foss**, 416-635-2900, ext. 496, or afoss@circleofcare.com.

Circle of Care is looking for a Yiddish-speaking male volunteer to lead a men's discussion group Monday afternoons. Volunteers also needed for kosher meals on wheels program and friendly visiting. Call **Lisa**, 416-635-2900, ext. 284.

A TRIBUTE TO SHOLOM ALEICHEM
Friends of Yiddish hosts "A tribute to Sholom Aleichem," featuring **Janie Respitz**, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free for members, $10 for non-members. RSVP yiddish18@yahoo.ca

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

- Effective parenting: A 4-session group for parents of children aged 2-10. Starts Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
- The challenge of anger for women: A 6-session group for women to learn how to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggresive way. Starts Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

◗ Parenting the child/teen with ADHD: A 4-week group for parents who want to learn more about ADHD and develop strategies to assist their child at home and school. Starts Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
◗ High conflict divorce: A workshop for parents in a high conflict situation who want to develop strategies and help lessen the impact on their children. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call **Beth Feffer**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155
Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Bring your own lunch and learn day. Participate in a discussion about the book *The Story of Beautiful Girl*, Feb. 4, 11 a.m., followed by singers **Faye Kellerstein** and **Noreen Horowitz**, who perform songs by "The ladies of Broadway," at 1:30 p.m.

Film critic **Shlomo Schwartzberg** discusses and shows clips of romantic films, Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112.
Feb. 7, Sunday concert: Resa's Pieces Singers perform at 1:30 p.m.; Feb. 9, lecture on "Love in art," 10 a.m.;
Feb. 11, Wellness lecture on "Antibiotics and probiotics," 1:30 p.m.; Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881.
Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, knitting circle and more. Casino trip March 16.
◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.**
Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.
◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Yakov Fruchter** discusses issues of interest to seniors, Feb. 8, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.
◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
◗ **Wagman Community Centre.** Learn about the pros and cons of being screened for cancer, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. $3 for non-members. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.
◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment etc.) and catered lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Call **Amy**, 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Thursdays, 10 a.m.
◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Men's cycle class, Feb. 4-March 24, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong, Feb. 24-March 30, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "They went thataway! Why film genres are popular," Feb. 3-24, 1 p.m.
◗ Family Day events, Feb. 15. Family yoga, ages 12 and up, 1 p.m.
◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa**, "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," March 8-22, 1 p.m.

Miles Nadal JCC

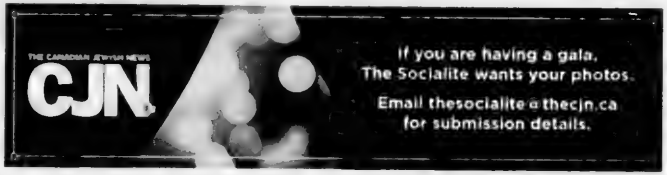
750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

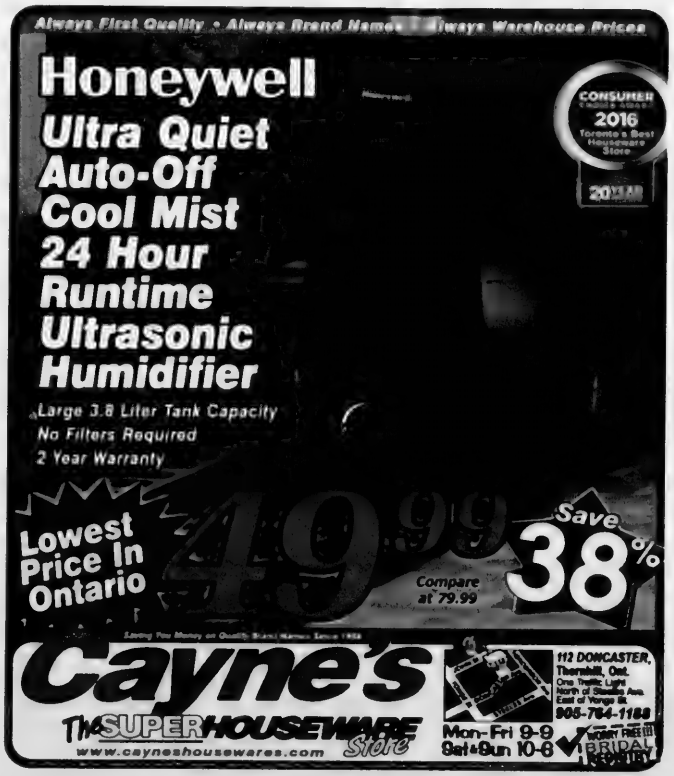
◗ *Voicing Perspective*, featuring visual art and photography from artists with disabilities, is on display at the gallery until Feb. 24.
◗ **Shlomo Schwartzberg** discusses "Jewish sensibility in Hollywood films," Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Body positive storytelling: accessible theatre for youth aged 16-24 of all abilities. Free. Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.
◗ Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez**, Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Wheel dance: Latin dance.
Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays until Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ A forum on affordable housing for people with disabilities, with panellists **Remo Agostino**, **Bryan Keshen**, **Nancy Singer**, **Adam Vaughan**, **Jijian Voronka** will be held Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre.
◗ Havana Nights, a concert in support of music programming at the MNjcc will be held Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets $50 at uofttix.ca/havananights. Patron tickets, ext. 328.
◗ From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Ext. 567.
◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org
◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ Royal Conservatory of Music presents *Shirei Eretz*: the hidden story of the songs of Israel, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong runs Tuesdays, Feb. 23-March 29, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Boomerang Health presents "How to lead a more active lifestyle with your kids," by physiotherapist **Kaite Chircop**, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
◗ Free bagel breakfast and socializing, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. ■





MARRIED WITH KIDS

Thoughts on grandparenting

Lauren Kramer

A few years ago, I was asked to write a story about grandparenting and was supplied with a list of names of suitable grandparents whose input I was to solicit. The story was about the difference between loving indulgence and spoiling your grandchildren. How much did these grandparents value time spent with their grandchildren, and how did they spend that time?

One, an investment adviser, had taken his entire family to Israel in honour of his granddaughter's bat mitzvah. "It was an incredible trip, worth every penny we spent," he said. Now that she was grown, he and his wife would frequently take her out for dinner to chat about her career and accomplishments.

Another described the special trips he and his wife had taken with each of their grandkids for their respective bar and bat mitzvahs – to Alaska, London and on a cruise. "They were wonderful experiences that the three of us could share just among ourselves," he recalled.

Their responses had a lasting impact on me, as they set an extraordinarily high bar for grandparent-grandchildren interactions. They compelled me to reflect on the kind of grandparents I'd known and the kind I want to be someday when my own kids are grown.

It strikes me that there's a definite balance between the boundaries of grandparenting versus daily child care, and it's one that divides grandparents into two distinct camps. There are those who gladly assume child-care responsibilities, stepping in to look after their grandkids when their children are working or having fun. As child-care providers, they prepare meals, shuffle their grandkids to friends and activities, and double-up as parents when the kids' mothers or fathers aren't able or willing to fill the role.

Then there are others who fiercely protect the recreational space in their own lives and are willing to spend time with their grandkids, but only on their own terms. That might mean a sleepover when it's convenient, an excursion to the toy store to select a gift on birthdays, and an occasional shared meal. But it doesn't include any of the drudgery of daily child care – no dealing with tantrums, no discipline, no trying to reason with an overtired toddler that he or she needs to eat/bathe/rest. "Been there, done that with my own kids," is their mantra. "Not willing to do *all that* again."

My parents used to grumble about my grandma when I was a child. "She spends no money on the kids," I overheard my dad complain. "I wish she would spoil them more."

It was true: there weren't many material gifts coming our way from our Gran, but when it came to time and interest in her grandchildren, she put in the hours. She'd listen as I played the piano, offer support as I studied for exams and welcome me for sleepovers when my parents and I weren't seeing eye to eye.

Hers was my little sanctuary-away-from-home at times, and those memories are so strong that on a recent visit back to the city where she'd taken her last breath 19 years ago, I knocked on the door of her old home and asked to enter, just to be in that space one more time. Just in case I could still feel something of her within its walls.

I know I want to be close with my grandkids one day, but the question I ponder is, how close? Will I be the grandma that performs night-nurse duty when the grandkids are infants so my own daughters can get their beauty sleep? Will I be the one accepting Friday night invitations and arriving with flowers and an empty stomach, or will I host the whole family? Will I babysit gladly on a Saturday night, or will I decline in favour of a night out myself? It's hard to anticipate how forthcoming I'll be when the time comes.

This much I know: I'll not want my kids to take advantage of my time. There will be a tipping point between their child-care needs and my willingness to help raise their kids. I just hope that balance is a fair and respected one, and that my future sons- and daughters-in-law won't get out the knives each time I leave the room. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
82 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Joey & Lisa Kardish welcomed Sadie Billie Nov 13. Mazel tov sister Jessie, bubbies and zaidies Rose & Howard Kardish, Carole & Marshall Snider. Great-Bubbie Edzia.

Welcome Hayden Mitchell Fink! Parents Allan & Robyn, first time grandparents Norman & Carol Fink, Ron & Elaine Spilberg. Fourth great-grandchild for Bubbie Sunny!

Liora Bensoussan & Ronnie Hauptman are engaged! Parents Adelia & David, Marta & Joe and family Talia, Eytan, Ilana, Naomi, Jordy, Rosie & Jamie.

To my beautiful wife. Thank you for 50 years of friendship, love, family, and a wonderful life. All my love, Elie (Oni).

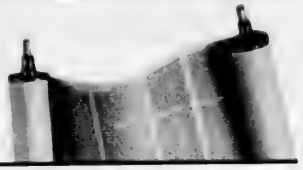
Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to chicki@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Parshah

Mishpatim | Exodus 21:1-24:18



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier finds a connection between grand revelation and our day-to-day lives
Rabbi Denise Handlarski reflects on kashrut laws and asks: 'What does it mean to eat Jewishly?'
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen sees the kippah as a reminder that someone is always watching over us

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

At the end of last week's parshah, we concluded on a spiritual high with the revelation at Mount Sinai. God promised that we will be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). The Ten Commandments paint a picture of an ideal world, and the experience of hearing and seeing God seems to present a spiritual ideal.

This week, as we read Mishpatim, we are brought down from the intense experience of Sinai. We are reminded that the real world requires a slightly different focus than we had when we contemplated the depths of peoplehood, mission and Torah.

Mishpatim is full of detailed laws – laws about how to treat others, laws to deal with theft and manslaughter, laws about a fair justice system and laws on how to serve God. The laws in Mishpatim help us navigate relationships with others.

However, even in the mundane world of interpersonal laws, the concept of holiness emerges. Situated in Parshat Mishpatim is the verse: "You shall be holy people to me" (Exodus 22:30). While it's possible that this verse refers to the food we ingest (mentioned in the same verse), the word "holy" connects our everyday laws with the grand revelation.

The Kotzker Rebbe taught that the Torah is teaching us to be holy in a human way when dealing with the temptations of normal people. He wrote that God already has enough angels. The Torah teaches us how to be holy humans.

Mishpatim teaches that when we treat people properly, when we have just courts and when we avoid bad behaviour, we can achieve holiness. Our ideal is not necessarily the heights of Mount Sinai and trying to be physically close to God. Rather, our ideal is to achieve closeness to God by the holiness of our day-to-day interactions. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

Food for thought: you are what you eat. As Jews, do we eat Jewishly? If so, what does that mean?

Food is the stuff of the quotidian: the every day rhythms of the day, and the necessities that allow us to do what we do. And yet food is much more than that. We can grow it, we can cook it, and we can feed our loved ones as a sign of our care-taking.

For Jews, food has always been part of the construction of our peoplehood and the expression of our shared identity. Mishpatim mentions the laws of kashrut, the dietary restrictions, in a slew of passages that detail laws to be followed and holidays to be celebrated. All of these highlight how the formation of the law led to the formation of a people. Eating in a specific way, ensuring that people eat with only those in their same group, was a very concrete way to create and keep the people as separate from others.

Many Jews today still maintain that they keep kosher because it reminds them of their Jewishness in the small and everyday decisions and actions around food. Of course, there are many of us Jews who do not keep kosher, for there are other markers of culture and peoplehood that may be more valuable or relevant to our own lives. Some of us also find that there are other measures for ethical eating, whether supporting local products, those that are fairly traded, environmentally sustainable, vegetarian, etc., that better serve our desire, our sense of Jewish responsibility, to lessen our impact and increase our good in the world.

However we choose to understand how the laws of kashrut impact us, may we all find nourishment, sustenance, and pleasure in our food and those with whom we share it. ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

In view of a recent call in France for Jews not to wear their kippah in public to prevent anti-Semitic attacks, it's important to discuss it further.

A kippah is a vital custom for men, which became part of Torah. It reminds us that someone is always watching over us.

"Yarmulke" is made up the words "yirah malka," fear of God, so when one wears it, one acquires the fear of God.

Jews have survived and thrived throughout history because we have stood out with pride, wearing our kippot on our heads, keeping our traditions and not giving up. If one is in real danger, one may wear a cap.

But by wearing a kippah, we are making a statement to ourselves and to the Jewish people. It's a statement of our commitment to Judaism and to the Jewish People. The world respects those who wear a kippah because they stand for something. We act as ambassadors for the Jewish People.

There's an amazing story that the mother of the Lubavitcher Rebbe told: They were on a train in Russia, escaping to a safer haven, and anti-Semitism was at an all-time high. Suddenly, the Rebbe took out his tallit and tfillin and began to pray. The Rebbe's mother was petrified and thought a pogrom would break out! But instead, the non-Jews near them formed a wall around the Rebbe, as if to protect him, until he finished his prayers!

It's easy to remember God in shul, but Jewish consciousness is meant to pervade all aspects of our lives, how we treat others, how we do business and how we look at the world 24-7.

That said, no matter what level of observance you're at, let's all wear our kippot with pride in public! For Jews to give up their kippah, would be like handing an easy victory to the terrorists. ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto.
Email: yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

150 HEATH ST. BOUTIQUE BLDG FOREST HILL
2 Bedroom, 1935 Sq. Ft. Large Living Room/Dining Room Rarely Available. Converted To Ford [SOLD] Gas. Valet Prkg. Mark Cowan* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/SHEPPARD, SHANE BAGHAI BUILT LUXURY BOUTIQUE BUILDING
$304,900. 1 Bedroom Suite W/ Parking And Locker, Great Facilities, Near Shopping, Subway, Hwys. Nathalie Gheorghiu* 416-226-1987

NEW PRICE- LARGE 2 BDRM, 2 BATH
Opportunity For Ownership! Update This Unit And Call It Home. Gym, Pool, Sauna. 2 Parking Spots, Interior Storage And Solarium. South View! Call Listing Agent To See This Unit! Marlene Baranek* 416-785-1500

EXCEPTIONAL YORK MILLS/YONGE 3 BDRM PENTHOUSE IN PRIVATE RAVINE SETTING $2,799,000
Approx 4400 sf of grand living, 1-ft ceilings, open style living rm, formal dining rm, multiple balconies. Floor to ceiling windows, 4 car parking, full amenities incl. 24 hr concierge. M. Merrick* & S. Merrick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTY

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE + 320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! SOUTH OF LAWRENCE!
$4,000/Mo! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2Car Parking! Currently Used As Restaurant! Fab Opportunity! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

ESSIE SHER

Rutherford/Dufferin
$1,375,000.00
on a quiet court
Stunning Brand New 4bdr, 3 upper w/r 3000sqft of luxury Custom kit.

Major Mac/Dufferin
$779.000.00
New Town home on Ravine 3bdr high ceilings Upgraded open concept Master loft Patio terrace 2 car tandem garage

Call **Essie Sher 416-464-5261**
SUTTON GROUP-ADMIRAL REALTY BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

120 Shelborne
1 bdrm from $1295.00 & 2 bdrm from $1595.00. Sabbath elevator, close to synagogues, school & shops.
New! Ladies & Men's gym
Children's Playroom
Ask for Mila at Medallion Corporation
Call **416-256-0660** or **416-782-4120**

MARINA YUSUFOV
Sales Representative
C: 416-414-9224 • B: 416-739-7200
Sutton Sutton Group-Admiral Realty Inc

DETACHED HOME IN MOST PRESTIGIOUS LOCATION OF THORNHILL!
Atkinson/Bathurst/Centre, detached home, 4 bedrooms, 4 washrooms, approx. 3000 sq. ft., finished basement. Totally renovated top to bottom! **$1,298,000**

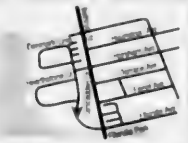
IMMACULATE CUSTOM BUILT 2 STOREY AT YONGE/STEELES!
Premium 73x153 ft lot in Thornhill. Immaculate built, 2 storey home with lots of upgrades, finished basement with 2 bed, 2 baths, kitchen. Circular oak staircase, fireplace, modern kitchen and much more. One of a kind landscaping, must see! **$1,758,000**

4 SEASONS WATERFRONT COTTAGE IN ORILIA
Gorgeous cottage at Simcoe to enjoy the nature! Approx. 3000 sq. ft. **$1,298,000**

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN.
REPLYING TO AN AD WITH A CJN BOX NUMBER?
Address your mail to:
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
1250 Steeles Ave. W
Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 10 days.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD



Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available Feb/Mar.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

SUMMA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Professional Property Management & Consulting

We get "TOP MARKS" for Management, Consulting and Renting! Our superior service includes managing multi-unit Residential/Commercial/ Retail/Industrial properties. We also offer specialized services to manage and rent condo properties.
647-341-7990
www.summapm.com
propman@summapm.com

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Experienced caregiver for evenings & wkends **ONLY**, avail. to travel, driver's license. Ref. 647-280-9435.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

A nurse from Israel assisting elderly, adults, children & infants w/regular or special needs. Liza-647-206-9947

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militana. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

380 DRIVING

I am a reliable exp. driver w/a clean driving record, to take you shopping, to appointments, etc. at reasonable cost. Ref. on request. Call Michael: 905-889-4154

385 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

433 LESSONS

Art Classes for beginners & advanced for adults & children. Pts Call: 416-785-0958

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683. BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

480 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install, plus repairs on all models. Residential & commercial. 416-722-5225

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the **Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000**

Sweet alternatives to regular flour

DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The baking aisle has never been so versatile as it is these days. Alternatives to regular wheat flour abound and there's plenty of choice among sweeteners. For those with gluten intolerances, there are premixed gluten free all-purpose flour blends as well as almond meal flour, quinoa flour, sorghum flour, brown rice flour, tapioca flour and potato starch. Instead of regular granulated sugar, you can select coconut sugar, low calorie sugar replacements, agave, honey, maple syrup, brown rice syrup or stevia.

Coconut oil chocolate chip cookies

Coconut oil and coconut sugar is all the rage nowadays due to its many health and nutrient properties (most especially related to its fatty acids which turn into ketones). Since it's solid at room temperature, like butter or margarine, it can be substituted in many baking items, even where creaming is required. It does have quite a strong flavour so expect some overtones of coconut in these scrumptious, soft on the inside, crisp on the edges cookies.

- ❑ 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ❑ 2/3 cup large flake rolled oats
- ❑ ½ tsp. baking powder
- ❑ ½ tsp. baking soda
- ❑ ¼ tsp. salt
- ❑ ½ cup coconut oil, at room temperature
- ❑ ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
- ❑ ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ❑ 1 large egg, at room temperature
- ❑ 1 tsp. pure vanilla
- ❑ 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 375. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper; set aside.

Whisk together the flour, rolled oats, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a bowl; set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle, or using a hand-held mixer, beat the coconut oil for 1 minute. Beat in the sugars until the mixture is thoroughly combined, about 3 minutes. Scrape down the dough. Beat in the egg. Beat in the vanilla. Remove the bowl from the stand.

Using a wooden spoon, stir the flour mixture into the butter mixture, in two additions. Stir in the chocolate chips.

Form the cookie dough into balls, using about 2 tbsp of dough for each one. Place on the prepared cookie sheets, spacing them about 2 inches apart. You should be able to get about 12 balls on a regular-sized cookie sheet. Flatten slightly.

Bake in the centre of the preheated oven until set and lightly browned around the edges, 8–9 minutes. Cool on the pan on a wire rack for 2 minutes. Transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with the remaining cookie dough, cooling the pans slightly before adding unbaked cookie dough to it. (Cookies can be stored in an airtight container for up to 5 days). Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

Gluten-free chocolate cupcakes with chocolate fudge frosting

These moist, soft and deeply chocolate cupcakes come out with a somewhat craggy-looking top. I think it adds to their homemade authenticity. The batter is quite thick but the tops will round out during the baking process.

- ❑ ½ cup + 1 tbsp. sorghum flour
- ❑ ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
- ❑ 1/3 cup brown rice flour
- ❑ ¼ cup potato starch
- ❑ 1 tsp. xantham gum
- ❑ ½ tsp. baking powder
- ❑ ½ tsp. baking soda
- ❑ ½ tsp. salt
- ❑ ¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ❑ ¾ cup granulated sugar
- ❑ 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- ❑ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ❑ 1 cup sour cream or full fat yogurt

Icing:

- ❑ ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ❑ 2 cups gluten-free icing sugar
- ❑ ¼ cup whipping cream
- ❑ 2 tsp. vanilla
- ❑ 3 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
- ❑ 4 oz. bittersweet chocolate, melted and slightly cooled

Preheat the oven to 375. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with cupcake liners. Lightly spray the cupcake liners with cooking spray. This will help the cupcakes come cleanly out of the liners once baked.

In a large bowl, whisk together the sorghum flour, cocoa powder, rice flour, potato starch, xanthan gum, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or using a hand-held mixer, beat the butter with the sugar, until well combined, about 2 minutes. It won't ever get light and fluffy since the ratio of butter to sugar is too small. One at a time, beat in the eggs, making sure the first is fully incorporated before adding the second. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Beat in the vanilla and then the sour cream.

Using a wooden spoon, stir the dry ingredients into the butter mixture, making sure that no streaks of the dry mixture remain. Spoon the batter evenly among the 12 cupcakes liners.

Bake in the centre of the oven until the tops spring back when lightly pressed, 20 minutes. Cool the cupcakes in the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Icing: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, or using a hand-held mixer, beat the butter for 1 minute. Add ½ cup of the icing sugar and beat. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add 1 tbsp of the whipping cream and beat. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Repeat until all of the icing sugar and the cream are beaten in. Beat in the vanilla and then the cocoa powder. Slowly beat in the melted chocolate.

Transfer the icing to a piping bag fitted with a pastry tip of your choice. Pipe the icing over each cupcake. Serve at room temperature. ■

Julian Falconer: seeking justice for Sammy Yatim

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Toronto lawyer Julian Falconer, who's spent his career representing families of people killed by police officers or while in custody, will be representing the mother and sister of Sammy Yatim, the 18-year-old killed by a police officer in a 2013 incident on a streetcar in which he brandished a switchblade, in a lawsuit the women are pursuing against former Toronto police chief (and current Liberal MP) Bill Blair, the Toronto Police Services Board, two unnamed police officers and Const. James Forcillo. The officer was found guilty last week of attempted murder for shooting Yatim six times after an initial volley of shots that saw him crumple to the ground.

Julian Falconer

Why have you chosen to devote your career to representing families who've had a member killed by a police officer?
In these situations, you'll have an officer who's either poorly trained or who shouldn't have in the first place been entrusted with key decisions. Then you have a person in emotional crisis who couldn't possibly respond to police commands. The claim, "I shot him because he didn't do what I told him" when someone is delusional and doesn't know where they are is absurd. These cases are, frankly, the worst and the saddest. I'm able, as part of my work, to explore the circumstances and bring them to light, show some respect for the memory of the deceased and give the family some comfort knowing that somebody's on their side.

Have your Jewish values or background contributed to your professional commitment to social justice?
Yes, very much so. I think there's a history among Jewish communities of enlightened, progressive consciousness around engagements with the state, and a history of compassion. I think if you stick with that and your root values, you have the opportunity to do good work.

What's your take on the verdict in the criminal case against Forcillo?
The verdict is nothing short of historic. This is the first time that a jury has returned a guilty verdict with respect to a police officer's use of force in Ontario's history.

Had you hoped Forcillo would be convicted of murder?
I don't see the criminal process that way, in terms of my own likes and dislikes. The mother of Sammy Yatim, Sahar Bahadi, expressed her gratitude to the jury for the fine work they did, as well as to the judge and prosecutors. A fair hearing was done. The important result is that this police officer is being held accountable for his conduct. The use of lethal force is obviously the most extreme act an officer can engage in, and too often, they're not held accountable.

When is the civil case you're preparing going to trial?
It's difficult to say, given the stage it's at right now. The civil process is characteristically quite slow.

Will the verdict in the criminal case against Const. James Forcillo impact proceedings or potential outcomes in the civil suit you're preparing?
The verdict just came out and will be going to sentencing, so I'm not going to get into how it impacts the civil matter. I'm reluctant to start talking about how a criminal conviction can or cannot support a lawsuit. This isn't the time to talk about that.

After the verdict, the head of the police union made a strong statement about pursuing justice for Forcillo, while Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders has said the force will continue to train officers to reduce harm in cases involving civilians in crisis. How much appetite for change do you think there is in the Toronto police community with regard to use of force and dealing with people in crisis?
I think it's sad that the police union, far from appreciating the public mood on this issue, continues to use the "us versus them" approach – that you're either for or against the police. They're continuing the same old-school approach of mindlessly backing a player regardless of their conduct. I'm disappointed to hear very little respect, condolences or sympathy from them to the Yatim family. The current climate of public opinion is one in which there's far more insight into these issues. The public appreciates that they can be supportive of good police officers while calling out bad policing. The police union seems unable to appreciate those nuances.

What specific changes would you like to see happening?
Members of the public and good police officers should be working together to minimize bad policing. It's hard to do that in the kind of environment the police union sets up. The recommendations in the 2014 report produced by retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci for former police chief Bill Blair, which dealt with police conduct in encounters with people in crisis, have yet to be substantially implemented, despite spin doctoring to the contrary.

The key recommendations about changing police culture haven't been implemented. It's clear that, unassisted, the Toronto Police Service is not going to fix itself.

Right now, officers are taught that the remotest risk to their safety can justify the use of lethal force. So if someone is holding any edged item – including a pencil or pen – an officer is entitled, if the person doesn't respond to police commands, to draw a weapon and use deadly force.

There needs to be a balance. Of course police officers do a tough job and should be able to go home safe to their families, but there's got to be more balance so that their respect for the sanctity of the life they're dealing with doesn't come as a distant second to that.

Do you see hope for renewed change regarding police culture in Canada under the new Liberal government?
I look at things like the 2010 G20 Summit in Toronto, at Robert Dziekanski being killed by RCMP officers in the Vancouver airport in 2007 – these are national events. I think they have, to some extent, fed a public awakening that we're moving farther away from the "just trust us" police model. I think video evidence has been a great assistance to bringing home to the public that just because the police say it's so, doesn't mean it is. Many officers' accounts are unreliable, and [with video] we can observe that.

Is there a particular case you lost that still haunts you?
All of these cases haunt me. I was involved in cases like those concerning the deaths of [mentally ill men] Lester Donaldson, Edmond Yu, Wayne Williams [in Toronto], and each brings me the message that "there are none so blind as those who will not see," and that the Toronto police leadership has to take into account compassion for emotionally disturbed persons not in the frame of mind to understand a police command. They have to better create a balance for officer safety and sanctity of life. These are the hallmarks of civil society and, frankly, we all fall short. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Are you confused about where to invest your RRSP contribution?
Interest rates are at all-time lows and look like they will stay that way.
Equity markets are volatile, but we have been outperforming the indexes.
We have products which can outperform bonds and GICs with low risk.
Don't wait until the last minute to plan for your financial future.
The RRSP deadline is February 29th, 2016!

Your RRSP needs to be part of a complete Financial Plan!

There are so many RRSP options available, from fully and partly guaranteed products to a diversified portfolio of mutual funds and everything you can put in a "self-directed" plan. No wonder you may be confused. For a clear understanding of all of the options, and to start planning for your financial future and your retirement, call us.

For a free consultation with no obligation, call (416) 221-0060

MUTUAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY GOLDSTEIN FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INC

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaidin
Executive Vice President

Slavery still exists and the UN is doing nothing about it

Backstory

EROL ARAF

William Wilberforce, who paved the way for the abolition of the slave trade in Britain, found solace for his views in both the Old and New Testaments.

In a memorable speech delivered in the House of Commons in 1788, he explained the meaning of the Old Testament moral code regarding slavery by stressing how the Hebrews differentiated between trading in human flesh and possessing servants, who could not be sold like livestock, abused and worked to death. "God allowed them to take bondmen and bondwomen," he said, "treating them, however, with kindness, remembering their own feelings when they were slaves in Egypt, and admitting them to the chief national privileges, to the circumcision, to the Passover, and other solemn feasts, and thus instructing them in the true religion. Besides this, the slaves were to be set free at the year of Jubilee, or every 50th year."

Wilberforce would have been appalled that 183 years after the passage of the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 in England, we have today globally over 27 million men, women and children being held as slaves. According to A21, an organization committed to combating human trafficking, each year nearly two million children are exploited in the global sex trade. Moreover, every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of human trafficking, while the average age someone first becomes a victim is 12 years old. Ninety-nine per cent of victims are not rescued, and, only one to two per cent of slave traders are ever convicted.

The United Nations marks the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery every year on Dec. 2. One would imagine that 2014-15 UN General Assembly session would have passed a resolution condemning countries that practise the enslavement of humans by naming them, by appointing special rapporteurs to investigate all countries practising slavery, by passing specific resolutions condemning them and imposing Security Council sanctions designed to compel them to free all 27 million slaves.

There are, to be sure, generic resolutions regarding slavery, including at the UN's Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Thirteenth Session, Agenda Item 3, concerns "Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development." In May 2014, UNHRC appointed Urmila Bhoola as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. Her report reads like a compendium of platitudes garlanded with an optimism without borders that would make Pollyanna look like a pessimist on the verge of suicide.

Not a single country is named. The reason: the worst offenders – the slave traders, child sex "recreational" tourism promoters and slave kidnappers – sit on the UNHRC.

The distinguished African human rights activist Bram Dah Abeid, president of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement, wrote to four UN agencies, allegedly tasked with combating slavery - naming names long enough to fill the rest of this article - complaining that the UN won't condemn countries such as Mauritania because the 57 member Organization of Islamic States along with their "non-aligned" allies in the UN simply would not allow it. It is indeed a farce that child sex slave importing countries, as sitting members of the UN Human Rights Council, pass judgment on veritable democracies.

While 27 million slaves, with no hope of being rescued, perish in the dungeons of modern slave traders, the 2014-2015 UN General Assembly Session passed not one resolution condemning any country where slavery is sanctioned and openly practised. (But it passed 20 resolutions against Israel and three on the rest of the world.)

That the UN would be the repository of international legitimacy is the clearest manifestation of how an international body founded on the noblest aspirations of men has sunk into an abyss of unprecedented duplicity and cynicism. Such are the wages of multilateral fetishism.

In such a topsy-turvy world, Lewis Carroll's Alice comes to mind:

"If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary wise, what is, it wouldn't be. And what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?"

Yes, we see. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Maica Feldman	Jan 16/16	2 Neptune Drive
Susan Shore	Jan 16/16	645 Castlefield Avenue
Sidney Pinkus	Jan 15/16	51 Bannatyne Drive
Sydney Gangbar	Jan 15/16	342 Spadina Road
Fay Estrin	Jan 17/16	3600 Yonge Street
Ann Marcus	Jan 18/16	4001 Bayview Avenue
Olga Skelly	Jan 18/16	65 Spring Garden Ave.
Arnold Stark	Jan 17/16	541 Finch Avenue, West
Dan Merkur	Jan 20/16	21 Meadowbrook Road
Helen Cronish	Jan 20/16	866 Sheppard Avenue, West
Eleanor Pattenick	Jan 20/16	2829 Arbutus Road
Al Green	Jan 22/16	91 Old Forest Hill Road
Don Lerner	Jan 21/16	47 St. Clair Ave. West

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE please call or email at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.
416-922-3605
or email
ssokolsky@thecjnsales.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

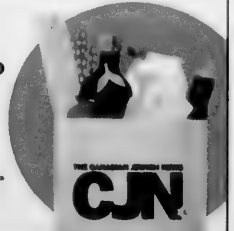
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.



JEWISH DAY SCHOOL IS THE KEY TO THE JEWISH FUTURE

NOW IS THE TIME TO TALK WITH **YOUR** KIDS ABOUT **THEIR** KIDS' EDUCATION.

LEO BAECK STARTS THAT CONVERSATION WITH TWO REMARKABLE TODDLER PROGRAMS (PLUS ADULT):

Exploring their world through play, story time, crafts, music and movement.
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, OR BOTH:
9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
at Leo Baeck - North Campus

Instilling the spirit of Shabbat through music, movement, crafts and ritual.
SELECTED FRIDAY MORNINGS:
10:45 a.m. at Leo Baeck - North Campus;
9:00 a.m. at Leo Baeck - South Campus

LB Canada's only Jewish International Baccalaureate World School

leo baeck

AVI CHAI | PJ Library | UJA Federation

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT
CAYLA SOLOMON 905.709.3636 ext 247 csolomon@leobaeck.ca leobaeck.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

FEBRUARY 11, 2016 • 2 ADAR I, 5776

$2.00 • 44 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Bringing mental health out of the shadows

Time for an open conversation about suicide and depression, panel says. **PAGE 12**

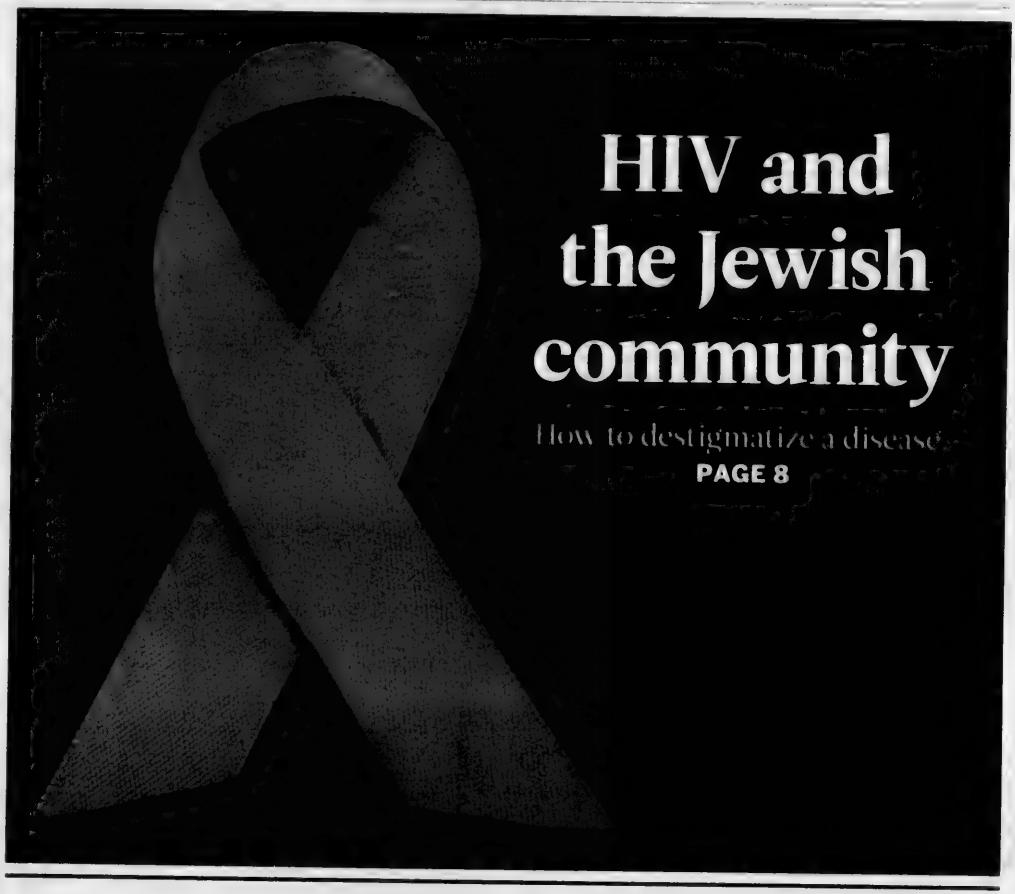
Al Green left an indelible mark on Toronto

Remembering a developer, sculptor and philanthropist's wide and varied legacy. **PAGE 18**

Tr[illegible]

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:20 p.m.	6:24 p.m.
Montreal	4:58 p.m.	6:04 p.m.
Ottawa	5:07 p.m.	6:12 p.m.
Toronto	5:25 p.m.	6:29 p.m.
Winnipeg	5:23 p.m.	6:33 p.m.
Calgary	5:28 p.m.	6:40 p.m.
Vancouver	5:08 p.m.	6:18 p.m.



HIV and the Jewish community

How to destigmatize a disease

PAGE 8

Getting used to saying *Kaddish*

Avrum Rosensweig learns to find comfort in prayer after the death of his mother. **PAGE 10**

Has Germany done tshuvah for its past?

A Toronto doctor discovers a country willing to acknowledge its own sordid history. **PAGE 7**

Broad City rewrites the Jewish mother

Critically acclaimed series shatters the stereotypes about our overprotective moms. **PAGE 29**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 mirvish.com

6 27843 39403 7

We're a barrel of laughs, and terror group razzed on social media

Jews are funny

Jews dominated the widely circulated list "The 100 Jokes That Shaped Modern Comedy," posted last week by *Vulture*, the culture site of *New York* magazine. The Chosen People figured prominently in at least 50 of the jokes, mostly as performers, from 1920s vaudeville, to the Marx Brothers' *To War* musical number in 1933's *Duck Soup*, to Woody Allen's intro to *Annie Hall*, to Jerry Seinfeld and Jason Alexander spit-balling a show about nothing on *Seinfeld*. The list also featured "Jewish jokes" by non-Jews, such as Bob Hope's one-liner from his 1968 Oscars monologue, "Welcome to the Academy Awards, or as it's known at my house, Passover," a reference to his lack of Oscar nominations in his long career.

Bob Hope celebrating "Passover"

Hamas mocked for 'DIY tank'

It's been an embarrassing few weeks for Hamas. After flooding killed seven of its members last month when a tunnel they were digging collapsed, and after more cave-ins last week, the terror group was mocked on social media for a new "tank" it said it built from salvaged Israeli tank parts. The olive-coloured vehicle appeared at a Feb. 1 memorial for the dead tunnel diggers. Critics on social media mocked the "DIY tank" for looking like a parade float, with wheels visible underneath its hull and tracks that didn't touch the ground. "FYI, tanks aren't made of wood and don't run on wheels," Israeli spokesperson Ofir Gendelman tweeted.

Anti-Israel group parodies *NY Times*

A Jewish anti-Israel group took credit for distributing thousands of fake anti-Israel parodies of the *New York Times* in Manhattan and on social media Feb. 2. Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which backs the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, said it circulated 10,000 copies, which included such articles as "Congress to Debate US Aid to Israel" and the editorial, "Our New Editorial Policy: Rethinking Israel-Palestine." Members of JVP and Jews Say No!, a New York-based pro-Palestinian group, said they created the paper to "point out how biased current reporting is on Israel and Palestine and to show what a paper that was fair and accurate could look like." ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 28	Parshah 39
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 36	Q&A 42
Cover Story 8	International 24	Social Scene 38	Backstory 43

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

6

Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg, 31, is the world's sixth richest person and the world's richest Jew, with a net worth of $47.5 billion (US), *Bloomberg* reported last week.

22%

The drop in anti-Semitic incidents in Britain in 2015 from the record in 2014, from 1,179 to 924 – still the third-highest total ever, the Community Security Trust said.

Quotable

In Israel, even the left is afraid that a Palestinian state...will turn into another Hamastan.

— Bar-Ilan University professor Mordechai Kedar on prospects for Mideast peace, p. 42.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz on bubbies' chicken soup recipes immortalized on the web.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

מצבות המפעל

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

• Monuments Available Within 1 Week
• Cemetery Lettering and Restoration

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
DOWNSVIEW

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Speaking out on campus

We are two Hasbara Fellows representing dozens of others. Pro-Israel students like us across Canada are getting a lot of attention these days, after philanthropist Paul Bronfman delivered an ultimatum to York University, saying that his donations to the school would be cut unless it removed an anti-Israel mural in the university student centre ("York University's mural conundrum," Feb. 4).

Now, more so than in a long time, the wider pro-Israel community is taking notice of the real situation on campus for pro-Israel and Jewish students.

Pro-Israel community members are having a serious discussion about the extent and influence of anti-Israel forces on university campuses, whether it be their wide access to student government, intimidation, frequent anti-Israel articles in student newspapers, leadership in student clubs, and more.

On many campuses across the country, pro-Israel students face a well-financed juggernaut of anti-Israel groups whose sole focus is to demonize Israel. On other campuses the situation is quieter, but many students, after years of conflict, are simply apathetic.

But we haven't been silent or reactive. Hasbara Fellows have built pro-Israel social media campaigns, engaged with student governments, reached out to campus newspapers, built sustainable relationships with non-Jewish students, and run highly successful events on campus to counteract both the hate speech and the apathy rampant on campuses, and more importantly, to set a positive, proactive tone for the wider student body.

For a long time, this was all behind the scenes. But thanks to a public statement from Bronfman, more attention is being paid to what's really happening on campus, and for that, we are grateful.

Ariella Daniels, Hasbara Fellow, York University
Tamar Lyons, Hasbara Fellow, Ryerson University
Toronto

Compromise at the Kotel

Shortly after Israel reunified Jerusalem in 1967, control over the Kotel was given to the Orthodox. Since then, the Kotel has been part of the ongoing struggle for religious pluralism in Israel.

Recently, an accommodation was reached by all parties ("Wall prayer fight ends with a historic compromise," Feb. 4). With government participation and approval, the Kotel will be divided and any Jew, male or female, will now be able to find a place at Judaism's holiest site to pray in peace.

It has not been easy for the ultra-Orthodox to recognize other religious streams as legitimate, but this compromise is a most visible recognition indeed. The accommodation at the Wall ought to have a strong ripple effect in Israel and the Diaspora as Jews of different stripes come to terms with a new era of religious co-operation. Let us hope that with one less issue to quarrel over, we will grow even stronger together.

Ron Hoffman, president Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism
Toronto

The politics of the Shoah

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Jew-free news release on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Cjnews.com) is not just some careless goof by a rookie. I'm not buying the Trudeau walk-back, not when it's so plainly part of a growing effort in liberal circles worldwide to gradually de-Judaize the Shoah.

The Holocaust is slipping from living Jewish memory into historical memory. But will it be a Jewish historical memory? Prepare for challenge. In the decades to come, we will see more erasing of Jewish ownership of the Shoah in favour of a renovation of the Holocaust as a purely "human" tragedy.

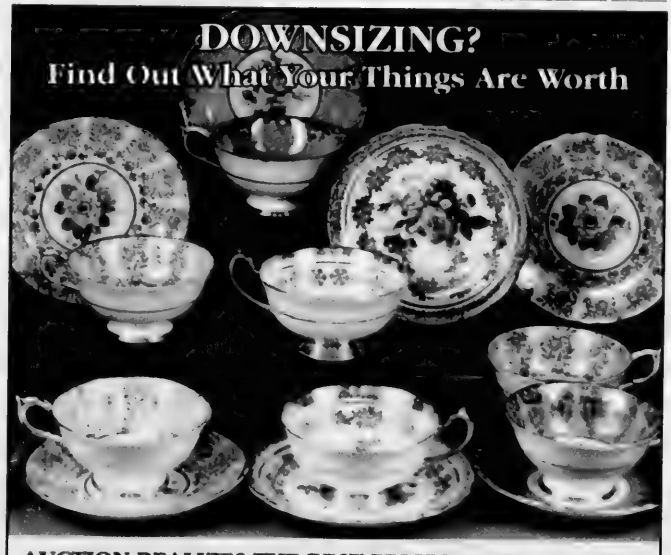
Jews seek to retain the Shoah in the catalogue of our oppression. Secular liberals, mainline Christian churches and, of course, all those further to the left, need to denationalize the Holocaust to successfully universalize it. Delisting the Holocaust from the Jewish national estate is just one more attack on Jewish exclusivity and self-definition.

We are an inconvenient people, it seems, and whether it's through rank incompetence or some malicious sense of universalism, Canada's new prime minister has just made his own contribution to the process of erasure.

S. E. Woolley
Columbia, S.C.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
Including all taxes.
Book by March 4, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES · NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar. 10-21
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer July 03-14 / July 24 – Aug. 04 / Aug. 07-18 / Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND - One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All Inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com · www.peerlesstravel.com

DOWNSIZING?
Find Out What Your Things Are Worth

AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.
Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.
Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com
A.H. WILKENS AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS
299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"He wanted to keep it simple."

My father didn't want an elaborate funeral. He wanted it to be simple and heartfelt. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged the kind of service my father would have appreciated. It was respectful and meaningful for our whole family.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Keeping the next generation Jewish

What is the best way to secure the future of our people, and should we be worried about our long-term survival?

RABBI N. DANIEL KOROBKIN
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI LISA GRUSHCOW
TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Korobkin: We've been engaged in this friendly dialogue for nearly two years, and I think you know me well enough to see that my objective is not to criticize other streams of Judaism. My question to you this week is thus out of concern for the future of our people.

It's no secret that both Reform and Conservative Judaism are on the decline in North America. Memberships are down, schools are closing, and the next generation is checking out. (Granted, Conservative Judaism appears to be declining more rapidly than Reform Judaism, but that's shallow consolation.) Moreover, many have suggested that Reform congregations are only able to maintain their current levels by accepting more intermarried families. Even the relatively small percentage of Orthodox who leave the fold are not largely joining Conservative or Reform congregations, but are instead going completely secular.

What is the end game? Is there any plan to stem the hemorrhaging of our tribe? How can we save these Jewish souls and keep the next generation part of the faith?

Rabbi Grushcow: Denominations are modern inventions. As I often teach, we have Napoleon to thank for the current configuration of the Jewish world. The act of making Jews citizens raised the question of how to be a Jew in a world that actually accepts us.

I'm deeply committed to Reform Judaism, because I think it opens important doors and has a compelling vision of Jewish life. We don't welcome intermarried folks because we are worried about our numbers – we welcome them because we believe they make the Jewish people stronger.

Will Judaism in 100 years have the same configurations and denominations? Almost certainly not. Will there still be different approaches and ideologies, communities and practices? Almost certainly yes.

In terms of the current difference between movements, I think a lot has to do with simple demographics – Orthodox families tend to be bigger, for example. But I'm not especially interested in a numbers game. I see exciting things happening in every part of the Jewish world.

Do we have to re-examine the synagogue model? I think we do. Should every movement do the *cheshbon ha-nefesh*, self-examination, to make sure we are serving the Jewish People the best we can? Absolutely. But am I worried about the long-term survival of Judaism? No. I trust God on that one.

Rabbi Korobkin: Faith and optimism in the eternality of the Jewish People is a wonderful sentiment, and it certainly is echoed in the Psalmist's promise that "God will never forsake His people." But that's not really the point I'm concerned about.

We as rabbis have a responsibility to create viable and durable Jewish institutions and ways of life that guarantee a future. Orthodoxy utilizes a foundational paradigm that has never changed – that is, the system of Halachah. When Jews commit to a life of halachic practice – Shabbat, kashrut, etc. – there is a greater likelihood that their children and grandchildren will adhere to and identify with Judaism.

As warm and welcoming as your congregation is, does it have lasting power? How many multi-generational families regularly pray with you? When Conservative and Reform communities memberships are down and schools are closing, is it not perhaps time for an overhaul?

Rabbi Grushcow: We have many multi-generational families at our temple, as did my previous congregation in New York. In fact, this past Kol Nidre, four generations of women lit the candles together.

It is possible to take Judaism seriously without being within the framework of Halachah. It is possible to take Shabbat seriously without observing a traditional Shabbat. I see my congregants doing this all the time.

Although a sense of traditional obligation has its power, there is also something incredibly compelling to a Jewish practice that is chosen. That's what keeps people in, and brings people in. Many of them are drawn here precisely because their Judaism matters to them, but more traditional settings just aren't a fit with their values and their lives.

I say all this with respect equal to that with which you started this conversation. We both care deeply about Judaism. My own conviction is that the Jewish world is stronger because both our communities are here. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 6 (2,232)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

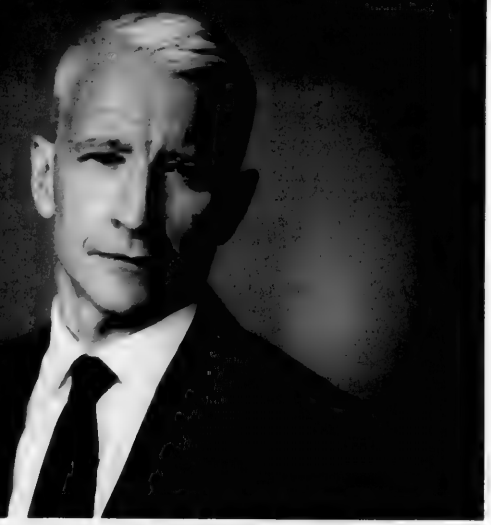
The Einstein Gala

May 15, 2016 at The Carlu

SPECIAL GUEST

Anderson Cooper

Author, CNN Anchor



Our Distinguished Panelists

The Azrieli Foundation

Dr. Naomi Azrieli
Chair and CEO

Shuki Levy

Music composer, television writer, director and co-founder of Saban Entertainment

Jeff Martin

Former Apple Executive, CEO of Tribal Planet, and Co-Chair Einstein Legacy Project

Apotex Foundation

Dr. Barry Sherman
CEO Apotex Inc.

GALA CO-CHAIRS

Sara Gottlieb and Karen Simpson-Radomski

Will you be there...?

FOR TICKETS AND FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Tamar Kraus, Assistant Director at info@einsteingala.com (416)485-8000

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Michael Goldbloom, Ira Gluskin, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Bargain hunting

ALEX DWORKIN CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES (FORMERLY CJCCC NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

Women sort through clothes at the National Council of Jewish Women Thrift Shop/Opportunity Shop in Winnipeg, circa 1960.

SeeJN | Saying goodbye to Anat Dolev

PHOTO BY TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90

Family, friends and colleagues say goodbye to Anat Dolev, a popular Israeli radio broadcaster and host, during her funeral in Tel Aviv. Dolev, 52, died Feb. 6 after suffering from a degenerative disease. She was known for hosting the interview show *At Three with Anat Dolev*.

From Yoni's Desk

For Israeli bloggers, the rules are the same but different

Since 1948, Israel's chief military censor has played a significant role in determining how the country's news media operate. The rules governing the military's ability to dictate what can and cannot be reported by Israeli media, as well as by foreign correspondents, have changed over time, but the overarching justification for censorship – Israel's unique and ongoing security concerns – has not.

Generally speaking, journalists working in Israel accept censorship as a reasonable, if somewhat limiting practice in a country where even the smallest of details buried in a news story can have major security implications.

That changed last week when reports emerged indicating as many as 30 well-trafficked Israeli blogs and popular Facebook users would henceforth be required to submit copy to the military censor prior to publication. As the news spread, some of those affected by the new rules lashed out online, questioning whether the military – and, by extension, the state – was actively trying to limit freedom of expression. A few even vowed to circumvent censorship, though, given that the office of the military censor already possesses algorithmic technology to root out problematic web posts, this seems easier said than done.

Still, the new online censorship rules signal a turning point for Israeli media, a recognition that the traditional forms of news reporting and dissemination are being challenged, if not supplanted, by bloggers and the viral power of social media influencers.

Of course, this is not a uniquely Israeli issue – in recent weeks, some of Canada's own news media giants, including Torstar, Postmedia and Rogers, have announced major cutbacks to print services amid declining revenues. Since many of these media companies place heavy bets on online platforms, Canadians are left to wonder where our own national media practice is heading.

Whichever way the media revolution plays out, the reliability of news sources will continue to be a key area of scrutiny, especially when it comes to Israel. Last week, hours after an attack by three Palestinian terrorists at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem left 19-year-old border policewoman Hadar Cohen dead, *CBS News* ran the headline "3 Palestinians killed as daily violence grinds on" on its website. Accusations of biased reporting came swiftly from Israel's Foreign Ministry (whose spokesman, Emmanuel Nachshon, called the headline "unparalleled chutzpah"), as well as from many people online. Eventually, the headline was changed to "Palestinians kill Israeli officer, wound another before being killed."

The CBS fiasco illustrates just how poor news reporting from and about Israel can sometimes be. Even so, media bias is not an excuse for censorship, in Israel or anywhere else. But if upstart online journalists and bloggers in Israel expect to play by different rules than their ink-stained competitors when it comes to security matters, that argument doesn't seem to have much merit, either.

In a country with such varied opinions and intense conversations as Israel, the new journalists have an important role to play, and part of it is to break some of the editorial rules by which the news industry has long abided. And yet, when it comes to Israel's security, everyone should play by the same standards. Some rules are not meant to be broken. ■ — YONI

TRAVEL

Germany has come a long way towards a collective tshuvah

Gil Gross

In August 2014, my family joined me in breaking a long-standing Jewish taboo. We spent almost three weeks of our summer vacation in Germany.

My parents' childhood memories of Budapest wartime ghetto life, terror-stricken flight, and murdered relatives remain raw and unadulterated. I belong to that next-generation demographic which has typically spurned all things German – language, culture, consumer products and, above all, personal visits.

At least, that was the case for the first 50 years of my life.

But recently, my attitude began to shift, influenced by a number of factors. At first, the change was almost imperceptible, but, over the past five years or so, I developed a nearly obsessive fascination with the Nazi era that could be quenched only by visiting places that had heretofore held an almost mythically inaccessible status in my psyche. This was especially true of Berlin which is, arguably, ground zero for 20th century western – and possibly global – history, encompassing two devastating world wars and the critically eventful years between them, the Cold War, and the fall of communism, culminating in the emergence of the economic powerhouse that is today one of Israel's most steadfast European supporters.

Our trip started in Hamburg, where we first encountered *stolpersteine* (stumbling stones), the brass plaques installed in sidewalks in front of buildings in most German cities and towns from which Jews were deported. Each plaque names a victim, listing the date and place of his or her death; "*ermordet*," meaning "murdered," is the word engraved on most plaques.

Meanwhile, the city's museum, which almost certainly caters more to German visitors than international tourists, has devoted most of its second floor to a beautifully presented and curated permanent exhibit on the long history of the Jews of Hamburg. Perhaps even more surprisingly, the municipality offers, free and in several languages, a complete city map featuring all sites of Jewish interest, including those of the Holocaust.

Our next stop was the former East German city of Leipzig, renowned for its role as the cradle of the German enlightenment at its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries. Walking toward the old town centre, we suddenly came upon an unusual monument occupying most of a city square: 140 metal chairs arrayed in tidy rows, sitting empty under the open sky. We soon discovered that this had been the site of Leipzig's main synagogue, built in 1854 and swept away along with so many others on Kristallnacht. The accompanying memorial details the fate of Leipzig's prewar Jewish community.

Berlin, where we spent 10 days including two shabbatot, reputedly has the world's fastest growing urban Jewish community; the most consistent estimates suggest a current Jewish population of around 60,000, including many from the former Soviet Union and Israel. The prewar count is said to have been 160,000, of whom around 8,000 – fully 5 per cent – were remarkably still living in the city when the war ended; more than half of the prewar population managed to flee, while some 55,000 were murdered.

It is not hard to understand the appeal that today's Berlin holds for Jews looking for economic and cultural opportunities in a very liberal atmosphere. Moreover, the very fact that Jews can feel comfortable living in today's Germany seems to reveal something important about the political and societal changes that have taken place

***Stolpersteine* in memory of Jews who were deported and murdered during World War II.**

there since 1945 and, especially, since reunification. By contrast, the Iberian Peninsula remains almost completely bereft of Jews nearly two centuries after the Inquisition formally ended.

To my mind, what uniquely characterizes Germany's success in recreating itself from the ashes of its horrific past is an unblinking, unqualified acknowledgment of that past, and of the societal, political, and economic factors that enabled it. Unlike in other European countries, where the Shoah is counted as just one among many misfortunes inflicted by "fascists" or "national socialists" – as if they were some alien species who inexplicably descended on an unwitting population – what we experienced in Germany, again and again, was a clear-eyed, unsentimental willingness to say "look in the mirror – this is what we (or our parents/grandparents) did."

The Deutches Historisches Museum, Germany's national history museum, devotes a huge space to an unflinching examination of the rise of National Socialism and its catastrophic consequences. The idyllic Wannsee Villa, where Reinhard Heydrich, Adolf Eichmann, and top Nazi brass laid the logistical groundwork for the Final Solution in early 1942, is now an educational centre, visited by German schoolchildren on field trips. Sachsenhausen, one of the earliest concentration camps where SS guards were trained for their brutal assignments, now serves a major educational function, and the adjoining former SS barracks has been pointedly and deliberately converted into the modern Federal Police training school.

Wherever we went in Berlin, I felt no hesitation about wearing my kippah openly. To the extent that our clearly visible identity elicited any reaction at all, the most typical was one of friendly curiosity. The only exception to this pattern was at Berlin's imposing Holocaust memorial, where a recent visitor had inscribed the guest book with the words "Free Palestine", and where a swarthy looking young man standing just beyond the exit – perhaps the author of that contemptuous message – hissed the same words at us as we walked past.

For me, the key question was – and continues to be – whether a culture and society which produced the most murderous and malignant form of totalitarianism that the world has ever known could recreate itself over the span of just a couple of generations in a way that would give depth and substance to the too-easily mouthed platitude of "never again." And after exploring today's Germany, I am left with cautious hope that, if there is such a thing as "collective tshuvah" yielding a positive and sustainable long-term effect on a people's attitudes and actions, then the Germans – perhaps in their stereotypically methodical and efficient way – have come a long way toward realizing it. ■

Gil Gross is a Montreal-born, Toronto-based physician. He and his family are avid travellers.

ACTUALLY, YOU CAN PUT A PRICE ON A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

6.6%*
LAST 12 MONTHS

FIRST MORTGAGE FUND • GTA FOCUS MINIMIZES DOWNSIDE RISK • RRSP TFSA RIF ELIGIBLE

TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN FOREMOST MORTGAGE TRUST PLEASE CALL:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

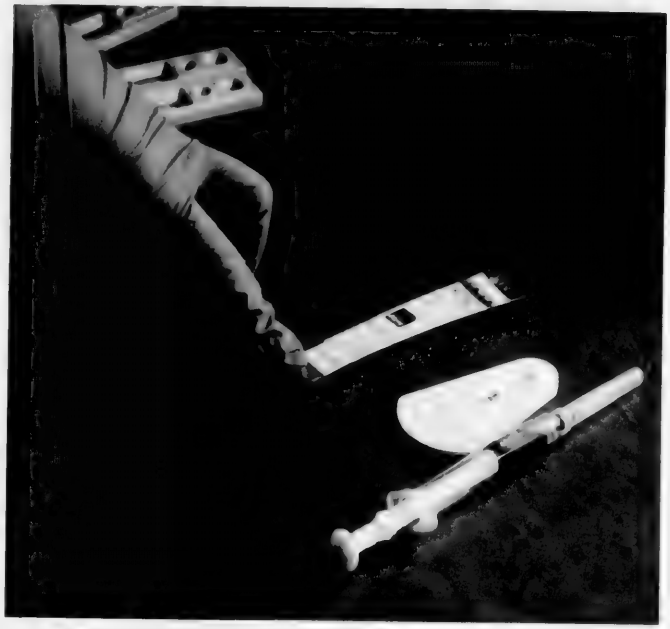
RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

FOREMOST FINANCIAL

*This material is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell a security. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Foremost Mortgage Trust (the "Trust") is available only to qualified investors in Ontario. The return represents the net compounded (geometric) return for investors who reinvested their distributions from January 1/15 to December 31/15. Foremost Financial Corporation is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer in Ontario. This information is inherently limited in scope and potential qualified investors should read the Trust's offering memorandum carefully prior to investing. Lic. #10342/878654

Living with HIV in the Jewish community

When I was diagnosed, I didn't know any Jews with the disease. That soon changed



LOUISE BINDER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When I was diagnosed with HIV more than 20 years ago, I barely knew anyone with this disease, let alone someone else who was Jewish with HIV. My general practitioner at the time was Jewish, though, as was my infectious disease specialist. They told me about a Passover seder put on by Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto for people with HIV called the Third Seder. It was there that I first met other Jewish people with HIV and recognized that there were Jewish people in the community who cared about us. For many years, this tradition continued, and I always looked forward to it.

As HIV changed from a deadly illness to a chronic, manageable condition with the advent of effective drug treatments, everyone heaved an enormous sigh of relief. The Third Seder stopped, as did much of my involvement with the institutional side of Judaism.

I did, and still do, have some very close Jewish friends with HIV and in the HIV community. We share our own brand of Jewish humour about having this disease, and about the world in general. We have joined a non-traditional Jewish synagogue led by a lesbian rabbi and attend High Holidays there each year, marvelling that we have lived more than 20 years longer than our doctors predicted.

My life has changed beyond recognition. I was a lawyer with a good corporate job when I found out that my husband had infected me with HIV sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s. He became so depressed during our marriage that it just fell apart. In retrospect, he obviously knew about his diagnosis and did not know how to disclose it to me. Knowing that there were no treatments at that point, he probably did not know what to say.

CONTINUED ON PAGE PAGE 22

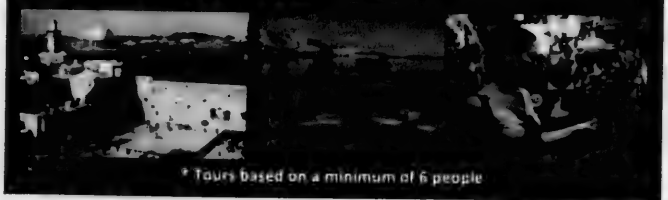
The Best of Israel

See Belvoir Fortress, Ein Gedi, Dead Sea, Masada, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives , Bethlehem and more!

2016 Departures: Jun. 19, Sept. 4, Oct. 30, Nov. 20, Dec. 21

Our Value Packed Best Tour Includes:

- Airport transfers
- 7 overnights at 4 star hotels & porterage at hotels
- 6 days of sightseeing with tour guide in English
- Luxury air conditioned vehicle
- Meals: Half Board, including full Israeli buffet breakfast at hotels daily & 6 dinners (except first night in Tel Aviv)
- Entrance fees per program



* Tours based on a minimum of 6 people

aufgang travel For more information contact Janice Snider
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729 - Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON, L4J 3M4 Ontario Reg. # 50012754

What I learned from the powerful Jewish voices working within the AIDS movement

RON ROSENES
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

I am a survivor, a witness and now, it seems, a pioneer.

Living with HIV for more than 30 years qualifies me as a long-term survivor. During the course of those years, I became a witness, not only to the loss of so many friends and colleagues, but also to the remarkable advances in treatment and understanding of the underlying conditions that drive infection with HIV. I am a pioneer, because I find myself in the first group of "baby boomers" to face the challenges of living and aging with HIV.

Coming out to parents and friends as a gay man in my teens was manageable. Getting an HIV diagnosis in the early days of the epidemic was much more traumatic, and disclosure felt like coming out all over again. My mother died before I could tell her. I didn't want to burden her at the time of her own illness, but I knew she would have loved me all the same. My dad didn't like to talk about personal matters, but we maintained a good relationship for the duration of his life.

I was raised in a loving Jewish family in Ottawa, learned to read but not speak Hebrew, had a bar mitzvah and went to a Conservative shul on the High Holidays. Today, I attend a Reconstructionist congregation, where I find a welcoming community. For all this, I am grateful.

I worked as a Russian and French professor, then started a business for myself, but eventually I had to stop working when I lost my partner of 15 years to AIDS and my own health declined. I was able to support myself thanks to private insurance for long-term disability and slowly returned to work as a volunteer. By 1997, there were major improvements in treatment, and my health rebounded sufficiently to allow me to continue my work as a community advocate for access to treatment at the local, national and international level.

As a young man, I was "apolitical," but as I joined the AIDS movement, I heard powerful Jewish voices around me. I read Susan Sontag's essay, *HIV as Metaphor*, which taught me about the psychosocial origins of blame and stigma that are associated with disease, whether tuberculosis or cancer at the time, or HIV today.

CONTINUED ON PAGE PAGE 23

FABRICLAND

Check out our
no-sew, ready-to-go
Home Decor!
Entire Regular Stock
DRAPERY PANELS
50% off our reg. price
All regular stock single and 2-pack panels, including regular Dawn to Dusk™ and Eclipse™, excluding Signature Styles™, special purchases, promotional and panels already on sale.

Sale in effect February 3-21, 2016, on selected in-stock merchandise. See flyer for details!

Follow us on Facebook

@fabriclanddistr

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus). Brand new Fabricland at Steeles & Dufferin opening mid-February!

www.fabricland.ca OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU.

Kaddish for the first time

Avrum Rosensweig

The first *Kaddish* I recited after my mother's death was shocking to my ears. I resented it. Hearing the words "*Yitkadal v'yitkadash*" coming from my lips didn't seem right. It hurt.

She couldn't be gone. I don't accept her passing. These Aramaic words and that ominous tune, like a dirge, should be the utterance of an older man for his wife or by a woman for a parent who had died many years before.

But this prayer – the *Mourners Kaddish* – was now mine. My Mom had died and the second *Kaddish* made that clear. "May his great name be blessed forever."

For a while after my mother's demise, I said no when Michael Rubin asked me to *daven* for the congregation at the Beth David chapel, or Zev Kaufman at Mishkan Avraham. I felt emotionally shaky and didn't want to publicly cry during the *Kaddish* – a very real possibility. Eventually I agreed and began to benefit from hearing the "amens" of the very supportive and colourful congregants. They helped me to feel less alone. They are heartfelt. They are authentic. They are my village.

Praying, and more specifically saying *Kaddish*, takes some getting used to. First, it's imperative that while you are saying the *Kaddish* you have an ear open to hear others who are doing the same. The entire group must be in sync with one another or else this significant piece of liturgy will sound confusing to the congregation and the amens will come at different times. Should this happen, there is a risk that fewer than 10 people – a minyan – will respond to one's *Kaddish*. A fragmented response can easily throw off the reader's intention.

Second, the 45 seconds or so it takes to say *Kaddish* is to be a moment of introspection when people focus on their loved one, in some way attaching themselves to their soul. It is said that *Kaddish* is a prayer that pushes the neshamah – the soul – higher. It is therefore crucial that no interruptions of any sort occur during the reading.

> *When I recite the Kaddish, I create an image in my mind of my mother sitting in front of me*

When I recite the *Kaddish*, I create an image in my mind of my mother sitting in front of me, smiling widely as she does and listening closely to her prayer. I feel as if she is sending me a message all is well in heaven and the spiritual boost she gets from my *Kaddish* is appreciated, as it pushes her toward the higher gates leading closer to God.

Kaddish is a reaffirmation of life. In fact neither the word death nor any reference to it can be found in the prayer. The sages say this is done so that we, the mourners, do not drown in our sorrow. It's important that we do not forget to live while we are experiencing a death.

Every morning and every evening throughout the world where a Jewish community resides, minyanim are taking place and somebody is saying *Kaddish*. This prayer, more than 800 years old, connects us the living to those who have perished. It creates that point of intersection between earth and heaven. Those who recite the *Kaddish* are the conduits. Those who answer with "amen" are the connectors.

As the final amen is said, our village is strengthened. Through that amen, the mourners are indeed reminded to live, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to hold us up and reserve a place amongst them, the joyous.

"He who makes peace in His heights, may He make peace upon us and upon all of Israel. Now say: amen." ■

avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

Finding guidance in the melody of the Torah

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

The *Zohar* remarks that even a sefer Torah can be subject to luck – some are destined to be used prominently, while others are fated to gather dust and be ignored. If that is so, I know of one of the luckiest Torah scrolls in the world, which, despite the fact it sits humbly in a bomb shelter in Jerusalem, is arguably the most important sefer Torah in the world today.

This sefer Torah was donated in response to a terrible tragedy. Shira Banki, a 16-year-old student, was murdered last summer while marching in the Jerusalem Pride Parade. Her assailant was a haredi Jew who despised gay rights. Sadly, judging from *pashkevil* (posted) notices put up after her murder, a significant number of people in the murderer's community supported this horrible crime.

At the same time, this murder disturbed many other Orthodox Jews who were disgusted that the Torah was used as a justification for bloodshed. In particular, this horrible crime had a profound impact on Dr. Mark Wainberg, a leading AIDS researcher who is also an observant Jew. For him, this was a clash of the two worlds he lives in. He's a past president of an Orthodox synagogue and at the same time works side by side with the LGBTQ community in the battle against AIDS. Mark decided to do something dramatic in response to this awful murder: he pledged to donate a sefer Torah in Shira Banki's memory. Shira had been murdered in the name of Halachah, and the murderer said the Torah was on his side. In response, this sefer Torah declares loudly that the Torah stands on the side of Shira, on the side of dignity, decency and the Jewish People.

After months of preparation, the day arrived. Shira's family asked that the Torah be given to a disadvantaged community. After some investigation, an Ethiopian synagogue housed in a bomb shelter on the periphery of Jerusalem was chosen to receive it. A few dozen members of the synagogue, some members of Shira's family and friends, and members of the Israeli AIDS research community gathered for the dedication. And there something remarkable occurred. Jews of every background – haredi, secular, Ethiopian, Ashkenazi, American and Israeli – pulled together to dedicate this Torah. Shira's mother, Mika, remarked in her speech that "Just like Jews have suffered together for generations, so it is fitting that when we are finally in our own country that we be together, for good and for bad, without checking each other's tzitzit." And for a moment in this ramshackle synagogue, that hope came true.

> *The Torah stands on the side of Shira, on the side of dignity, decency and the Jewish People.*

That's why Shira's Torah is exceptional. There are those who carry the Torah in the name of animosity and division. But this Torah is different. It's a Torah of unity and humanity. The Talmud compares the Torah to a song ("Shira" is the Hebrew word for song). The point of this metaphor is that like any song, the words are incomprehensible without fully understanding the melody. You need to follow the tune in order to know the purpose and emotion behind those words. The Torah cannot be understood without hearing its inner melody, without hearing the song of the Jewish People.

For a contemporary Orthodox Jew, there are struggles that arise when reading some sections of the Torah, including the prohibition against homosexuality. I cannot diminish the authority of what is black-letter law, but at the same time, I cannot forget the incredible humanism implicit in seeing in every human being a reflection of the divine. As I struggle with these questions, I recognize that I may not merit a way to find a reconciling verse. But nevertheless, I can still find guidance in the melody of the Torah, whose tune is one of kindness, charity, blessing and life. And Shira's Torah sings this melody, a melody the Jewish world so sorely needs. ■

The past belongs to us, but we mustn't get lost in it

Rabbi Dow Marmur

Amos Oz, the distinguished Israeli writer, speaking recently in Jerusalem, argued that the past belongs to us, but we don't belong to the past. Though he may not have had religion in mind, his formulation well reflects what most religious streams in contemporary Judaism are about.

Exponents of modern Judaism know that to be authentic, they must be rooted in the past, but to be relevant, they must reflect the present. The non-fundamentalist streams may each have different ways of mixing tradition and modernity, but none wants to ignore either.

Even Jewish secularists who may wish to reject what they deem to be antiquated and irrelevant religion need the Jewish past to be able to express themselves as Jews.

Similarly, those whom we know as modern Orthodox and are committed to the past see themselves in the context of the present. They differ fundamentally from those who claim total adherence to the past, as per the oft-quoted dictum by the Chatam Sofer (1762-1839) that everything new is forbidden by the Torah.

Though Israel as a modern democracy largely functions according to Oz's formula, with most of its religious, intellectual and social movements reflecting it, two kinds of Judaism there seem bent on negating the present. One is ultra-Orthodox (haredi), the other ultra-nationalist.

For all their zeal and passion, both constitute a danger to the future of the state. You only have to walk through a haredi neighbourhood to see the unrealistic efforts to recreate the past and ignore today's world other than its technology. Even when they reap social and other benefits of the state, they resist contributing to it, for instance, by refusing to serve in the Israel Defence Forces.

The other kind of embracing the past and rejecting present realities is prevalent among religious nationalists. Unlike haredim, they're part of the mainstream and are committed to the defence of the State of Israel. But the state that some, perhaps many, want is rooted in obsolete messianic ideas that fly in the face of what's possible and just in our time. They can be found among the settlers in the West Bank as well as among extremists who harass Christian and Muslim holy places and fantasize about rebuilding the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

Ironically, though both these ostensibly authentically Jewish streams seek to distance themselves from non-Jews, much of their ideology is influenced by contemporary radical manifestations in other faiths. Thus evangelicals in the United States hold corresponding views, albeit in a very different context, to both the ultra-Orthodox and the nationalists. And Muslim jihadists show uncanny similarities to the extremist elements in the national religious movement.

They all constitute a threat to Israel. Despite the evangelicals' professed commitment to Israel, they may love Jews, but many hate Judaism and look forward to the time when we'll all finally see the light and embrace Christianity. And jihadists are, of course, proud and eager to show the world that they're our sworn enemies.

We've learned how to withstand onslaughts from without. There's no danger of Jews embracing Christianity en masse. Similarly, contemporary Israel is strong enough to fight off attempts by Muslim extremists bent on its destruction.

But it's less certain that Israel will remain a Jewish democratic state that's rooted in the present. The danger comes from ultra-Orthodox and ultra-nationalist Jews, both gaining adherents and both bent on eradicating as much as they can of the open Israeli society. Their political arms, currently in the government, have displayed ominous signs to that effect. And once democracy goes, the very existence of Israel is in jeopardy.

That's why all other streams in Judaism must disregard the differences between them to jointly defend that democracy. Diaspora support, currently too often favouring extremists in the guise of commitment to the Jewish state, must come together to make sure that the past remains ours, but that we don't get lost in it. ■

Canada must not cave to Iranian demands

Sheryl Saperia

Over the last several weeks, terror victims have squared off against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a Toronto courtroom, seeking to hold that regime civilly liable for its sponsorship of terrorism. In court, Judge Glenn Hainey wondered aloud whether the legal proceedings were "academic," given Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion's recent comments about restoring Canada-Iran relations.

Dion indicated that Canada would be lifting sanctions imminently against the Islamic Republic. He also referred to the previous Conservative government's decision to cut diplomatic ties with Iran as "ideological and irresponsible," and expressed a desire to re-open the Canadian Embassy in Tehran.

Meanwhile, one analyst has suggested that the Canadian designation of Iran as a state sponsor of terror under the Justice of Victims of Terrorism Act (JVTA), a bill passed in 2012 that allows civil lawsuits against supporters of terrorism, is a "booby trap" preventing reconciliation between the two countries.

Within this context, Hainey's confusion is understandable. Having conveyed interest in re-establishing diplomatic relations and enabling corporate Canada to benefit from business, the Trudeau government has made itself vulnerable to Iranian demands. It would come as no surprise if evidence were to emerge that Tehran is heavily pressuring Ottawa to remove the economic sanctions against Iran under the Special Economic Measures Act (SEMA) and to rescind the label of state sponsor of terror as conditions for wider rapprochement.

Ottawa must not bow to these demands. The Iranian regime is a prolific sponsor of terrorism and violator of human rights, and should be treated as such.

Iran has the highest per capita rate of capital punishment, with 2015 – under the leadership of "moderate" President Hassan Rouhani – boasting the highest execution rate in the past 25 years. Under Iranian law, girls are held criminally accountable from the age of nine and can be sentenced to death. According to the latest report by the UN's special rapporteur for human rights in Iran, the Islamic Republic engages in numerous forms of torture, including the surgical removal of eyes, hand amputations and flogging. Journalists and human rights activists are jailed. Members of the Baha'i faith are systematically persecuted as a matter of government policy. And Iranian theocrats regularly call for the eradication of the State of Israel, in contravention of the international convention of genocide.

In response to the July 2015 nuclear deal of the P5+1 (the five permanent UN members plus Germany), the Liberal party declared, "Iran must be held to account for its support of terrorist organizations, its long-standing human rights violations, its aggression toward Israel, as well as its nuclear program." In January 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged "to work alongside our allies to ensure that we are behaving in a responsible way to move Iran away from its position of violation of human rights, of nuclear ambitions, and indeed of sponsoring terrorism around the world."

Trudeau has also promised to play a constructive role in helping resolve the Syrian conflict. In doing so, he should keep in mind that the Iranian regime, by supplying Bashar Assad with funds, weapons, advisers and fighters, is as culpable as ISIS for the violence, death and displacement in the region.

De-listing Iran as a state sponsor of terror or lifting all economic sanctions would not only be at odds with the stated commitments of the Canadian government, but would also be offside Canada's closest international allies. The United States, for example, which doggedly led efforts to reach a nuclear deal with Iran, insists that Iran will remain a state sponsor of terror under American law and subject to sanctions for terrorism and human rights abuses.

Re-engagement with Iran must elicit responsiveness to Canada's longtime concerns about the regime's conduct. The victims of the regime's crimes cannot afford to have the terms of the Canada-Iran relationship dictated by the bullies in Tehran. ■

Sheryl Saperia is director of policy for Canada at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

News

Panel on depression and suicide 'strikes a chord'

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Front row from left, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, Marshall Korenblum, Lesley Wiesenfeld, and Danielle Berman, and back row from left, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Noah Cheses, Jonathan Golden and Molyn Leszcz JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

The turnout alone for an event at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation titled "Depression and Suicide in the Jewish Community" was quite telling.

Roughly 450 people packed the synagogue's main sanctuary Feb. 4 to listen to a panel of speakers discuss the causes, symptoms and consequences of depression and suicide as it manifests in adolescents, adults and seniors, and to stress the need as a community to eradicate the stigma associated with mental health issues.

"The topic clearly strikes a chord," said Molyn Leszcz, psychiatrist-in-chief at Mount Sinai Hospital and moderator of a panel that consisted of Danielle Berman, founder of a campaign to raise awareness for mental illness and suicide called Ride Away Stigma; Marshall Korenblum, psychiatrist-in-chief at Hincks-Dellcrest Centre for Children and Families; Lesley Wiesenfeld, deputy psychiatrist-in-chief at Mount Sinai; and Jonathan Golden, director of clinical service at Jewish Family & Child (JF & CS).

Rabbi Noah Cheses of Shaarei Shomayim told *The CJN* that the event, initiated by several congregants from Shaarei Shomayim and Beth Tzedec Congregation, was co-ordinated "in reaction to occurrences that struck and rattled us."

He said a number of his congregants and members of the broader Jewish community were affected by suicides that occurred over the summer.

He also referred to an incident last fall in which a young man who had attended Camp Ramah and was known by many of his teenage congregants took his own life.

"[These events] precipitated conversations, but these weren't happening at the Shabbes table. They were hush hush. So we felt a responsibility to bring to the forefront a community conversation and shed light on an area that's long been in the shadows," he said.

The talk was sponsored by the two synagogues, as well as Camp Ramah, JF & CS, Mount Sinai, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Leszcz gave an introductory address, emphasizing the need in Canada for a concentrated effort by communities, schools, workplaces and governments to invest in mental health prevention and treatment.

Governments are falling short, he said, noting, "Canada should be spending 13 per cent of its health-care budget on mental illness, and instead it spends seven, the lowest among virtually all the world's wealthy countries. Yet we know that every dollar invested in mental health care returns a fourfold increase in productivity and lowers health costs."

Further, while progress has been made in terms of greater discussion of mental health issues in the media and popular culture, Leszcz stressed that a stigma prevails and is extremely destructive.

"It's a form of discrimination, and we know that being an object of discrimination is poor for mental health," he said.

Stigma contributes to individuals' unwillingness to seek treatment, he said, and the outcome of that can be lethal.

"Suicide takes the lives of 15 out of every 100,000 people in this country and is the leading cause of death for males between the ages of 10 and 49... despite advances in mental health care over the years, suicides have not declined."

Leszcz pointed to the risk of depression going untreated, explaining that each untreated episode increases the likelihood of having another one.

Countering stigma requires comprehensive intervention tactics that address prevention and early recognition of mental illness, holistic treatments and maintenance of care, he said.

On the prevention side, for example, schools can work to create healthier environments that are more accepting of diversity, because there's a toxic connection between bullying and depression.

"And we need to take pressure off our young folks. Kids need to know they can be good and successful without being at the very top [of their class]," Leszcz said.

Workplaces should promote greater psychological safety, and more advocacy is needed to increase research and funding for mental illness.

"Forty years ago, we declared a war on cancer. We need to do the same now with mental illness," he said.

Wiesenfeld spoke about how depression affects older adults, pointing to loss, declined physical health and a sense of being invisible or socially isolated as common contributors.

It's important for family members of older adults to urge loved ones to seek treatment if they have signs of depression, she said.

Korenblum addressed what depression looks like in adolescents, highlighting its range of causes, symptoms and the crucial need for accessible treatment options.

Leszcz told *The CJN* there's a strong possibility the organizers will plan more events on mental illness in the community.

He said he hopes the audience's biggest takeaway is that the community should feel a sense of responsibility every step along the way, "from birth of a child through development, school, organizations, synagogue life, etc., to create psychologically safe environments that promote strong connections, build resilience and recognize when help is needed." ■

Has your school's application for a City of Toronto Student Nutrition Program grant been turned down?

Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak would like to know. Please contact his office at **416-392-1371** or **councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca**

James PASTERNAK
Toronto City Councillor, Ward 10, York Centre
416-392-1371 councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca
Visit us online: www.jamespasternak.ca

TORONTO

PREPARE YOURSELF!

Join us for this FREE 4 week program!

Increase your awareness and knowledge of basic first aid, emergency preparedness, CPR, accident awareness and more!

Tuesday, February 16th – March 8th, 2016
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

To register, please contact 416-225-2112 ext. 130 or mariak@betelcentre.org

Bernard Betel Centre
1003 Steeles Ave. West
Toronto, ON M2R 3T6
www.betelcentre.org

Funded by:
Ontario

Celebrating 50 Years of Creative Living
Bernard Betel Centre

Cotler helms new Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Irwin Cotler and Stéphane Dion are friends and former parliamentary colleagues, so it was no surprise the current foreign affairs minister met with the former minister of justice Feb. 5 to discuss issues on Cotler's mind, including, human rights, Iran, and terrorism in Israel.

Cotler, who left parliament last fall after a distinguished career that included time as justice minister and attorney general, raised issues that are high on the agenda of the new organization he's created, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

The centre is named for the wartime Swedish diplomat who saved hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. Wallenberg was arrested by Soviet forces in 1945 and disappeared in the Soviet camp system. His fate remains unknown.

Cotler said the centre will continue Wallenberg's humanitarian legacy and pursue justice. Its mission statement includes opposing anti-Semitism and genocide, promoting human rights and defending political prisoners. The organization is an international consortium of parliamentarians, scholars, jurists, human rights advocates, NGOs and students. Its honorary co-chairs are Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel; Supreme Court of Canada Justice Rosalie Abella; former Swedish prime minister Goran Persson; and Meir Shamgar, former president of Israel's Supreme Court.

During their meeting, Cotler briefed Dion on several upcoming centre initiatives and raised the issue of Iranian human rights violations. A longstanding advocate of Iran sanctions, Cotler acknowledged that with the nuclear deal, "automatic" Security Council sanctions are being lifted by western countries.

But the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program is only one of five problematic aspects of that country's policy, he told Dion. Iran remains a highly repressive state that last month set a new record for executions – greater than its usual number, which still gave it the dubious distinction of being the world leader, per capita, in state executions.

Iran continues to incite genocide against Israel and Jews, it sponsors terrorism, and its hegemonic ambitions are a threat to its neighbours, Cotler said. For those reasons, he urged Dion to maintain sanctions.

Cotler also briefed Dion about his personal familiarity with terrorism. When visiting his children in Israel recently, he learned of a terror attack in the town where his daughter lives. She was safe, but she knew the woman who had been assaulted and who drove off her attacker. Terrorism is widely reported in Israel, but barely any mention is made in the Canadian press of frequent attacks or of the constant incitement to violence by Palestinian leaders, he said.

Stéphane Dion

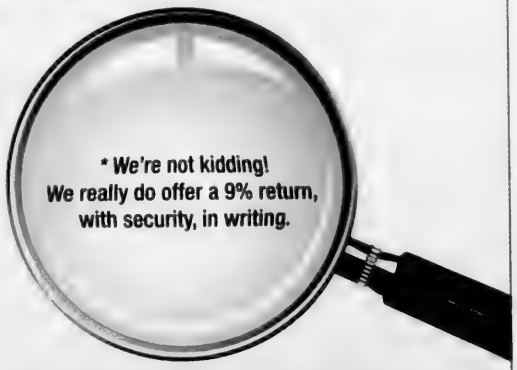
Irwin Cotler

Cotler also extended an invitation to Dion to participate in a symposium scheduled for May 4 to 6 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, sponsored by the centre in conjunction with the March of the Living. The gathering will examine the legacy of the Nuremberg war crimes trials on their 70th anniversary, along with the Nazi-era Nuremberg laws that preceded the Holocaust.

Cotler told *The CJN* the centre is embarking on several major initiatives in only its first few months in operation. On Feb. 17 and 18, it will launch the Raoul Wallenberg all-party parliamentary caucus for human rights in Ottawa; on Feb. 23 and 24 it will co-sponsor the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, featuring human rights heroes from around the world; on Feb. 25, it will sponsor "Justice for Sergei Magnitsky rule of law project" in Ottawa (Magnitsky was an accountant who died in jail after uncovering massive fraud and theft by Russian officials); from March 13 to 17, the Centre will hold the Wallenberg lecture at the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism; and from May 16 to 18, it will sponsor Iran Accountability Week in Ottawa, which, it is hoped, will turn attention to Iranian political prisoners.

It's an ambitious agenda, but Cotler is excited about the prospects for affecting change. "I'm devoting myself full time to this. The demands at this point of the pursuit of international justice is as great as it has ever been." ■

If an Investment Advisor offers you a 9% Annual Return, it makes sense to read the fine print*



PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

"Feel good about your investments"
To find out more visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

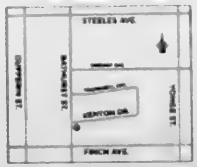
Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000423), not an investment dealer.
Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

For Canada's highest level of Alzheimer's and dementia care, it's the One.

One goal, one mission, one purpose. To provide the highest level of care in the world. One Kenton Place is a state-of-the-art residence built to provide unparalleled levels of care, service, and innovation for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. It's where personal, loving care combines with a customized full day activity schedule and leading edge programs at the forefront of Alzheimer's research to provide the highest level of care anywhere.

- Person centered care tailored to individualized needs
- 24-hour call bell emergency response and resident location systems
- 24-hour registered nurses and supervision
- Customized full daily activity schedule
- COR certified Kosher meals
- Daily housekeeping

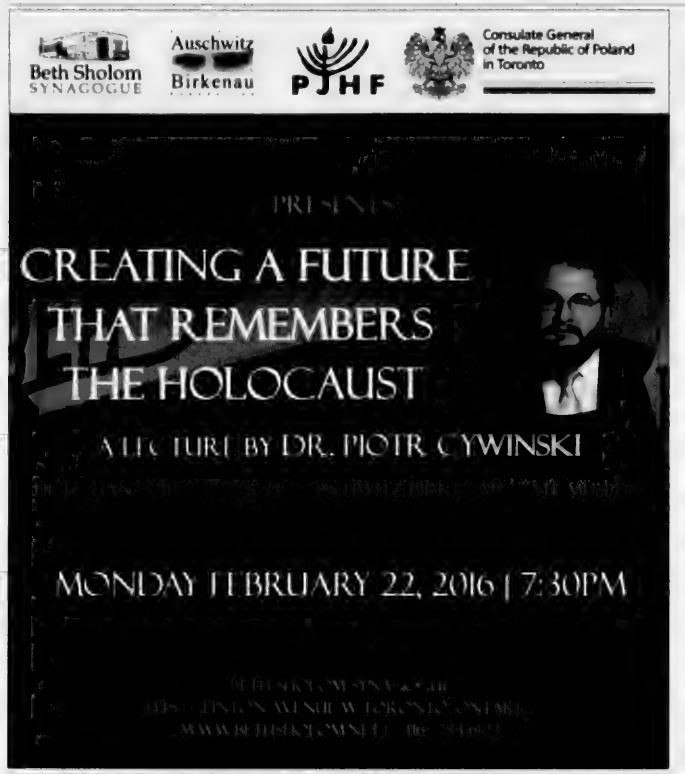
One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one.

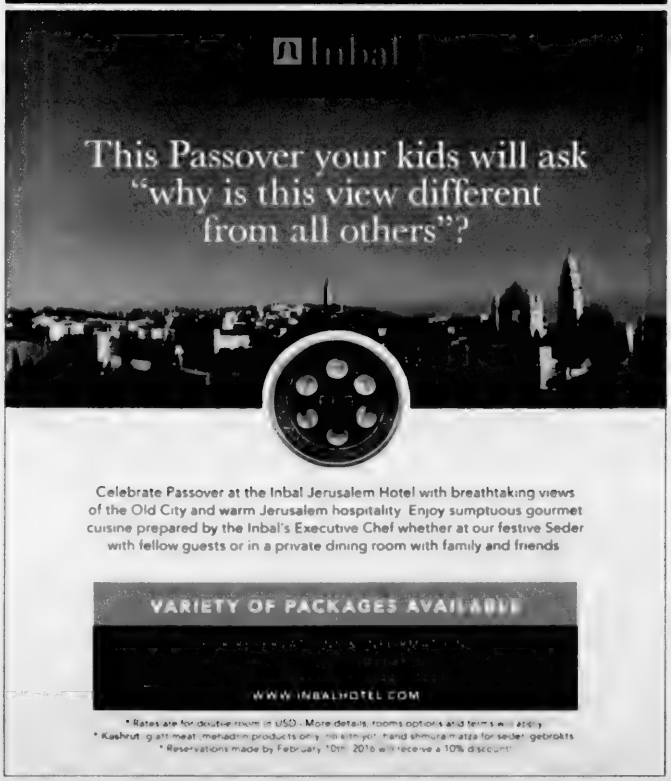


1 Kenton Drive, North York, ON

> BOOK A TOUR TODAY: 647-932-7913 • ONEKENTONPLACE.CA

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 11, 2016


Beth Sholom SYNAGOGUE
Auschwitz Birkenau
PJHF
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto
PRESENTS
CREATING A FUTURE THAT REMEMBERS THE HOLOCAUST
A LECTURE BY DR. PIOTR CYWINSKI
MONDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2016 | 7:30PM


Inbal
This Passover your kids will ask "why is this view different from all others"?
Celebrate Passover at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel with breathtaking views of the Old City and warm Jerusalem hospitality. Enjoy sumptuous gourmet cuisine prepared by the Inbal's Executive Chef whether at our festive Seder with fellow guests or in a private dining room with family and friends
VARIETY OF PACKAGES AVAILABLE
WWW.INBALHOTEL.COM
* Rates are for double room in USD - More details, rooms options and terms will apply
* Kashrut: glatt meat (mehadrin products only, no exception), hand shmura matza for seder, gebrokts
* Reservations made by February 10th, 2016 will receive a 10% discount

Going to the Super Bowl? There's an app for that

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

For a company that prides itself on providing up-to-date, state-of-the art digital solutions to sports companies' marketing efforts, Channel 1 Media Solutions owes its name to some pretty old technology.

Time was, if you wanted to watch television, you were limited to perhaps 13 channels. You could tune into each channel using a rotary dial, but the stations always started at 2.

There was no channel 1 – it was a blank spot on the dial – at least until Evan Karasick and his then-partner, Colin Stein, gave it a new meaning. Their vision was to offer a new approach to marketing and selling that you couldn't find in traditional advertising companies. Hence Channel 1, or as Karasick put it, "We wanted to be Channel 1, different and number 1."

His idea of an interactive online platform for customers to buy and renew tickets, view seating plans, buy merchandise, arrange a parking spot and learn about special events, has caught on with the majority of sports franchises in North America. He estimates that 82 per cent of the teams in the NFL, Major League Baseball, the NHL and Major League Soccer are his clients.

His game plan has proven so successful that Channel 1 was given the contract to produce this year's official Super Bowl website and app, with information on events, restaurants, parking and more.

Karasick, 47, prides himself on being first and best in providing solutions to sports organizations. One of Channel 1's products is an interactive fan survey that generates new leads. Other platforms are geared for corporate and high end clients and there's a presentation tool for team sales staff to use that takes less time to prepare than traditional slide shows.

"Sales is a numbers game," Karasick said. "If you throw more spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks, you'll sell more."

Channel 1, which Karasick owns after he and Stein went their separate ways, grosses somewhere between $3 million and $4 million a year. "It's a high margin business," he said, though he won't be more specific about profitability.

Interestingly, it was a convergence of circumstances that led him to the business in the first place. A native of Vancouver, Karasick was looking for something that he could sink his teeth into. At 27, he underwent psychological evaluation to help him determine a career path.

The ones that best suited him were graphic design, architecture and industrial design.

Evan Karasick and the Road to 50 app

He enrolled in a course at the B.C. Institute of Technology, studying design, art forms, sculpture and AutoCAD, a computer drafting program. Afterwards, Stein, who worked as a graphic designer for the Vancouver Canucks, opened some doors to the team's marketing department. Together they created a CD-ROM to help the Canucks sell tickets, "and it spread like wildfire," Karasick said.

It included seat locations, price charts, description of amenities, information about parking and payment options. "Back then, it was crazy innovative," he said.

It was so successful that in 1999, the Canucks used it to make a presentation to other NHL teams at a league-wide marketing meeting. Word spread and soon Channel 1 was fielding orders for its products. "That was the big break," Karasick said.

Within three years of Channel 1's first contract with the Canucks, it had added the Nashville Predators, Los Angeles Kings, Columbus Blue Jackets and Chicago Blackhawks to its roster of clients.

Through word of mouth, Channel 1 continued to grow. "I have never responded to an RFP [request for proposal]. People know about us, and we're the place to go when you want stuff done," he said.

And although the focus of his business is sports, it turns out, "I'm not a big sports fan," Karasick said.

In 2002, he moved the operation to Toronto, and he currently runs an office downtown, employing 14 people on site and another six who work out of the office. The job comes with some special perks, like a free trip to the Super Bowl in San Francisco.

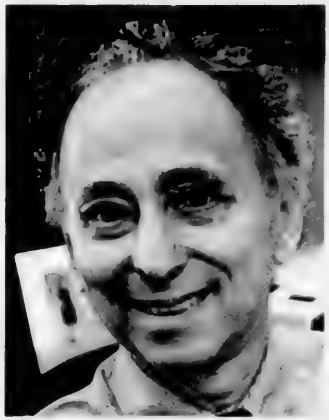
The trip with his staff gave Karasick a chance to meet and "talk sports, businesses and corporate marketing. The secret to my success is relationships," which usually focus on the business of sports, not what's happening in the game, he said.

After all, in the world of sports entertainment, if you can save a company money and enhance its sales, isn't that just as important as wins and losses? ■

This is the first article in an ongoing series on emerging Canadian Jewish entrepreneurs.

Doctor honoured for helping Third World kids

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca



Stanley Zlotkin

About 30 million children in developing countries can thank Toronto-based Dr. Stanley Zlotkin for coming up with an easy fix to their mineral and vitamin deficiencies, and last month, he was honoured by the province for his initiative.

"This all started close to 20 years ago when UNICEF asked me to come and assist them with a problem they had identified, which was a deficiency of iron in children around the world," said Zlotkin, who has worked as a clinician-nutritionist and research scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children since 1980, and received the Order of Ontario in a ceremony on Jan. 20.

"At that time, the estimate was around 300 to 500 million children with iron deficiency. And although they had iron drops available for 100 years, they weren't working for a number of practical reasons."

Zlotkin explained that the iron drops had a very strong taste that caused children to spit them out, they would stain children's teeth brown, and parents struggled with understanding the proper dosage, since the measurements were in metric units.

"So UNICEF's question to me was, 'Can you come up with an idea that would help solve this problem?'"

Zlotkin said that in Canada, there isn't a big problem with iron deficiency in children because virtually all baby foods parents buy from grocery stores are made in a factory and they are fortified with iron and other vitamins and minerals.

"In a developing world context, where parents don't buy baby food – they make it from whatever the local available food is, like rice or lentils or wheat or corn – these are not fortified because they make them in their house," he said.

"So I came up with the idea for home fortification and this means you can take minerals and vitamins in a powdered form, put them in a little package – it looks like a package of artificial sweetener – parents have to open the package and sprinkle it onto whatever food they are using."

Zlotkin said when he presented his idea to UNICEF, he was asked to conduct research to prove that this approach would treat children with anemia, that parents would use it, that companies would agree to make the product in large volume at a low cost, and he was asked to come up with models of distribution.

"Over the next 10 years, given the fact that I work at SickKids and I'm primarily a researcher… I did research around the world to answer those questions."

The result was the Sprinkles Global Health Initiative.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and private foundations, Zlotkin conducted research in a number of developing countries to prove the benefits of home-fortification to control micronutrient deficiencies.

He said five or six years ago, UNICEF took on the responsibility of distributing the product, "so now the sprinkles, the powdered minerals and vitamins, are being distributed to children at risk of iron and other mineral and vitamin deficiencies in probably more than 50 countries, reaching 25 to 30 million children per year" in countries across Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

He said the product is also being used as part of the World Food Program, which is a UN agency, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, to be used in refugee camps and in emergency situations, and it is also being distributed by governments and non-governmental organizations.

Zlotkin said being recognized by the province that has been home to his family for generations is an honour.

"The Order of Ontario is the highest civilian award that can be given to someone," said Zlotkin, who in 2007, was awarded the Order of Canada, the highest civilian honour in Canada, for his contributions to improving the lives of children globally.

"My grandparents came from eastern Europe in 1903… Both my parents were born in Ontario, two of my three children were born in Ontario, and I was born in Ontario, so to be recognized by a province that I've lived in… is about the highest honour a person can receive." ■

Show your body who the real muscle is around here

At VIVA Thornhill Woods, Vaughan's premier Jewish retirement community, we believe our Community Members should always feel their best. That's why we provide our exclusive VIVA*fit* wellness program developed by an older adult fitness expert. Every VIVA Community Member receives a personalized wellness routine with one-on-one guidance. Call us today to get pumped up about how great all-inclusive rental retirement living can feel.

Heart Healthy Meals: Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, February 24th at 12:00pm
Join us for an educational luncheon with a special presentation by VIVA Lifestyles Associate Tessa, featuring heart healthy foods prepared by our Executive Chef, Mitchell Lash. RSVP is required.

Call Wendy Teperman at 905.417.8585 to RSVP today!

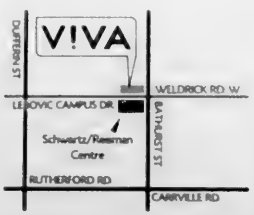
Winter WARM-UP SPECIAL

SECOND PERSON FREE*

Book your tour for February 16th or 23rd to receive a FREE $20 SHOPPERS DRUG MART gift card!

Limited availability. Call today!

VIVA Retirement Communities
THORNHILL WOODS
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

Groups decry JDL presence at protest unrelated to Israel

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Pro-Israel groups on campus are distancing themselves from a Jewish Defence League counter-protest at York University against a student-led rally that called on the school to divest from "weapons companies."

On Feb. 4, the YUDivest Coalition, comprising groups such as Amnesty International at York and Students Against Israeli Apartheid, organized a protest to urge York to divest from arms manufacturers, such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, FLIR Systems, and Textron.

Hillel Ontario CEO Mark Newburgh said about 80 students gathered in York's Vari Hall before marching to the student centre. He said the protest was peaceful, orderly, and relatively quiet, and there was no mention of Israel specifically.

"They were chanting numerous slogans about the university divesting from weapons manufacturers. There were no chants about Israel, and there were no chants about Jewish students," he said.

He said the only allusion to Israel or Jews came from one professor who addressed the gathering in the student centre and mentioned businessman Paul Bronfman and his decision to pull his financial support from York because of a pro-Palestinian mural that currently hangs at the school.

"Other than knowing who was behind the protest, which is an anti-Israel group on campus, there was no attention brought to it. So who brought the attention to it? The JDL," Newburgh said.

According to the JDL's Facebook page, the counter-protest was organized as part of a "campaign to stop incitement to murder Jews" on campus.

JDL national director Meir Weinstein said a group of about 20 JDL protesters gathered at York's main entrance on Keele Street, waving Israeli and Canadian flags, and holding signs with messages such as "Your tax $$$ supports Jew hatred." About 35 people made their way to the student centre, where they encountered campus security.

"They [security] were saying they didn't want the JDL there," Weinstein said.

And, it seems, neither did Jewish campus groups including Hillel and Hasbara Fellowships Canada.

"I met with one of the leaders of Hasbara, one of the students leaders, and they didn't want to have any kind of protest of any sort. They weren't interested in doing

Protesters inside York's Vari Hall
FACEBOOK PHOTO

that," Weinstein said, adding he didn't bother approaching Hillel.

"In the past, with Hillel, we've never gotten anywhere with them."

Newburgh confirmed Hillel has no affiliation or contact with the JDL. "When the JDL showed up [Feb. 4], they showed up on their own to campus, and they were not in any way supported or working with other students or organizations," he said.

"We gathered in the Hillel lounge prior to the protest. Hillel staff gathered in Vari Hall and we worked with security to share information we were learning... We were all here in support of one thing: to ensure the safety of the students that were on campus," Newburgh said, commending campus security and police for keeping things orderly and peaceful.

Robert Walker, director of Hasbara Fellowships Canada, said Hasbara Fellows were there to observe and take photos and videos, but were instructed to avoid "confrontation for the sake of confrontation... There was no profit to be gained from getting involved with that."

Walker said it's often counter-productive for non-student groups to get involved.

"Campus matters are best managed by students. What we aim to do at Hasbara Fellowships is obviously to give them training and guidance and everything, but at the end of the day it has to be a student who is taking the lead. That's what empowerment means," Walker said.

He said "knee-jerk decisions" can undo successes that students have made.

"Much of what happens on campus happens behind the scenes... We need to play a long game when it comes to Israel activism on campus... We need to keep the big picture in mind and remember that advocating for Israel on campus isn't about waving flags for a day, but about changing minds and doing it in a strategic way." ■

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks free.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview, North York
Amica at Bayview Gardens, North York
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill
1.855.738.7848
AMICA

Concern voiced as Canada lifts some Iran sanctions

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is urging caution as the Trudeau government shifts Canadian policy on Iran, lifting some economic sanctions while saying it's willing to discuss restoring diplomatic relations.

Iran remains a threat to Israel, the Jewish People and the international community and should continue to be confronted "through economic and diplomatic tools," CIJA CEO Shimon Fogel said in an email to supporters last week.

"We remain deeply concerned about the international effort to re-engage Iran. In addition to ensuring Canada maintains an explicit focus on holding Iran accountable, we will continue to emphasize that history shows diplomacy without economic pressure has never been effective in changing Iran's behaviour," Fogel stated.

"It is near impossible to exaggerate the threat Iran continues to pose to Israel and the Jewish People globally. The lifting of international sanctions follow the P5+1 agreement on Iran's nuclear program – a deal fraught with gaps and failures that the regime will no doubt exploit – remains a serious source of anxiety for CIJA and our global partners."

Fogel urged the Jewish community, "whatever your partisan leanings... to speak out and get involved" by calling on Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion "to continue applying pressure on Iran."

Fogel was speaking after the government announced changes to Canada's economic sanctions regime against Iran.

Dion and Chrystia Freeland, minister of international trade, said they were amending Canada's wide range of sanctions "to allow for a controlled economic re-engagement... including lifting the ban on financial services, imports and exports.

"Canadian companies will now be better positioned to compete with other companies, globally," they stated.

At the same time, the government said it "continues to have serious concerns regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions and will continue to maintain tight restrictions on exports to Iran of goods, services and technologies considered sensitive from a security perspective, including nuclear goods and technologies, as well as those that could assist in the development of Iran's ballistic missile program."

"Canada's approach to re-engagement with Iran, as with any country of concern, will be based on efforts to foster dialogue, rather than on withdrawal and isolation," Dion stated. "Canada will not lower the standard to which we hold Iran accountable, particularly on its human rights record and its aggressiveness toward the state of Israel. We will use any renewed engagement with Iran as a tool to support efforts to advance human rights and regional security."

Hassan Rouhani

Canada's new policy was questioned by Paul Rotenberg, vice-president of the right-wing Toronto Zionist Council. While he supports engaging other countries, he said such efforts will prove fruitless with Iran.

"You have a regime in Iran whose values are diametrically opposed to us," he said. Iran has stepped up its public executions, it kills gays, it foments war in Syria and Iraq, it sponsors terrorism, "they don't believe in human rights. They foment terrorism all over the world."

Furthermore they don't comply with the agreements they sign, he said, adding: "Our sanctions are the only way we can express our displeasure with the way they do things, which are diametrically opposed to our Canadian ways of doing things."

A different perspective came from JSpace, a left-wing Zionist group. Spokesperson Harry Schachter said that because of the P5+1 agreement, Iran had already taken steps to dismantle its nuclear program.

"It was inevitable – and necessary – that Canada along with other countries would lift sanctions against Iran. That was what the deal was all about."

Turning to diplomatic and commercial engagement, Schachter said, "The new Liberal government prefers dialogue over isolation... The Iran story is a case where diplomacy has worked," he stated.

Tory foreign affairs critic Tony Clement and deputy critic Peter Kent said lifting sanctions "is extremely disappointing, given Canada's past track record of a principled stance against the regime in Tehran, which cannot be trusted... Iran continues to develop a ballistic missile program, even after being condemned by the United Nations." ■

TD Wealth

Discover "Tax-Smart Investing"

"I had no experience with investing prior to my husband's early death. Michael has not only helped me create an investment portfolio that will see me through my retirement, he's also taken the time to educate me about the markets and my overall strategy." – Ruth-Ann Weinberg

Most investors worry about the total return on their retirement portfolio. But the biggest cost of a portfolio is usually the tax bill.

In fact, at the highest tax bracket, *every tax dollar you save is equivalent to almost two dollars earned by you.*

That's why we urge you to contact Michael and his team today at **416 308 9084** or **Michael.Marcovitz@td.com** to see whether you qualify for a free, no obligation tax smart-evaluation of your retirement plan.

Michael Marcovitz, MBA, LL.B
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
michaelmarcovitz.com

The Marcovitz Group

TD

The Marcovitz Group consists of Michael Marcovitz, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor, Jason Edmunds, Sales Assistant; Shareena Wong, Assistant Investment Advisor, and Jane Ly, Assistant Investment Advisor. The Marcovitz Group is a part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. – Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund. © The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. 150721627PC

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Al Green left real estate, artistic and philanthropic legacy

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

With 14 years between them, Shavey Tishler (nee Green) and Al Green were the bookends of a family of six children.

Some of Tishler's most powerful memories of her brother, who she describes as "the sweetest, gentlest man," go back to when Al was a teenager in the Canadian military and she was a child back in Toronto.

For her fifth birthday, Al, who served in Holland during World War II, sent her a pair of tiny Dutch clogs that she came to cherish, one of which she brought to Al's funeral. The other was found during the shivah by two of Al's grandchildren.

"My brother wanted me to have both of the wooden, yellow-flowered clogs," Tishler said.

Al Green, who died Jan. 22 at 92, left behind an wide and varied legacy in Toronto.

An illustrious real estate developer, sculptor and philanthropist, Green and his partners in Greenwin Construction, co-founded in the 1940s by Al's father Lipa Green and family friend Arthur Weinstock, hugely influenced Toronto's urban landscape, pioneering residential development in Don Mills and, in the 1950s, building thousands of the city's high-rise residential buildings and single-family homes, as well as some commercial buildings.

"They provided affordable rental housing that promoted the growth of Toronto, particularly where the downtown area is concerned," said David Green, the eldest of Al's five children.

In his 50s, Green, who had always pursued artistic projects in his spare time – Tishler recalled the darkroom he fashioned as a teen in the cellar of the family's Major Street home – started a second career as a self-taught sculptor, becoming the mentee of well-known sculptors Sorel Etrog and Maryon Kantaroff. Green's works are displayed throughout the city, many in buildings developed by the family business and its offshoots, as well as in the Al Green Sculpture Garden in Davisville Village.

Green also founded the non-profit Al Green Sculpture Studio and School in 2000 and the now-dormant Al Green Gallery, on Merton Street, which showcased both his work and that of fellow artists.

A notable backer of the arts and Jewish causes, Green supported the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, which named its theatre after him. He was also an active board member of organizations such as the Art Gallery of Ontario and founder of Jewish Addiction Community Services (JACS).

Al Green

"He had great sympathy for people who needed help overcoming personal struggles," David said.

Born in Toronto to immigrant parents from Poland and Russia, Green grew up in what David called the "Jewish ghetto" near Spadina Avenue and College Street and received just a Grade 8 education before joining his father and two brothers in the initial family business doing small-time contracting.

"They were doing things like repairing the brick ovens of Jewish bakeries, chimney repairs, etc.," David said.

Green's father Lipa then formed a partnership with Weinstock, who owned a tailoring factory on Spadina, and Weinstock's son-in-law Albert Latner, with whom Green and his brother Harold became active operators of the business.

"The three had wonderful chemistry. Albert's specialty was finance and politics, my father was the developer and planner, and Harold was in charge of construction. They absolutely trusted and loved each other until their deaths," David said.

After the war, Green married his childhood sweetheart, Goldie. They had five children. His second wife, Malka, died last summer.

As a father, he was extremely loving.

"My father always looked after not just us, but his extended family… We must've moved around five times when I was a kid as he became more successful, and he would bring my grandfather and many of his siblings. We often lived just a few blocks from extended family… Later, his grandchildren were the light of his life," David said.

Green is survived by five children, two stepchildren and 11 grandchildren. ■

FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

LET THIS BE...
YOUR YEAR!

Live Life to the Fullest at Four Elms!

THE ENTERTAINERS OF THE WAGMAN CENTRE

Wednesday, February 24th, 2:30 - 4PM

An event not to be missed! Four Elms welcomes the always inspirational and exciting Entertainers of the Wagman Centre. Please RSVP

905-[illegible] [illegible] www.[illegible]livingcom

GUEST VOICE

Where all the children are above average

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

Garrison Keeler famously ended his radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*, with the words, "And that's the news from Lake Woebegone, where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average." Of course, it is logically impossible for all children to be above average, and yet we implicitly know what Lake Woebegone is all about. We understand the unreal expectations it holds for itself and its children. We, who walk the glittery expanses of our cities want to bend the rules of nature and logic to meet our idealized conception of ourselves. We don't just want our children to be perfect. We want them to be above average.

Except children don't work that way.

February marks Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. When addressing the issue of inclusion in the Jewish community, we can talk about all the work that has been done to create more ease of access for those with limited mobility. We can speak about handicapped-accessible doors and elevators. We can discuss the best ways to go about treating people who have disabilities with respect and care. These are all wonderful and encouraging developments.

Yet, these approaches are not enough. They assume that we are looking to give tzedakah – to help those who are "more needy." That is a condescending process that belittles. It is an approach that I myself often fall into, and it is wrong.

There is something crucial for us as a society – and for us as people seeking to understand God – to gain from those who might be called "atypical." We must be prepared to ask ourselves: "What spiritual lessons are we to learn from people living with disabilities? Why has God created us with differences?"

I believe that the answer to these questions resides in our human desire for uniformity and for perfection – our desire to make moulds, and our desire to fit moulds, our desire to always be perfectly in fashion and our desire to always be above average. But the existence of the atypical teaches us that our expectations for perfection are misplaced. Our moulds don't work. The cognitive patterns that we impose upon nature never fully encompass nature.

> *What spiritual lessons are we to learn from people living with disabilities?*

The Mishnah (Sanhedrin 37) speaks of the greatness of God in a counter-intuitive way: "When a man mints coins with one press, the coins are all the same. But when the King of Kings mints each man from the stamp of Adam HaRishon, each of them is different. Therefore, every person must say, 'For me the world was created.'" The message is clear: We can only appreciate God when we acknowledge that God mints the human coin so that every person is different. We can only appreciate God's presence in the typical when we acknowledge God's presence in the atypical.

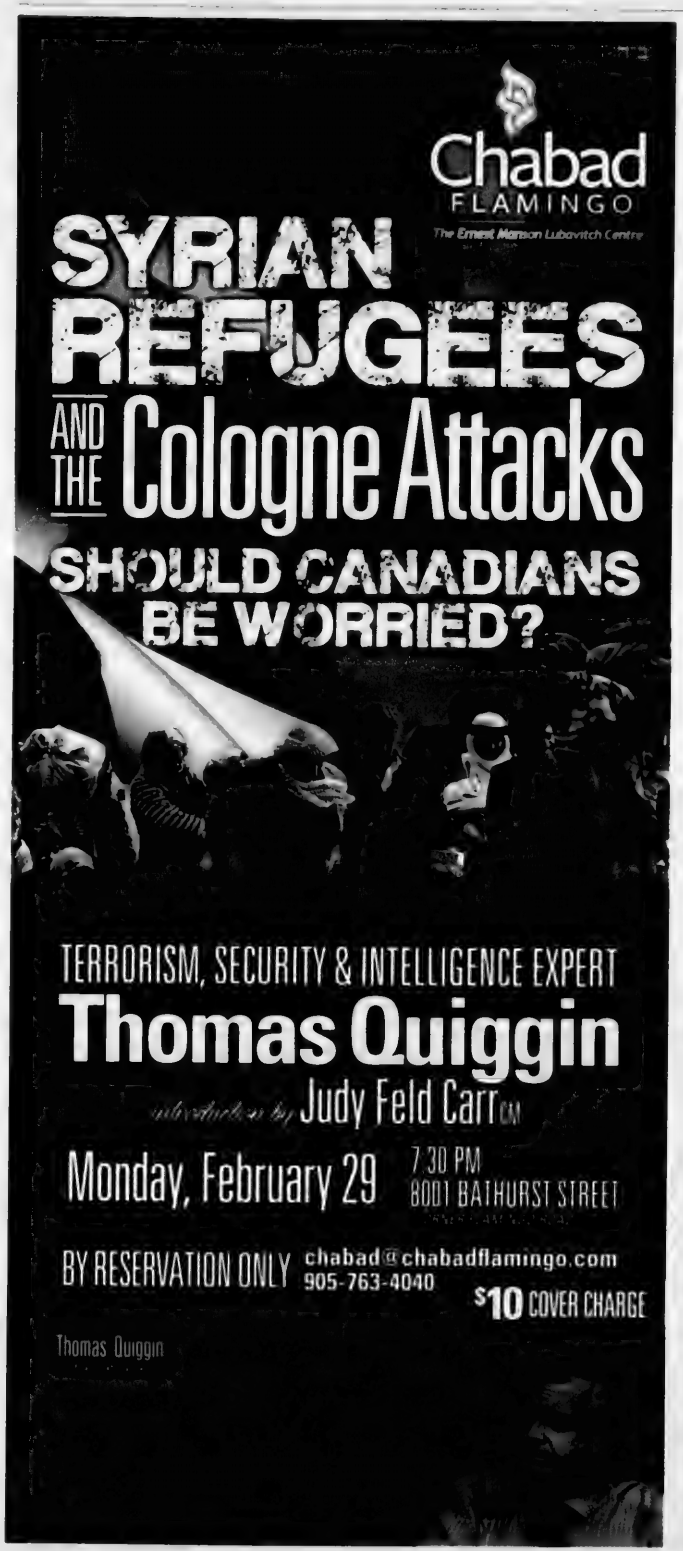
This is the spiritual lesson of difference. When we appreciate the unique divine quality of the atypical child, we can also appreciate the typical child in her own divine uniqueness.

We, as a community, know this better than anyone. As Jews, we willfully differentiate ourselves from the norms of society. We are not just the "People of the Book," we are the people who are different because of the book. And that book tells us that there is no atypical person, because there is no typical person. Each of us is created in the image of God – each of us was specially crafted at the divine mint.

This month, let's try to break our perceptual habits. Let's try to break our prejudices. Let's try to not be "above average." ■

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler is spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

make yourself at HOME in Israel
Nefesh B'Nefesh
Toronto
Spring Aliyah Fair
Tuesday, March 8th
Retirees & Empty Nesters: 5:30pm
General Programming: 6:30pm
Novotel Toronto North York
3 Park Home Ave, Toronto
Living in Israel can be more than a dream.
Hear from professionals about employment, communities, education, taxes, budgeting and retirement in Israel at the premier Aliyah event of the year.
The Aliyah Fair will feature Israeli vendors and service providers to give you a head-start on your preparations.
This is your opportunity to meet and network with other people planning Aliyah and get the tools and information for success.
If Israel is your dream, let's make it home.
IN PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A STRONGER ISRAEL THROUGH ALIYAH
Nefesh B'Nefesh
1-866-4-ALIYAH
#MAKEITHOME
REGISTER:
WWW.NBN.ORG.IL/TORONTO



Teacher determined to make genocide study compulsory

Quebec Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jean-Marc Fournier, second from right, meets with, from left, Aram Elagoz and Hrag Jinjinian of the Armenian National Committee of Quebec, foundation spokesperson Marcy Bruck, supporter Mike Flinker, founder Heidi Berger and Mheir Karakachian of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee.

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Heidi Berger has been told her campaign to make the study of genocide compulsory in all Quebec high schools is unworkable and even unwelcome, but that has only made her more determined.

Berger, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, last year created the non-profit Foundation for the Compulsory Study of Genocide in Schools. It's an outgrowth of what had been a one-woman Shoah education project that has seen her speak at more than 25 Quebec schools since 2009.

The lack of awareness she encountered convinced her that not only the Holocaust should also be taught but the broader subject of genocide. Whether it is taught – even cursorily – is largely left up to the individual teacher, Berger said. Others would like to, but feel ill-equipped, she added.

Berger, a video producer who teaches communications at Concordia University, was inspired by her late mother Anna Kazimirski, who died 10 years ago. The latter devoted years to talking to young people about her experience in the ghettos of Poland. Berger created a 50-minute video about her mother, which she shows before her talk. Some classes also read Kazimirski's memoir *Witness to Horror*.

Berger is feeling less lonely in her quest today. In the past year, several educators and marketing experts have joined the foundation's mainly volunteer team.

In December, she met with two Quebec cabinet ministers: Kathleen Weil, responsible for immigration, diversity and inclusion, and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jean-Marc Fournier, a former education minister. Berger was encouraged by the meetings' positive tone, facilitated by D'Arcy McGee MNA David Birnbaum. In January, she met Native Affairs Minister Geoff Kelley. She hopes to meet with Premier Philippe Couillard.

Since October, the foundation has been circulating a petition asking the National Assembly and current Education Minister François Blais to make genocide study mandatory as "a means to creating a tolerant and peaceful society which is accepting of all cultures and religions."

Birnbaum will present the petition in the National Assembly next month, she said.

The petition had some 2,000 signatures, in large part due to the co-operation of the Armenian community, which wants the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire during World War I better known. Berger is hoping to similarly rally the Jewish community, and the foundation has written to shuls seeking support. The petition says "significant numbers of Quebec students have no knowledge of genocides, past or present, including the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, Rwandan genocide, and the cultural genocide of our First Nations."

The foundation, sustained mainly with her own and her family's money, is convinced that reaching students will help prevent intolerance and hateful acts.

The foundation's definition of genocide is "the systematic destruction of a racial, ethnic or cultural group." It is offering model pedagogical materials that could be used in Quebec schools. A team member developed a workbook and teacher's manual for the Grade 11 Ontario Ministry of Education course "The History of Genocide and Human Atrocities." It focuses on the five stages of discrimination that lead to genocide, with the emphasis on making teens more aware of their own attitudes and behaviour.

Berger believes the best hope for getting genocide into Quebec schools is through the Grade 11 "Contemporary World" course, which explores issues such as conflict. Although history is the most logical, she doubts the subject would be covered in any such course, because scant attention is paid to World War II. Alternatively, the foundation thinks genocide could be part of the compulsory ethics and religious culture course, or English as a first or second language.

Holocaust education is compulsory in some European countries, and at least six U.S. states, Berger noted. In 2008, the Toronto District School Board introduced an optional genocide course, although not without controversy. ■

France honours former glider pilot for heroic service in World War II

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Martin Maxwell remembers the night of June 3, 1944 quite well. With D-Day, the Allied attack on Nazi-occupied Europe, only days away, Maxwell and other glider pilots were summoned by Lt.-Gen. Frederick Browning, commander of I Airborne Corps and deputy commander of First Allied Airborne Army.

The general pulled no punches in his message to the men. "Some of you won't be coming back," he told them, advising them to write letters to their loved ones while they still had the chance.

It was a sobering message and good advice. On the night of D-Day, June 6, 100 glider pilots would die, along with 600 airborne troops and another 600 who were reported missing.

Maxwell knew what he'd be up against. He'd be landing an unpowered glider seven miles behind enemy lines, attacking German soldiers guarding three crucial bridges, taking on a garrison of German support troops and hoping that potential German reinforcements would stay out of the fight.

On a partially moonlit night, he landed his glider without crashing, and he, his co-pilot and the 30 commandos on board were part of the contingent that took the bridges that led to the beaches where Allied troops would land on D-Day.

Maxwell's wartime exploits have not gone unnoticed. For years, he's spoken publicly about his experiences, and recently they were brought to the attention of French officials. That led to his most recent honour. Late last year, Maxwell received a letter from Nicolas Chapuis, France's ambassador in Ottawa, informing him that he had been given the rank of Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour, the highest national order in France.

The distinction "is awarded in recognition of your personal involvement in the liberation of our country during World War II. Through you, France remembers the sacrifice of all your compatriots who came to liberate French soil," the letter stated.

Maxwell displays the handsome medal and ribbon, but he still hasn't pinned it on his navy blazer. Finding room for it among his other medals might prove a bit of a problem. He expects that sometime this year, an event will be scheduled to formally award him the medal.

Martin Maxwell

> *We had to land and kill the people who guarded the bridge. We couldn't use our guns. It would wake up everybody. So we used bayonets and knives.*

At 91, Maxwell is still sharp as a tack, fully mobile and still hard at work at the bandages business he started back in 1952, shortly after coming to Canada.

He remains busy lecturing at schools and he's made a point of attending gatherings of veterans both in Canada and around the world, particularly in Holland, which was liberated by Canadian forces.

In addition to the action he saw in Normandy, he also fought and was wounded in Holland.

Originally from Vienna, Maxwell was born Max Meisels and changed his name so that, if captured, the Germans would not know he was a Jew.

One of five children, his family was left bereft when both his parents died six months apart of natural causes. Placed in an orphanage, Maxwell was part of a kinder-transport of Jewish children sent to England in December 1938. There he was adopted by a British Jewish family, whom he recalls with great affection.

Maxwell enlisted in 1942 and after requesting to see action, he joined the glider unit.

He describes his participation in D-Day rather nonchalantly.

"My target was the Pegasus Bridge," he said. "We had to land and kill the people who guarded the bridge, the sentries. We couldn't use our guns. It would wake up everybody. So we used bayonets and knives."

His unit held the bridge for two days until land forces moving up from the beach relieved them.

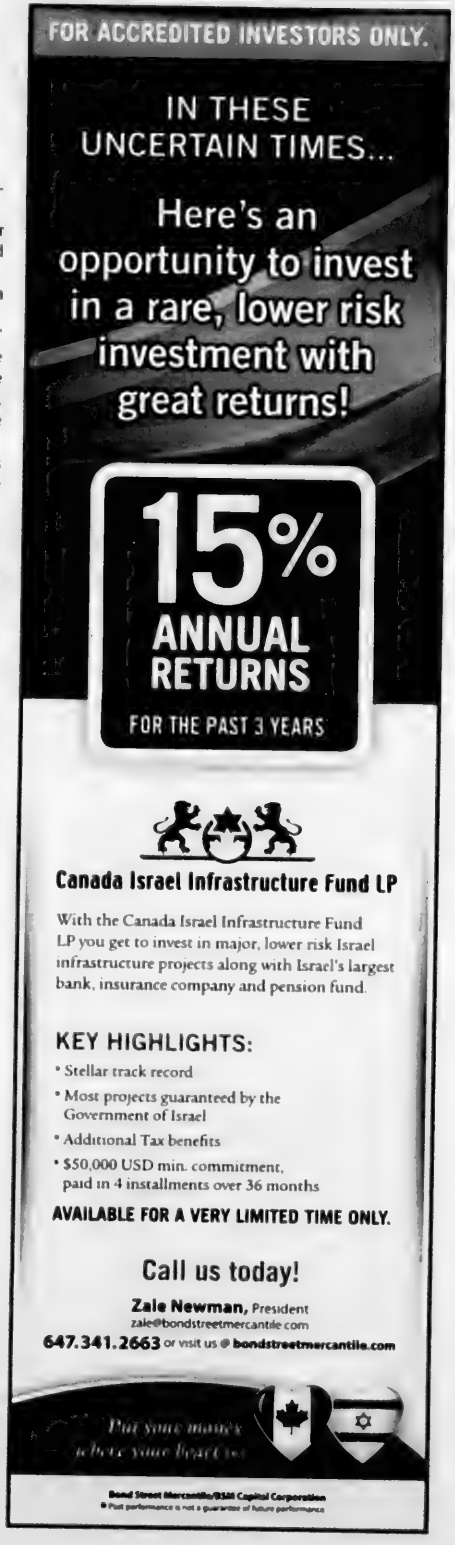
Returning to England, his unit was prepared for its next major mission, Operation Market Garden. That was the bold stroke envisioned by British Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery to land forces behind German lines, take bridges in Arnhem and open the door to a quick invasion of Germany in September 1944.

The mission failed. British forces were decimated, and Maxwell barely escaped death. He had been ordered to leave a trench and make for headquarters to tell the commanding officers that the soldiers were about to be overwhelmed. But after he'd trodden about 20 feet, a bombardment wiped out everyone in the trench. He was hurled by the shock wave into a tree and knocked unconscious. When he awoke, he was in terrible pain. His hand was close to cut in half, he had broken ribs and his hip was jutting out at an unnatural angle.

He was captured by German forces and put in the care of conscripted Dutch doctors, who nursed him back to health. While wounded, he saw a gruesome sight that attested to the barbarity of the Nazis. The Germans had hung Dutch civilians – men, women and children – from a wire in the middle of the street with a notice indicating that such was the fate of collaborators and traitors.

He survived internment in a POW camp near Hanover. His adventures continued after the war when he worked with Allied forces to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. Now he feels it's his duty to tell the world about his experiences.

As to the French honour, Maxwell said, "I'm very proud. When it's given to me, I will say I will share this medal with those who landed and never made it. They deserve it just as much, but they never lived to see it." ■


FOR ACCREDITED INVESTORS ONLY.
IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES...
Here's an opportunity to invest in a rare, lower risk investment with great returns!
15% ANNUAL RETURNS
FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS
Canada Israel Infrastructure Fund LP
With the Canada Israel Infrastructure Fund LP you get to invest in major, lower risk Israel infrastructure projects along with Israel's largest bank, insurance company and pension fund.
KEY HIGHLIGHTS:
• Stellar track record
• Most projects guaranteed by the Government of Israel
• Additional Tax benefits
• $50,000 USD min. commitment, paid in 4 installments over 36 months
AVAILABLE FOR A VERY LIMITED TIME ONLY.
Call us today!
Zale Newman, President
zale@bondstreetmercantile.com
647.341.2663 or visit us @ bondstreetmercantile.com
Put your money where your heart is.
Bond Street Mercantile/BSM Capital Corporation
* Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance

Feeling forgetful? You're not alone.

Learn about how memory changes with age, get support for adopting a memory-healthy lifestyle, and practice proven strategies to help you remember the things that are important to you.

Memory and Aging Program

5 weekly sessions, 9:30 to 11:30am, fee $140
New series begins March 9, 2016

For more information or to register call
416-785-2500 ext. 2445

Baycrest 3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto
www.baycrest.org/memory
Memory aging

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

JOB POSTING
Director of Early Childhood Centre (ECC)

Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto's first synagogue, is a leading Canadian Reform Jewish congregation with a rich history of responding to both tradition and modernity in our religious and spiritual expression.

Inherent in our congregation's philosophy includes the following values:
A community dedicated to life-long learning; social justice/responsibility as a hallmark; love of Israel; a meaningful, spiritual existence; ensuring a strong community and many communities with in our larger community; positive relationships; being courageous and compassionate; men and women have equal value in our community; all members are important; and financial responsibility as an imperative. **Life can blossom here.**

Holy Blossom Temple seeks a full-time year-round Director of our Early Childhood Centre. This position encompasses many aspects of young family experience at HBT. The following are important elements of the position:

- Ensure an inclusive, nurturing and engaging environment where all families feel a strong connection to Holy Blossom Temple
- Establish, implement and monitor all strategic planning and design for the future vision of the Early Childhood/young family programs through the ECC along with Director of Education and clergy
- Direct program compliance with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health and familiarity with the Ontario Ministry of Education's Child Care and Early Years Act
- Design and implementation along with staff for an integrated secular/Reform Jewish curriculum
- Be a registered Early Childhood Educator (ECE) to oversee all aspects of administration at the early childhood level

Please submit your resumé along with references and salary expectations to dspiegel@holyblossom.org. Contact will be made only to applicants considered for the position.

1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K9
416.789.3291 • www.holyblossom.org

The community must support people with HIV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I found out by getting tested after I became single. It was a horrifying shock. I soon became too tired to work. My successful career in the corporate world was over. I was 43 years old, and my life was in tatters. Although I was given a death sentence, I kept some shred of hope that treatments would come along in time to change the inevitable. Luckily they did. Almost overnight I became much better. Now, 22 years later, I am in my 66th year.

In recent years, it seems that the Jewish community has followed the rest of Canadian society and has come to believe that HIV is not a problem. And if it is a problem, then at least it is not one in the Jewish community. I don't know the number of Jewish people with HIV in Canada today, but I do know that there are many people in this country who have this disease and need our help.

Many of them are women, often the most vulnerable to infection and to poor health outcomes, even though treatments are available, because they do not have the economic resources and the power within their familial relationships to protect themselves or to pay for treatments. As Jews, we should follow the tenets of our religion and protect the vulnerable in our society. Whether we're religious or not, the history of our own suffering at the hands of those who discriminate against us should be a lesson to us about how to treat others who are victims of discrimination.

I call on the Jewish community to renew its support for the cause of helping people with HIV to live healthy, productive lives. One very concrete way to do so is to encourage governments to ensure health care is equitably available to everyone in Canada, regardless of ability to pay or where in Canada they live. Another is to support social programs that ensure education, housing and employment opportunities for people who are disadvantaged, since they are at higher risk for HIV infection and poor health outcomes.

People with HIV definitely continue to face discrimination, even though we know that they pose no health risk to us whatsoever. There is still a stigma attached to this disease, maybe because of its relationship to sex and injection drug use. We blame people for getting this disease, even though they are not doing anything most people in the general population – yes, even Jewish people – aren't also doing. ■

Louise Binder

> *People with HIV definitely continue to face discrimination, even though we know that they pose no health risk to us whatsoever.*

Louise Binder chaired Voices of Positive Women, the Ontario HIV/AIDS organization for women, for over a decade and now is health policy consultant for the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network.

For the latest Jewish news from Canada, Israel and around the world, visit **www.cjnews.com/news**.

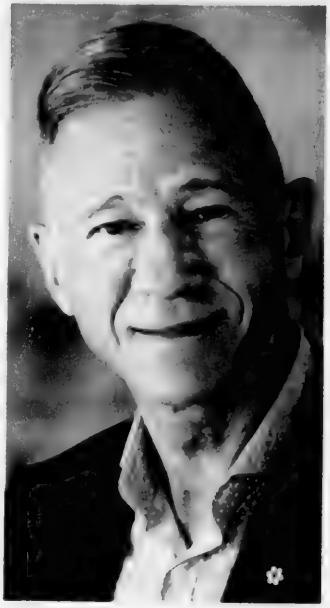
We have a long way to go to destigmatize this disease

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I met Larry Kramer, an inspirational activist and hero who was among the first to organize the gay community in New York and demand that governments and the pharmaceutical industry pay attention to HIV. Like many, I was deeply moved by Tony Kushner's play, *Angels in America*.

What have these voices taught me? They have taught me to value the concept of social justice over moral panic. I learned that if one of us is not safe, none of us is safe. HIV does not discriminate – anyone can get infected – but HIV today is more likely to seek out the marginalized and vulnerable among us. This includes people living in poverty, violent relationships, unstable housing, people with mental health and addictions, or those simply lacking education and social supports.

Social, cultural and economic determinants of health increase vulnerability to HIV. Preventing HIV transmission is not as simple as telling young people to use condoms every time they have sex when there are so many other factors that can lead to risky choices.



Ron Rosenes

> *Would an older Jewish woman or man living with HIV feel comfortable disclosing their status? Would they feel comfortable disclosing a different sexual or gender orientation? Probably not.*

People over the age of 50 are seeing a rise in HIV infection rates, too, because many do not believe they are at risk. As Jews, we need to ask ourselves some difficult questions. Would an older Jewish woman or man living with HIV feel comfortable disclosing their status? Would they feel comfortable disclosing a different sexual or gender orientation? Probably not. While HIV may have become a chronic and manageable infection, unlikely to be transmitted when properly treated, stigma and discrimination remain pervasive the world over. Canada is no exception.

With that in mind, the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation has launched a project to educate providers working with seniors on how to talk about sex, prevent transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and meet the needs of people currently living with HIV.

We still have a long way to go to destigmatize HIV in Orthodox Jewish and other culturally conservative communities where "gay" and "HIV/AIDS" are still considered by many to be taboo. Which brings me to the notion of tikkun olam. We can heal the world starting here at home by deconstructing the myths that surround HIV and looking at it squarely in all its complexity.

The good news is that we have started down this path. It's a challenge all of us can and must accept. ■

Ron Rosenes is a community advocate and consultant. In 2014 he received the Order of Canada in recognition of his volunteer work on behalf of people living with HIV.

On February 18, I'm inviting everyone over!

HELEN HOFFMAN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE 2015.

If you're like Helen you never miss an opportunity to get together with friends and have fun. That's why you're all invited to our Learning Seminar with Dr. Pia Kontos. Join us and learn why our residents feel so at home at Chartwell.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
784 Centre Street Thornhill
Make us part of your story. 289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

INTERNATIONAL

Netanyahu worried Obama will turn against Israel

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is worried that the Obama administration will use its final weeks in office to back UN Security Council decisions and other measures detrimental to Israel, Army Radio reported on Feb. 7.

Netanyahu has therefore been trying to persuade his ministerial colleagues to approve a series of measures to boost the West Bank economy and show Israel's commitment to improving the Palestinians' lives, but has been stymied by opposition in the security cabinet by ministers including Naftali Bennett, Ayelet Shaked and Ze'ev Elkin, the report said.

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan of the prime minister's Likud party told the radio station last Sunday morning, however, that he did not believe the Obama administration would back or fail to veto UN resolutions supporting Palestinian statehood or similar measures to impose terms.

"It's inconceivable that President Obama has any such intention," said Erdan, "given that he and his administration emphasize that the solution to the conflict requires direct negotiations and compromise between the two sides themselves."

Erdan also said he would personally back measures to improve the quality of life for the Palestinians in the territories, and that he believed Netanyahu would be able to secure majority support in the security cabinet, of which he is a member, for such measures if and when needed.

Happier times? U.S. President Barack Obama, left, with Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel in 2013.
FILE PHOTO

The Army Radio report, which gave no named sources, said Netanyahu's concern about possible Obama administration decisions was focused on the period between November 2016, when a new president is chosen, and January 2017, when that president takes office. Given the history of difficult relations between the two countries' leaderships, this period would constitute a brief window when the Obama administration could advance its agenda without domestic repercussions, the report said.

The Army Radio report followed hard on the heels of a similar claim the night before, broadcast on Channel 2, to the effect that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry would visit Israel within weeks, that he would seek to restart peace talks, and that if he failed, the Obama administration might try to impose some kind of accord in the final months of the Obama presidency – after a new U.S. president has been elected, and before Obama steps down.

The U.S. State Department later that Saturday evening flatly dismissed most of the TV claims. Responding on Twitter to the *Times of Israel's* coverage of the Channel 2 report, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the secretary had "no plans… to travel soon to Israel. Also no plan by him to restart talks."

"Need both sides to reduce violence," Kirby added in the tweet.

Kirby did not address the claims about unilateral moves Obama might make or back in the final weeks of his presidency.

The Channel 2 report appeared to be based, at least in part, on its interview earlier Saturday with Opposition leader Isaac Herzog.

Herzog said the Obama administration "hasn't given up on the [Israeli-Palestinian] process," and that he believed Kerry "may come here soon" to try again to move things forward. Herzog, leader of the Zionist Union party, met with Kerry in Rome on Feb.2.

Herzog said many world leaders were discussing the deadlocked process and considering ideas, of which some "could be to Israel's detriment." Israel could face "decisions from all directions," he said, noting the threat earlier this month by France to recognize a Palestinian state if it fails in its planned new attempt to restart peace talks and reach an accord "didn't come out of nowhere."

If Israel didn't take the initiative, Herzog said, "we'll have an accord imposed upon us." He noted that, in the final year of the Obama presidency, the president "can do what he wants."

Herzog said he wasn't sure the Americans had yet decided what they want to attempt. But "when you hear that world leaders want to take unilateral decisions," he said, it underlined the imperative for Israel to "initiate moves that will boost its own security." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

More haredi men in Israeli workforce, statistics show

DANIEL DOUEK
JERUSALEM

More than 50 per cent of ultra-Orthodox men are participating in the workforce for the first time in recorded Israeli history, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) said. The new numbers marked a continuation of a 12-year trend, the CBS reported in early February.

In 1995, male ultra-Orthodox participation in the workforce hit 48 per cent and seemed to be on the rise, but then the trend reversed, dipping as low as 36 per cent in 2003. That same year, then-finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu implemented a series of welfare cutbacks designed to promote participation in the Israeli workforce. Since then, numbers have been steadily on the rise, and have finally passed 50 per cent among male haredim.

The data presented by the CBS show that haredi women have an even more impressive presence in the workforce, with 73 per cent of them working. This compares to workforce participation of 80 per cent among the general Jewish population.

The city that features the largest haredi workforce participation is Bnei Brak, where 82 per cent go to work.

The participation in the workforce among male haredim is still far smaller than in the general Jewish population, where 86 per cent of males work. Still, in an interview with Channel 2, Gilad Malach, researcher of haredi culture at the Israel Democracy Institute, called the new numbers "a historic change" and said they show that haredim have gone from being a Torah-learning society to a working and Torah-learning society.

According to Malach, the rising numbers of working haredim within Israeli society is bound to bring about major historical, sociological and cultural changes. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

OPINION

Who or what is Israel's toughest opponent?

Sagi Melamed

"Who is your toughest opponent?" I ask my karate students. Sports in general and martial arts in particular, demand self-discipline and perseverance, willpower and hard work – and also the courage to hurt and get hit. One's opponent changes throughout one's life, except for the most challenging, which clings like a shadow: oneself.

The Torah portion Vayishlach (Genesis 32) describes our patriarch Jacob's return to Canaan, now a wealthy man with four wives, after having spent years in his uncle Laban's home. Having fled his own home for fear his brother Esau would take revenge on him for the theft of his birthright and paternal blessing, Jacob still fears Esau's wrath.

The Torah describes Jacob wrestling with a mysterious man the night before his fateful meeting with Esau. In the evening, in the midst of preparing for the meeting with his brother, Jacob was gripped with fears and anxiety. As the famous commentator Rashi wrote, Jacob "prepared himself for three things: gifts, prayer and battle."

Jacob first sends peace offerings to Esau. After the emissaries who bore the gifts returned with reports of Esau's large, mighty entourage, Jacob feared for himself and his family: "Jacob was very frightened; in his anxiety he divided the people with him… into two camps, thinking, if Esau attacks one camp, the other might still escape."

In his distress, Jacob then prays: "Deliver me, I pray, from my brother's hand, the hand of Esau. I fear he will attack me, and the mothers and children." Eventually Jacob crosses the river and, all alone, fights the mysterious "man" or "angel": "Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until dawn."

As dawn broke following the mighty night-long struggle, Jacob defeated his opponent and was granted his permanent name, which we bear to this day: "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel."

I believe that Jacob's most significant struggle was not with the mysterious man or angel, or even with Esau. Jacob was granted the name "Israel" for overcoming *himself*. Overcoming his anxieties. Overcoming the complex of the younger brother who received the birthright and paternal blessing only through his mother's manipulations. Overcoming his inhibitions and fears. Only once he conquered himself, was he worthy of being "our patriarch Jacob – Israel."

And from Jacob-Israel to the State of Israel. Some claim that one of the reasons for the lack of peace is that Israeli Jews fear the day when we'll have no more external enemies and will struggle only with each other – a cynical claim, yet one containing a kernel of truth.

So, while dealing with the "stabbing intifadah," with boycotts and condemnations, with internal protests and more, who or what is Israel's toughest opponent as it approaches 70?

Looking at Jewish history, we can already see that we've already been through the stage of appeasing our enemies with gifts, and through the stage of fearing catastrophe, such as the "200 days of fear" during World War II (known as the "Masada Plan") and the weeks leading up to the Six Day War, just to name a few. But is the great, true battle, the one after which we receive our permanent name, still ahead of us? If so, what might it look like?

- Closing the growing social and economic disparities?
- Defining (first, to ourselves) the permanent borders of Israel?
- Dealing with the challenge of sovereignty, after having existed for so long as a minority without sovereignty?
- Bridging the disparity between ideals and reality, between "the Chosen People" and "just the people of Israel"?
- Reaching a higher level of tolerance and acceptance of the "other"?
- Forgiving those who persecuted and tormented us?
- Translating the commandment "to till it and to tend it" (Genesis 2:15) into keeping the land and air of Israel clean?

Maybe all of the above combined, and more, comprise Israel's toughest opponent.

One's opponent changes throughout one's life, except for the most challenging, which clings like a shadow: oneself. ■

TORONTO COUNCIL OF HAZZANIM

Extends condolences
on the passing of
Holocaust Survivor
Cantor Martin Rosenblum זצ"ל
החזן מרדכי יחיאל בן יואל

30 years Cantor/Spiritual Leader
of Adath Sholom Synagogue
and prominent member of our Council

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר
אבלי ציון וירושלים

Co-Presidents
Cantor Marshall Loomer • Cantor Eric Moses

Saving Lives
JACS
By Solving Addiction Problems

The Board of Directors & Staff
at
JACS Toronto
extend our deepest condolences
to the Green Family on the
passing of their beloved father
& grandfather

Al Green ז"ל

Our Founder & Lifelong Friend

הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שְׁאָר אֲבֵלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלָיִם
"May God comfort you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

Jill Gotlieb & Gilad Abrahami
Co-Chairs

TEMPLE
Emanu-El

Cantor or Cantorial Soloist

We are a Reform-affiliated congregation in Toronto with a commitment to music in our prayer life and educational activities. We are seeking a fulltime Cantor or Cantorial Soloist and Music Director.

We are looking for a committed professional with a strong ability to engage with the congregation, musically and spiritually, and who has a breadth of experience in choral and contemporary musical repertoire. The successful candidate will officiate with our Rabbi at all services and life cycle ceremonies within the congregation.

The preferred candidate would lead our exceptional volunteer choir and work with our Director of Education to develop the musical program within our religious school. The ability to play piano/guitar, teach Torah trope, and fluency in Modern Hebrew are all assets.

The Cantor or Cantorial Soloist will work closely with the Rabbi and members of the congregation to create the deepest and most meaningful spiritual experiences for our members.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, and three to five musical recordings to CantorSearch@TempleEmanuEl.ca by 29 February 2016. For further information, please contact Rabbi Debra Landsberg directly at Rabbi@TempleEmanuEl.ca

Who We Are

Temple Emanu-El is a Reform congregation with a strong tradition of social action and community engagement. We are an intimate kehillah, committed to supporting each other in our Jewish journeys. Please visit our web site at www.TempleEmanuEl.ca for more information.

Labor party approves Herzog's unilateral pullout plan

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Israel's Labor party officially adopted the proposal of its leader, Isaac Herzog, on Feb. 7 that calls for Israel's disengagement from the West Bank.

In a move considered by many to be a turn to the right for the leader of the centre-left party, Herzog last month called for the Israeli withdrawal rather than engagement in peace negotiations. Labor is one of the two parties – along with Hatnua – comprising the main opposition Zionist Union faction.

A statement from the party said that "for the first time in decades" it had "adopted a complete and comprehensive security policy outline.

"Only a separation between us will maintain a Jewish majority in Israel," Herzog said when presenting his plan to a Labor party conference in Tel Aviv earlier in the day.

An Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank would prevent the "infiltration of terrorists and strengthen security," he said.

Under his plan, the West Bank security barrier would include the major settlement blocs inside Israel.

Herzog maintained that the "vision" for peace and the two-state solution was not dead, but that "it's not going to happen tomorrow.

"Israel is at war, not going through a wave of terrorism; this is the Third Intifadah. Every day another Israeli is killed, and unfortunately, the security situation appears to be deteriorating. I'm not willing to accept – or get used to – this reality," he said.

Police enforce the disengagement from a settlement in the Gaza Strip in 2005. Labor Party leader Isaac Herzog is saying that Israel should withdraw from the West Bank. FILE PHOTO

"If the idea of disengagement dies, then so will the State of Israel – it will stop being a Jewish state. A separate state for Palestinians is Israel's only chance to remain a Jewish, democratic country with definable borders. This is in our best interests," continued Herzog.

Castigating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas as leaders with whom no progress is possible, he said: "Netanyahu and Abbas are unwilling to change the awful reality we live in today."

Herzog said both leaders rebuffed his warnings about the possibility of a third intifadah in August of last year.

"Israel does not have a functioning prime minister," he said of Netanyahu. "In a house on Balfour Street lives a man paralyzed by fear. Underneath heavy makeup and a meticulous hairdo, you'll find a frightened Netanyahu hiding."

Herzog recently proposed his plan in Tel Aviv, at the conference of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) ; and in Rome, to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, where he said that separation is the only way forward with the Palestinians.

Kerry expressed interest in the plan, although the State Department said the secretary had no plans to visit the region to restart peace talks in the near future.

Shelly Yachimovich, a former leader of the Labor party who is seen as a likely rival to Herzog in the next leadership race, leveled heavy criticism at him for the proposal.

Stressing the importance of negotiations, especially during the current wave of violence, Yachimovich told Israel Radio in response that, while Abbas may not be a "lover of Zion," Israel may be facing its "last opportunity to speak with a secular, pragmatic, Palestinian leader. And we can't lose this opportunity and play into the hands of Netanyahu."

Also last Sunday, in an apparent bid to stave off a major challenge to his leadership, Herzog successfully managed to delay the party's primary elections until later this year.

During the conference, party members voted in favour of Herzog's proposal – to revisit the decision regarding the date of the leadership vote for a party meeting scheduled for May.

Sources close to the party told the *Maariv* news site that, at the May meeting, the vote was likely to be postponed again.

Labor has a long record of internal turmoil over party leadership, with more than 10 leadership changes in the last two decades. Herzog's move may stymie possible efforts to unseat him by Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai, Yachimovich and MK Amir Peretz, all of whom are rumoured to be considering a run for party leadership. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Gaza staying out of 'intifadah', Hamas claims

AVI ISSACHAROFF
JERUSALEM

Hamas made a strategic decision at the beginning of the current Palestinian wave of violence that Gaza will stay out of the fighting, a senior official from the terror group told the *Times of Israel* on Feb.7.

According to the unnamed official, the Hamas leadership is not interested in an escalation with Israel on the Gaza front, and vice versa.

He also confirmed that an exchange of messages had taken place between the two sides. The messages were conveyed through Turkey and Qatar, among other countries.

Security officials told the Ynet news site that Israeli security officials were concerned that rising tensions, on both sides of the border, over Hamas's renewed efforts to tunnel under the Gaza border would cause the terror group to assume an Israeli assault was forthcoming. This could possibly lead it to attack Israel preemptively.

A senior Hamas official told the *Times of Israel* that Hamas does not want war and is committed to maintaining a fragile ceasefire with Israel.

Despite Hamas' recent pronouncements that its tunnels reach into Israeli territory and it is working to launch "high-quality" terror attacks against Israelis from the West Bank, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity: "Our stance is clear: We don't want an escalation [of violence] and we don't want war.

"We have no intention at this time or in the future to begin a war, and from our perspective that option is not on the table," the official said, urging Israel to respond with restraint to the recent Hamas rhetoric.

These reports come in the wake of a poll carried out by the Arab World for Research and Development Institute (AWRAD) and published in the Palestinian media indicating that popular support for the current wave of violence has shrunk from 63 per cent in November to 42 per cent. The poll also indicated that 54 per cent of respondents opposed the outbreak of violence in the first place, and 50 per cent believed that a third intifadah would delay plans for an independent Palestinian state.

Although Hamas has not taken a central role in the current wave of violence as it did in the second intifadah, the group has nonetheless been vocal in its support of terror attacks on Israelis.

In late December, Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of the group in Gaza, praised those carrying out attacks and described how they had succeeded in shaking Israelis' sense of security.

"This is an intifadah for liberation and is not seeking to move forward negotiations," Haniyeh said.

Hamas also released an official statement praising the Feb. 3 attack on a group of border policewomen at Jerusalem's Damascus Gate which killed Hadar Cohen, 19.

The group's spokesman, Hosam Badran, called the attack "a turning point in the holy Jerusalem intifadah" and praised "the courage of the three martyred 'resisters' and their ability to get past all the barriers put in place by the occupation and to arrive at Damascus Gate to carry out this heroic deed which shook Israel's security." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Activist women say new plan banishes them from Wall

AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN
JERUSALEM

Undeterred by the early hour and brisk Jerusalem weather, a small group of angry women met at the Western Wall on Feb. 3 for a prayer protest.

As is customary, the group of 20 or so stood together in the women's section of the Western Wall, among other women's solitary whispered prayers, and together prayed the traditional morning service, complete with phylacteries and prayer shawls.

A pair of heckling ultra-Orthodox teens climbed up the adjacent Mughrabi Bridge and attempted to sing and shout over the women's prayers. They desisted only when they got close to the rampart's top, where it is forbidden for Jews to pray or sing: the bridge leads to another, even more contested religious hotspot, the Dome of the Rock, known to Jews as the historical Temple Mount.

These women, who call themselves the Original Women of the Wall (OWOW), have been subjected to much worse– physical violence, arrest, thrown feces – in the 27 years they've been raising awareness for gender equality at the Western Wall.

So one may think that these women would be pleased with the much-lauded compromise announced after a cabinet meeting on Jan. 31, which was brokered by Jewish Agency head Natan Sharansky and former cabinet secretary Avichai Mandelblit. The agreement was also signed by the feminist prayer group called Women of the Wall (WOW).

The proposal hugely amplifies the mixed-gender prayer section at Robinson's Arch and cements access to the Western Wall for women's prayer groups. It calls for a joint entrance for all sections of prayer, further driving home the idea of parity while raising awareness for a pluralistic choice.

Additionally, the Mandelblit plan decriminalizes women's prayer at the Western Wall, including at the women's section even after the completion of the separate pluralist pavilion.

But the OWOW women – a splinter group from the Anat-Hoffman-led WOW – are among the most vehement objectors to the passage of the separate-but-equal-style pluralistic pavilion compromise. They and their international supporters don't see the government decision as a solution for them.

Publicly decrying the decision, some of these feminist activists even say they were "thrown under the bus" by the liberal Jewish movements, who co-opted their struggle for their own pursuit of prayer parity. Their pain and sense of betrayal is palpable.

For signing onto the long-negotiated compromise, WOW head Hoffman was both praised and pilloried on social media and in the press. But for the critical OWOW activists, even Hoffman's loyalty to the cause is questioned because she is an employee of the Reform movement as the leader of its legal action wing, the Israel Religious Action Centre.

Members of Women of the Wall teach other women how to wear and pray with tfillin, on Feb. 7. But not everyone is happy with the compromise that allows women to pray at the extension of the Western Wall. HADAS PARUSH/FLASH90 PHOTO

Hoffman told the *Times of Israel* this week that the disappointment of the feminist observant Jews she calls her "sisters" is hardest to hear among the criticism of the plan.

"I want to recognize on the emotional plane that these women are sincere in their sadness and outrage. I can understand that," Hoffman said in a preface to her remarks. "They had, and we shared for a long time, a vision of equal rights for women in the women's section in the northern plaza. We wanted to sit in the front of the bus, not in the back."

But in the compromise, which Hoffman unreservedly calls a "victory," she said, women are being offered "a whole new bus, and the driver's seat, and a tank full of gas."

She said she came to the realization that, having worked on the issue for more than 25 years and seeing an increasingly extremist religious atmosphere in Israel, that the time was ripe for a compromise after a trip to the Galapagos Islands where she walked in the footsteps of Charles Darwin.

"It is not the wise who survive, not the strong survive, not the beautiful, but the one who adapts survives," said the American-born Hoffman.

Over 27 years, she said, WOW "tried every way from Sunday" to fulfil the goal of full equality in the women's section. Today, she said, "we think the best way is to share, to make the pie bigger instead of smaller."

But is this plan, which is spelled out in detail on the WOW website, really going to enlarge the proverbial pie?

Prof. Aviad Hacohen, the dean of the Academic Centre of Law and Science and an expert on religious and state law, said in a statement after the Jan. 31 cabinet decision that "separate but equal is not equal," calling it a "clear victory" for the Orthodox stance of gender separation.

"The significance of the liberal Jewish movements being given a separate plaza will undoubtedly be negligible in comparison to the main prayer pavilion. In exiling these groups to a separate prayer area, there is no state recognition for the right of the non-Orthodox movements. On the contrary, it makes fact that women's prayer and Torah reading is not part of the Jewish halachah, and that's a painful blow to their entire perception of the world," said the lawyer, who regularly takes cases relating to religion and state to the Supreme Court.

Hacohen said the decision reflects thinking from 20 years ago, and the only new spin is that the rules of Orthodox prayer "in its most conservative definition" are now binding at the main Western Wall plaza.

For Hacohen, another "slap in the face of all women who demanded full equality" is that the budget for the new egalitarian southern pavilion will not be given through the Religious Affairs Ministry. The situation is reminiscent of the case of Reform rabbis, such as Kibbutz Gezer's Rabbi Miri Gold, who are regional heads of communities but whose salaries, unlike those of Orthodox rabbis in parallel positions, are symbolically not paid through the ministry but rather through a convoluted workaround.

"The courts decided years ago that separate but equal is not equal. The new proposal eternalizes the discrimination and makes it permanent in a government decision," Hacohen said.

For Hoffman, however, this is a moot point. "The 'haredization' of the Western Wall is becoming complete as we speak. The extremists are taking over the world, and yes, this agreement will make the rabbi of the Wall in charge, and he will have a heavier hand now on modesty issues, and others," said Hoffman. "In his extremist behaviour, he will chase Jews from there to our section."

But for many longtime activists, only the Women of the Wall and liberal Jewish movements are being chased out of the Western Wall plaza.

Cheryl Birkner Mack, a former WOW board member and founder of the splinter group OWOW, told the *Times of Israel* shortly after praying at the Western Wall last week that while she's glad about the egalitarian plaza, "I think there must have been another way to gain recognition and rights than to trample on women's rights that have already been recognized by the state."

Women of the Wall and the splinter group are proudly "multi-denominational." But, said Birkner Mack, "when you move to an egalitarian area there will be no room for the Orthodox women," who do not wish to pray in mixed company.

"The only way in an egalitarian space for an Orthodox woman to pray is in a box," said Birkner Mack.

"Anybody who wants to go to Robinson's Arch should go. The truth is you can go to Robinson's Arch today, just as you can pray in the Central Bus Station, and I'll even support your right to do that. But don't give up the rights women have established over 27 years, at the Kotel, in the women's section. Leave us alone, don't give up our rights for somebody else's rights," said Birkner Mack.

Such criticism of the deal is gaining steam across the Diaspora.

Feminist scholar Phyllis Chesler wrote of the compromise in an op-ed in *Tablet*, "This is a travesty, a trick, a joke, an Orwellian use of language employed to persuade perfectly good Jews that a defeat is really a victory; that being banished is a form of acknowledgement; that capitulation to fundamentalism is actually a triumph over it; that allowing misogynists to turn the Kotel into a haredi shul is a progressive accomplishment; that being allowed to fund this travesty with Diaspora money—the haredim are on record as refusing to pay for it themselves – represents acceptance; in short, that selling one's birthright for a mess of pottage is tantamount to obtaining that birthright."

When questioned about some of this criticism, WOW leader Hoffman sighed, then took a deep breath.

"Our sisters, and I see them as sisters, opted out, because they said there is nothing to negotiate. But I said, when the prime minister offers to sit and negotiate, you go and negotiate… And if you say 'I want to stay in my pristine ideology,' then you are damning yourself to stay in a telephone booth."

Checking herself, Hoffman reiterated that these women are visionaries of a better world, and are to be admired.

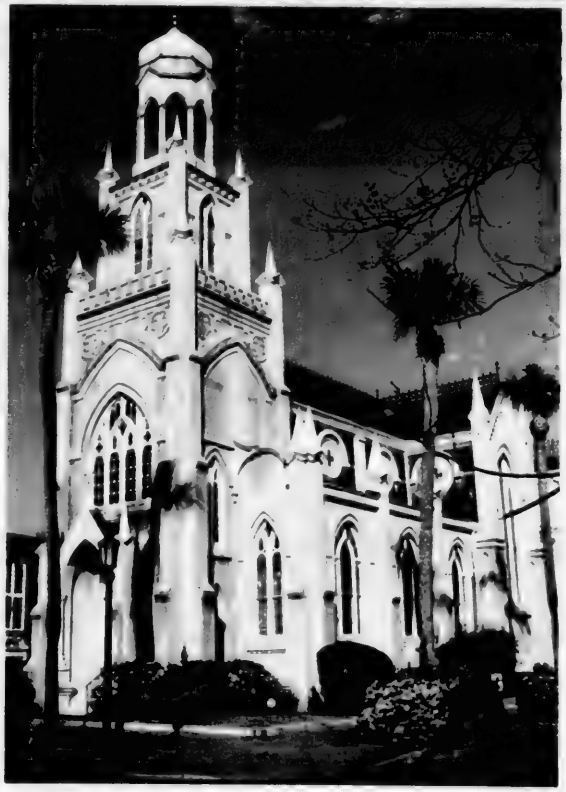
"We certainly didn't throw them under the bus," she said. "I'm inviting them onto the bus, and to help us steer." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life

TRAVEL | POP CULUTRE | BOOKS

Savannah boasts the only Gothic shul in North America



Savannah's Congregation Mickve Israel. ETHAN ROTBERG PHOTOS

ETHAN ROTBERG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Savannah, Ga., aptly nicknamed the Hostess City of the South, is home to one of the oldest Jewish communities in the United States and a stunning Gothic-style synagogue.

Popular in great churches and cathedrals, Gothic architecture isn't a fundamental characteristic of synagogues. In fact, Savannah's Congregation Mickve Israel claims that it is the only Gothic synagogue in North America. The community's unique history and features brought more than 10,000 visitors through its doors last year to tour the sanctuary and museum.

"Our story starts in 1503," begins Bill Raffel, my guide for the short tour of the synagogue. "Is that far enough back?" He chuckles.

This is the general spirit in Savannah. It's a city with a population nearly equal to that of Abbotsford, B.C., but with a cultural and political history that makes it unique even in the United States. It's the history and southern charm that brought nearly 13.5 million visitors to the city in 2014.

Savannah was a pivotal site during the American Revolution and the American Civil War – not to mention a pivotal site for the classic American movie, *Forrest Gump*. It's no wonder downtown Savannah is called the Historic District.

Officially, Congregation Mickve Israel is recognized as the third-oldest in the United States, behind congregations in New York City and Newport, R.I.

The full story does begin in the early 1500s, when the major targets of the Portuguese Inquisition were the Crypto-Jews – those who had converted from Judaism to Catholicism but were still secretly practising Judaism. In 1725, a community of Crypto-Jews fled Portugal, joining a Jewish congregation in England. It was there that these members decided to set sail for a new colony being established in Georgia.

After six months aboard the William and Sarah, 41 mostly Sephardi Jews arrived in Savannah in July 1733. Among their belongings, these founding congregants brought with them a Torah and a circumcision box. It was the largest group of Jews to land in North America during the colonial days.

The nod to the past, in this case being one of the country's oldest congregations, is part of what keeps the community vibrant and growing.

Rabbi Robert Haas, who joined the Reform Congregation Mickve Israel as its spiritual leader in 2012, says the history does play a part in Savannah's active Jewish community.

"It's an iconic synagogue," Rabbi Haas says. "From the very beginning, we were welcomed here. So Savannah Jews have always felt very comfortable."

While tours have been offered for many years, they also added a museum on the second floor above the sanctuary 13 years ago. There you can see items like the original Torah brought aboard the William and Sarah from England, a letter to the congregation from George Washington following his election as first president of the United States, and even information on some of Mickve Israel's most-famed congregants like Eugenia Levy Phillips, a Confederate spy during the Civil War.

Rabbi Haas acknowledges that tourism is a big part of life at Mickve Israel. "We have this whole volunteer base of people who love history. All these events help us engage both young and old people in the community."

A fascinating aspect of the synagogue is the structure itself. Those interested in architecture will find many of the key characteristics of Gothic style. Beginning with the exterior, the building stands tall the epitome of grandeur. Inside, pointed arches and vaulted ceilings help create a light and airy interior. And of course, the use of the quatrefoil, a decorative symbol resembling a four-leaf clover found mainly in Gothic architecture, can be seen throughout the sanctuary.

"The synagogue is really stunning," Rabbi Haas says. "People do love coming here. And for the community, there's a sense of pride that's really remarkable." ■

Visiting The Synagogue

Savannah is an easy stop for those travelling between Canada and Florida for the winter. Congregation Mickve Israel is located in the Historic District, just minutes from famous Forsyth Park. Tours run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., lasting about 45 minutes. Visitors can also come for Shabbat services, which begin Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. More information is available online at mickveisrael.org.

How Broad City empowered the Jewish mother

Michael Fraiman

My father has explained his childhood obesity to me like this: living as migratory Jews across eastern Europe, he rarely wanted to eat the gruel his mother could afford to make, so she would physically grip his mouth open from the cheeks and spoon-feed him more calories than he ever needed.

That anecdote always struck me as deeply Jewish. It's kind of funny, kind of sad, and a testament to the hilarious results of a mother who just cares too much. I can almost hear her chastising my father's protestations: "What, you'd rather starve?"

This is the Jewish mother we know from punchlines reaching back to the Borscht Belt days. Seinfeld's won't accept the Cadillac he bought her; Woody Allen's embarrasses him celestially in *Oedipus Wrecks*; Howard's screams incessantly from another room in *The Big Bang Theory*.

"Excessive, overprotective, neurotically anxious and ever-present, the Jewish mother was a convenient scapegoat for ambivalent and hostile sentiments regarding assimilation in a new society, changing family dynamics and shifting gender roles," writes Joyce Antler, author of *You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother*.

Though we judge them on the surface, at their deepest, these women endear us with a hint of vulnerability: I nag because I care, I feel neglected when you don't call, I force-feed you gruel because you're too young to understand malnutrition. Over the years, that vulnerability has been transformed, generally by male comedians, into the overbearing caricature we know today.

That might explain why it took a couple of women – Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson, the co-creators and stars of the critically acclaimed, and at times foul-mouthed, *Broad City*, whose third season debuts Feb. 17 and whose second was recently added to CraveTV – to shatter the stereotype with Ilana's onscreen mother, Bobbi Wexler.

Though Bobbi has only appeared in the fourth episode of season 2, her time onscreen is near-revolutionary. The joke is set up typically enough: Ilana and Abbi arrive at a street corner to meet Bobbi, whose own mother just died, and who wants to take the opportunity to spend a day adventuring through Brooklyn with Ilana. "Of course she isn't here," Ilana gripes. "I knew we didn't have to rush. This b—h is always late."

> *It's not that Bobbi isn't a stereotypical Jewish mom ... but Ilana isn't embarrassed by her.*

The thing to remember is that Glazer and Jacobson are foremost modern, young New Yorkers dealing with drugs, jobs and sex; they're explicitly Jewish, but their cultural backgrounds are as vague as Ilana's sexual preferences. They do whatever they want. So it's obvious that the flippant, free-willed millennial should resent her mother as much as any Jewish comic of the past century.

Instead, we hear the voice of Susie Essman (famous as Susie Greene from *Curb Your Enthusiasm*) as the camera pans up to a slow reveal of Bobbi: "I can't believe you beat me here," she says, pointing to her daughter: "This b—h is always late." With that, they break into sincere smiles and hugs.

That introductory moment completely shatters the entire Jewish mother trope. It's not that Bobbi isn't a stereotypical Jewish mom – she spends the entire episode ballistically kvetching, guilt-tripping Ilana and hunting for a good deal on Chinese knockoff handbags – but Ilana isn't embarrassed by her. Instead she literally, immediately, embraces her, and they later walk down the street proudly holding hands. Ilana isn't afraid of becoming her mother – she knows she already is. And she's proud of it.

This shouldn't be surprising for a show constantly praised for its progressive portrayal of feminism, race, class and sexuality. In a show that champions every type of womanhood, Bobbi is the winning kvetch.

In her final scene, she and Ilana are hugging again in public when a white man walks up and yells, "Hey! You're blocking the whole f—g sidewalk!" They swiftly turn and berate him, swearing furiously until he awkwardly walks away. Then the two women get quiet, hold out their arms and hug again, confessing their love in public, in defiance of the world around them. ■

THE STUBBORN MYTHS THAT REFUSE TO DIE

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B. A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 33 years

In 35 years of practice I repeatedly dispel the same myths and misunderstandings. So let us, you and I, take a few steps down the path of delusion and clear the air:

1. No, you don't have to wait a year after separation for a divorce to divide your property, resolve your support claims or settle any parenting issues. Divorce is a court Order that allows a spouse the legal right to remarry. It can be obtained one year after the date of separation in all cases. Where the other spouse has committed adultery/mental or physical cruelty it can be obtained immediately. However, irrespective of when either party obtains a Divorce Order, either spouse can seek to resolve the issues arising from the separation at any time after the parties separate. For instance, if the father of a child seeks access to his son or a mother seeks child support or either wants to divide property values then he or she can attempt to negotiate a resolution of such issues in the form of a Separation Agreement or obtain a Court Order well before the one year it takes to obtain a Divorce Order. In addition, if one is anxious to apply for a Divorce Order then it would be wise to commence a court application well before the 12 months has expired, because the court process is slow (four months in Toronto.)

2. Many people understand that unless one has a marriage contract that states otherwise, the entire value of a matrimonial home, including its pre-marital value, will be divided on a 50:50 basis irrespective of in whose name the home is registered. However, many mistakenly *assume* that separating spouses will share the value of only **one** matrimonial home, which is not true. If on the date of separation, the parties had resided in a cottage in Muskoka, a condo in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and house in Thornhill, Ontario, then, even if all three were in the name of only one of the spouses, then all three will be "matrimonial homes" subject to division, including their pre-marital values.

3. A matrimonial home is a residence in which both parties resided on the **date of separation,** not any home he or she may have owned before the date of separation. So, if a spouse owned a home on the date of marriage in his or her name in which both spouses resided together then that early home is NOT a matrimonial home. This important legal fact means that on separation the spouse who owned the home on the date of marriage can deduct the equity of that home from the value of his net worth (called net family property) valued as of the date of separation. In a very simple example, say the parties were married for more than five years and the husband owns a house worth $1 million on the date of separation with no other assets or liabilities, but on the date of marriage the husband owned a home, solely in his name worth $500,000 with no mortgage. Assume that neither party had any debts or other assets on that day as well. Normally, if the husband did not have the date of marriage property then, on separation each spouse would 'walk away' with $500,000. But since the husband owned a $500,000 home on the date of marriage then he gets to deduct the value of his date of marriage "net worth" from his date of separation "net worth" i.e the $1,000,000 house before splitting it with his wife, such that she only gets $250,000, not $500,000.

Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, with experience in family law for 33 years. Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.

Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.

Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.

Sloppy Joes will warm you on a cold winter day

EILEEN GOLTZ
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

So tell me, who is the Joe and why is he so sloppy? The best answer I could find was that the concept of a Sloppy Joe as a sandwich originated in 1930 in a small local cafe in Sioux City, Iowa, as a loose meat sandwich, courtesy of their cook, a guy named Joe.

Cold weather makes Sloppy Joe the perfect recipe for a quick dinner. The classic ones typically have ground beef, onions, ketchup, seasoning and a few other ingredients in them. Nice, simple and tasty. However, the following recipes are just a little bit different and beyond delicious. I also have a few suggestions to make your Sloppy Joes extra special.

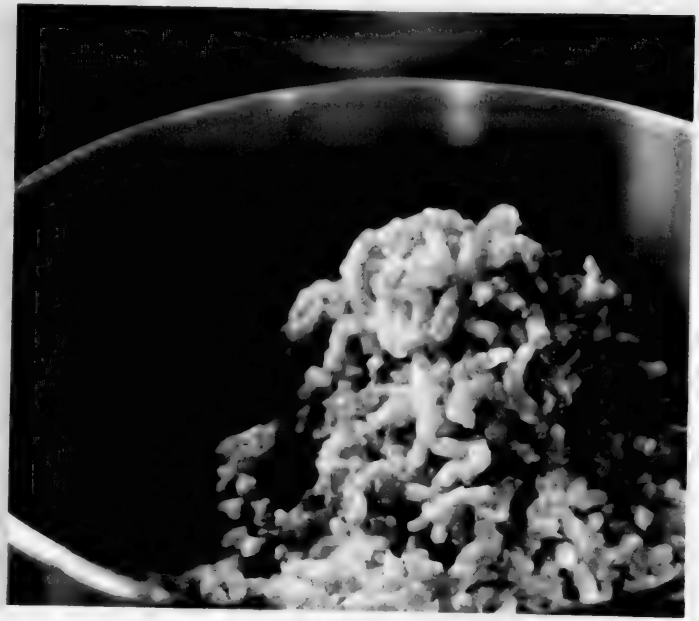
- Serve them with shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, avocado and pickles.
- Substitute ground turkey or bison for the beef.
- Add shredded carrots, sliced mushrooms or diced bell peppers.
- Serve in pita or on lettuce leaves.
- Add hot sauce, chili sauce or flavoured BBQ sauce for a different flavour.

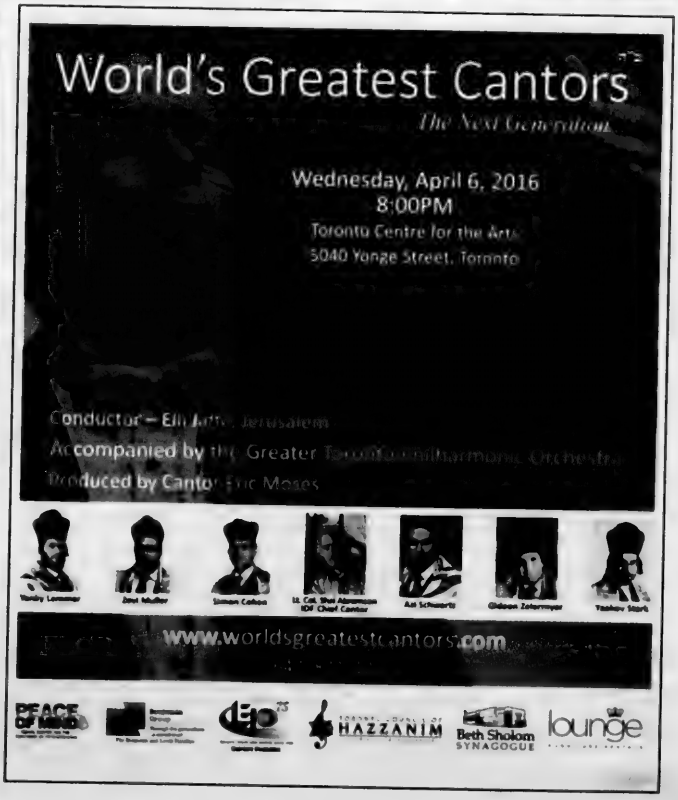
Slow cook Sloppy Joes

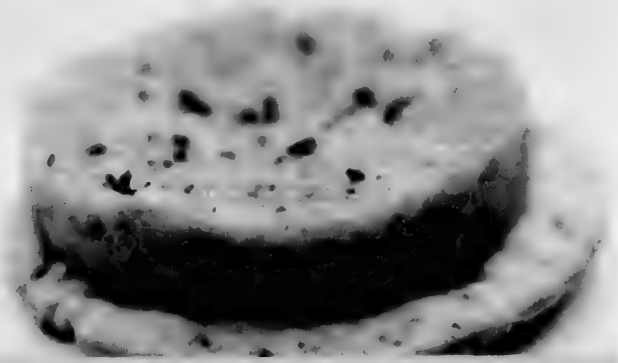
The ground beef has to be cooked before you put it in the crock pot.

- ❑ 2 lb. ground beef
- ❑ 1 onion, diced
- ❑ 1 tbsp. minced garlic
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. pepper
- ❑ 1/4 cup water
- ❑ 3 tbsp. soy sauce
- ❑ 1 tsp. mustard
- ❑ 2 tbsp. brown sugar
- ❑ 1 cup ketchup
- ❑ 3/4 cup hickory barbeque sauce
- ❑ 10 toasted hamburger buns

In a large skillet brown the ground beef, onion and garlic. When the meat is no longer pink, drain it then put it in the crock pot. Add the salt, black pepper, water, soy sauce, mustard, brown sugar, ketchup and barbeque sauce. Mix to combine. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours. Serves 10.







Turkey Sloppy Joes

- ❑ 2 tbsp. olive oil
- ❑ 1 large onion, chopped
- ❑ 1 tbsp. minced garlic
- ❑ 2 1/2 lb. ground turkey
- ❑ 1 cup cooked brown rice
- ❑ 1/2 cup water, plus more if necessary
- ❑ 1 cup ketchup
- ❑ 1/2 cup tomato paste
- ❑ 2 tbsp. cider vinegar
- ❑ 2 tbsp. brown sugar
- ❑ 8 to 10 hamburger buns

In a large skillet heat the oil, then add the onion and garlic. Sauté 2 to 3 minutes, then add the turkey. Cook, stirring constantly, until the turkey is no longer pink, about 5 to 7 minutes. Drain and then add the rice, water, ketchup, tomato paste, vinegar and brown sugar. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat to a simmer and cook until hot throughout. Serve on buns. Makes 8 to 10.

Vegan lentil Sloppy Joe

- ❑ 1 tbsp. olive oil
- ❑ 1 onion, diced
- ❑ 1 red bell pepper, diced
- ❑ 2 sticks of celery, chopped
- ❑ 1 tsp. cumin
- ❑ 1 tsp. chili powder
- ❑ 1 cup lentils
- ❑ 3 cups water
- ❑ 1 28-oz. can tomato sauce
- ❑ 3 tbsp. tomato paste
- ❑ 1 tsp. hot sauce
- ❑ 1 tsp. salt
- ❑ 2 tsp. balsamic vinegar
- ❑ 6 buns

In a skillet heat the oil and then sauté the onion, pepper and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally for about 5 minutes. Add the cumin and chili powder, mix to combine and cook for 1 minute. Add the lentils, water, tomato sauce, tomato paste and hot sauce. Bring the mixture to a boil then reduce to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. (Add more water if the liquid gets too low, below the lentils). At this point, taste the lentils, and if they are tender, add the salt and balsamic vinegar to taste. Serve with your favourite topping on the buns. Serves 6.

Note:
Most classic Sloppy Joe recipes call for Worcestershire sauce. Most Worcestershire sauce, while kosher, does contain fish and therefore is not recommended to be served with meat. I always substitute soy sauce for it in recipes that have meat in them. ■

FUNÉ
100 Simcoe Street
Toronto, Ont. M5H 3L2
416.599.3868
www.funerestaurant.com
"Where" Magazine reader's choice
- Where to Dine
2010
WTD Best
Japanese Restaurant
Toronto's largest floating Sushi Bar in the heart of the Theatre District.
The distinctive bar has a moat with bamboo boats carrying cargoes of sushi.
Menu offers finest teriyaki steak & seafood, charcoal-broiled chicken, salmon, tempura, noodles, sushi sashimi and much more

Enjoy the exotic Japanese Steak Ritual performed by the masters of the culinary art.
Teppanyaki Dining Room & Sushi Bar, Lunch & Dinner Open 7 days a week
YAMATO
やまと
24 Bellair Street (in the heart of Yorkville), Toronto, Ont. t 416.927.0077
http://yamatorestaurant.ca

A life devoted to the work of witnessing

NORMAN RAVVIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Readers of *But You Did Not Come Back* who are of a certain age, or who have followed French cinema, will be familiar with Marceline Loridan-Ivens, its first-time author. She made her debut in the 1961 film *Chronique d'un été* (*Chronicle of a Summer*). Directed by sociologist Edgar Morin and filmmaker Jean Rouch, it was a breakthrough cinéma vérité effort to capture the French postwar economic moment and the impact of the Algerian war.

Viewers meet Marceline as she stands holding a microphone on a Paris street and asks passersby if they are happy. The impact is stunning: Marceline's air of casual commitment and the willingness of people to consider their answer before a camera, present a new kind of filmmaking and a new way to report on the everyday.

Marceline takes a central role in a later scene, sitting with her director and a group of French students. The talk focuses on colonialism, but shifts when the director asks one of the youths if he knows the meaning of the numbers tattooed on Marceline's forearm. He thinks, he jokes, it is her phone number.

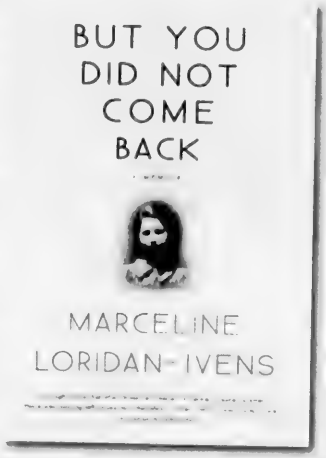
Marceline offers her compatriots a matter-of-fact interpretation of her Auschwitz tattoo, and the film veers away from France's contemporary identity toward its responsibility in wartime for helping the occupying Germans deport some 75,000 Jews to death camps.

In *But You Did Not Come Back*, Loridan-Ivens fills in her backstory, while also depicting her postwar struggles and successes. She was 15 years old in 1939, deeply attached to her businessman father, who had left Poland to succeed in France, if not in his effort to gain French citizenship. He and Marceline are arrested by French police as their family property in rural Bollène is confiscated to be used as a Gestapo headquarters.

The centrepiece of *But You Did Not Come Back* is Marceline's account of her love for her father before the war, through the deportation, even at Auschwitz, where they were in different parts of the camp. A crucial memory is of a note her father sent via another inmate. It began, "My darling little girl," and left off with his name, "Shloïme." Marceline struggles to remember the rest, but she cannot.

Loridan-Ivens' memoir is an instructive presentation of camp experience and its aftermath. Its highly personal style is in sharp contrast to books by other major figures, including Primo Levi and Tadeusz Borowski. Loridan-Ivens is closest in her presentation to another Frenchwoman – the non-Jewish Auschwitz detainee Charlotte Delbo – but Delbo used an abstract, often poetic voice to convey the abuse of bodies, the numbing work and routines, and the ever-presence of death at Auschwitz.

Loridan-Ivens is a witness as hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews are funnelled to their deaths, and she is a witness, too, of the arrival of the inhabitants of the Lodz Ghetto.



But You Did Not Come Back: A Memoir of the Holocaust
Marceline Loridan-Ivens

Translated from the French by Sandra Smith. Penguin

> *I saw them walking up to the gas chambers. I thought that relatives I didn't know, my aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, were probably among them. You were from Lodz. I kept working.*

The inmates' involvement in the murderous projects of the camp continues to haunt her: "I saw them walking up to the gas chambers. I thought that relatives I didn't know, my aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, were probably among them. You were from Lodz. I kept working. I struck the ground without looking around me, with no memories, no future, exhausted by not having enough to drink or eat; I dug the ditches where the bodies of 50 distant relatives from Lodz would burn."

Upon her return to postwar France, her father dead, Marceline is unmoored but open to her existential challenge: "Little by little, I allowed myself to be carried along by my generation, its chaos, and I felt what it was like to be young. I wanted to make something of myself, without really knowing what... to become part of a story that was greater than my own, discover the world, learn, laugh a little, join in the endless discussion in the bistros of Saint-Germain-des-Prés."

An important career as a filmmaker with her second husband leads to films on revolutionary movements, including Maoist China. In 2003 she made *The Birch-Tree Meadow*, in which the French actress Anouk Aimée stood in for herself in an enacted return to the remnants of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

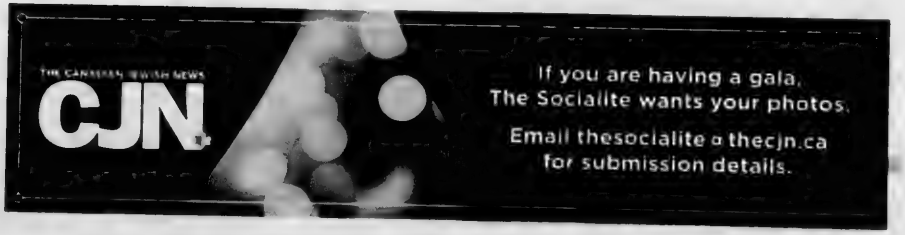
But You Did Not Come Back closes on an unforgiving note, as Loridan-Ivens and a fellow survivor muse over a dark question: "'Now that we are approaching the end of our lives, do you think it was a good thing for us to have come back from the camps?'

"'No, I don't,' she replied, 'we shouldn't have come back.'"

The answers two aging friends provide, like much of Loridan-Ivens' memoir, pushes our understanding of the war and its aftermath into new territory. ■

Norman Ravvin is a writer and teacher in Montreal.

» See all our book reviews online. Only at **www.cjnews.com/culture**



His work fills need to be creative, actor/playwright says

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Playwright Alex Poch-Goldin's first big hit, *This Hotel*, about a man who goes on a journey through his subconscious after coming home to find his wife with another man, will be remounted just north of Toronto.

A surreal fantasy, *This Hotel* was written for the 1999 Toronto Fringe Festival.

"We didn't have a play, so I started scouring my journals. I found a premise of a dream and I used it for a launching pad to explore the play," he said. In *This Hotel*, after his wife's rejection, the character Lester "goes into a place in his mind where he visits a hotel, and a bellhop emerges who is a kind of shape-shifting guide who takes him on a tour of his subconscious and takes him through a series of rooms," Poch-Goldin said.

"He encounters people who are in one sense aspects of his subconscious, but also other tenants of the hotel who have suffered some kind of love loss or love pain."

This Hotel sold out when Theatre Passe Muraille presented it in 2000, and it received six Dora Award nominations. It opens in Barrie, Ont., on March 3.

Alex Poch-Goldin

Poch-Goldin, a busy actor who's appeared in films, plays and on television, has been writing since he was a child growing up in Montreal.

"When I wasn't working as an actor, I still needed to be creative, so I found an outlet in playwriting instead of waiting for the phone to ring," he said.

He's the author of *The Right Road To Pontypool*, about a resort in Pontypool, Ont., where Toronto Jews vacationed from 1916 to the early 1960s. He won the 2002 Toronto Jewish Playwriting Award for his play *Yahrzeit*, which explores conflict and the hard choices we must make to find peace in our lives and in our world. Translated into German, *Yahrzeit* toured Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Last summer, Poch-Goldin's play *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers*, about a daring 1961 daylight robbery of the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Havelock, Ont., was sold out for its eight weeks at 4th Line Theatre in Millbrook, Ont. The show is back at 4th Line this August.

Poch-Goldin is also the author of the libretto for *Against Nature/À Rebours*, a music, dance and theatre piece about a man who turns his back on society, to be presented by Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie in Toronto this May.

For his next acting job, though, he won't be waiting for the phone to ring. He's got a gig lined up playing a waiter in Soulpepper theatre's production of Arthur Miller's *Incident at Vichy*, to be staged in May and June. The play is about Jews who have been brought in for interrogation in France during the Nazi era.

"It has to do with individual culpability and responsibility in the face of fascism and terror – what we can do to help instead of just thinking about ourselves," Poch-Goldin said.

Pondering his two-pronged career, Poch-Goldin said that "as a writer, the work lasts. It's there, it can be produced." He said an actor's work exists only in the minds of the people who see the performance. "It's a different thing than being a playwright, where there is something tangible that is a blueprint where people can tell your story from when you're gone." ■

This Hotel *runs from March 3 to 12 at Talk Is Free Theatre in Barrie, Ont. For tickets, visit www.tift.ca.*
For tickets to Against Nature/À Rebours, *May 4 to 8 and May 11 to 15, visit http://colemanlemieux.com.*
For tickets to Incident at Vichy *at Soulpepper theatre in May and June, visit www.soulpepper.ca.*
For tickets to The Bad Luck Bank Robbers *at 4th Line Theatre from Aug. 2 to 27, visit www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca.*

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement
CJN
We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.
They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.
Deadline for submissions is
March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.
E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

Israel Cancer Research Fund
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe.
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

WE PAY TOP PRICE FOR YOUR JEWELLERY AND YOUR TIME
Bring your Gold, Diamonds & Jewellery for a Free Evaluation & Get Paid $50.00 per hour for your Time*
Everything is done in front of you & your jewellery never leaves your sight
There is no obligation to sell, but we will *GUARANTEE HIGHEST PRICE IF YOU DO*
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com
*By Appointment Only. Certain Conditions Apply. Phone to Enquire

Women-only Israel tour named after Diamant bestseller

From left: the group prepares lunch in the Arab town of Deir al-Asad; Paula Perlmutar Oretsky in Beit She'an National Park, and watching the breathtaking scenery. PAULA PERLMUTAR ORETSKY

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Red Tent Tours, Paula Perlmutar Oretsky's women-only tour to Israel, fills two niches: it explores the country from what Oretsky calls a "woman's point of view" and highlights both Israel's Jewish and non-Jewish elements.

"On my last tour," the 62-year-old retired teacher from Toronto said, "I had women asking if we were going to plant a tree. I said, we're not going to be doing those typical things."

Five years ago, Oretsky launched Red Tent Tours, named for Anita Diamant's 1997 bestseller, and has co-ordinated and led a tour nearly every year since, with another planned for May.

The tour is secular, non-denominational and geared to women of all religions, ages and backgrounds; most range from 50 to 80 and come from Canada, but Oretsky has had participants from the United States and Australia.

While it typically draws women who have never before been to Israel – for some of the non-Jewish past participants, visiting Israel was something on their "bucket list" – the 10-day, cross-country trip has also attracted women who've been to the country multiple times.

The itinerary includes a mix of urban exploring like learning about the changing landscape of Tel Aviv and Jaffa, visiting historical sites like Beit She'an and Caesarea, where the group is given a private tour of a museum of Spanish surrealist art, and hiking at national parks.

"I base the trip on my interests and my interest are varied. I like the antiquities, the arts, the outdoor component and I like to eat," Oretsky laughed.

Where Red Tent really diverges from other Israel tours is in its focus on meeting face to face with women both Jewish and Arab and getting a feeling for where they live and the experiences that have shaped their lives.

For example, a staple is a visit to an Arab town in the Galilee region called Deir al-Asad, where the group prepares and eats lunch with a woman who runs a catering business, and listen to her story of being a business owner and role model to young women in her community.

Another stop is to the home of a Druze woman in the Golan Heights, where the group eats lunch in a living room overlooking Syria, and hears her story of how her children came to work as professionals in Israel.

The group also meets with Oretsky's daughter, a member of the Labour Zionist youth movement Habonim Dror, who made aliyah and lives collectively with a group of others from the movement; she shares her perspective on making aliyah, Oretsky explained.

On the next tour, scheduled for May, the group will meet with a Bedouin woman and Oretsky is also hoping to arrange a meeting with women from the multi-denominational feminist organization Women of the Wall.

Oretsky said she tries to keep the tour as politically neutral as possible. "It tends to lean a little bit left because of who I am, and because we talk on the trip of co-existence [between Jews and Arabs]. There's also a female tour guide who's with us the whole trip and she and I are on the same page in terms of looking for peace through co-existence."

Oretsky has strong personal ties to Israel. At 21, she met an Israeli while traveling in Europe and they moved to Kibbutz Kineret, on the Sea of Galilee, where she taught English for several years.

After they divorced and she moved back to Toronto with her young son, she chose to send him to Bialik Hebrew Day School due to its Labour Zionist roots, and later sent both her children to Camp Gesher.

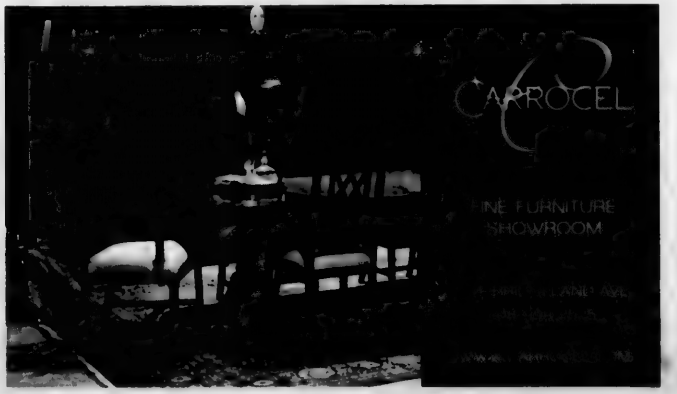
For Oretsky, Red Tent Tours is about sharing her love of Israel with others and countering some of the misconceptions about the country.

"I'm bothered by the negative political and editorial opinions and I think it's important to show people what life is like in Israel," she said, noting, "I didn't want to show only Jewish Israel. A lot of Jewish women have already been exposed to Jewish Israel and my tour is unaffiliated [with any organization], so why limit it? There were women on my trip in past who'd never met a Muslim woman. To meet a Muslim woman who embraced them – literally – it opened their eyes." ■

Red Tent Tours runs this year from May 12-26, and includes an excursion to Petra, Jordan. For more information visit israeltoursforwomen.com

Reuben Cipin
HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and roof top terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus shuttle bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations
One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca



The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Bruce Leboff, and hosts Henry and Julia Koschitzky

Yohanna Arbib, Sen. Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski

David Koschitzky, Eli and Renee Rubinstein, Ariel Koschitzky

Carole and Sen. Jerry Grafstein

Jerusalem Foundation

Toronto's Jewish community extended a warm welcome to Yohanna Arbib, new international president of the Jerusalem Foundation, at a cocktail reception hosted at the home of former Jerusalem Foundation of Canada president Julia Koschitzky and her husband, Henry. Yohanna gave a spirited talk on the Foundation's 50th anniversary and its contribution to the daily life of the city's residents. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving an open, equitable and modern society in Jerusalem through an approach centred on community vitality, cultural life, and co-existence for all its residents. ■ – *The Socialite*

Shoel Silver and Gabi Weisfeld

Harry Gorman and Arthur Herzig

Odette Levy, Lewis Mitz and Uri Dromi

Donna Holbrook, Walter Arbib, Yohanna Arbib and Wendy Posluns

Julia Koschitzky and Shirley Granovsky

Ira Gluskin, Maxine Granovsky Gluskin and Henry Koschitzky

LIORA KOGAN PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea R[illegible] • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

FEB. 11 - FEB. 18

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Feb. 11

ISRAEL IN THE MEDIA
Paul Michaels, director of research and media relations for the Centre on Israel and Jewish Affairs, discusses "Israel in the media: has the world lost its obsession?" 1:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

Friday, Feb. 12

SHABBAT AND CARL SAGAN
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism celebrates the life and legacy of Carl Sagan, with guest speaker **Mehdi Sabzalian,** University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, 7:30 p.m., Borochov Cultural Centre. $20. RSVP 416-385-3910.

Sunday, Feb. 14

FROM COUSCOUS TO KASHA
Seymour Epstein discusses his work with the Joint Distribution Committee, which took him around the world, 10 a.m. Temple Har Zion. $3/$6.

Monday, Feb. 15

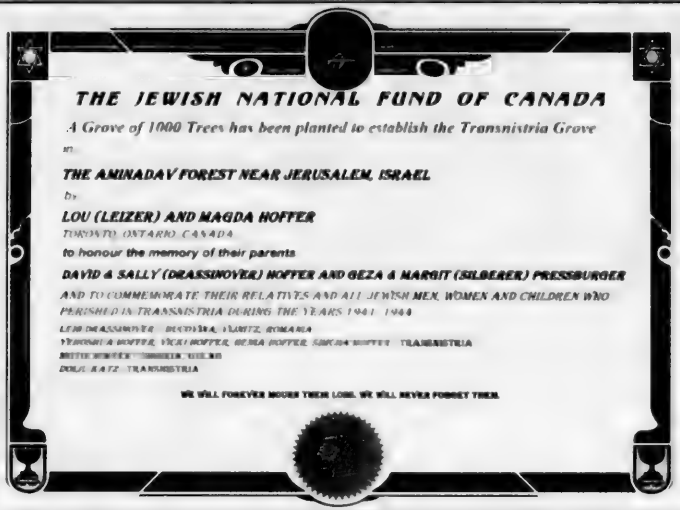
FAMILY DAY LEARNING
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Overcharging for medicine: the case for Turing Pharmaceuticals," Yeshivat Or Chaim. Program starts at 8:30 a.m., shiur at 10:30 a.m. Register at www.torontotorah.com/yk

Tuesday, Feb. 16

HOW DYNAMIC IS HALACHAH?
Rabbi Daniel Korobkin discusses "Case history: the metzitzah b'peh controversy," 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Auf Das Leben* (*To Life*), 1:30 p.m. Screening includes introduction and commentary with **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of Feb. 25 is Feb. 15. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**


THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA

A Grove of 1000 Trees has been planted to establish the Transnistria Grove

in

THE AMINADAV FOREST NEAR JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

by

LOU (LEIZER) AND MAGDA HOFFER

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

to honour the memory of their parents

DAVID & SALLY (DRASSINOVER) HOFFER AND GEZA & MARGIT (SILBERER) PRESSBURGER

AND TO COMMEMORATE THEIR RELATIVES AND ALL JEWISH MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO PERISHED IN TRANSNISTRIA DURING THE YEARS 1941 - 1944

LEIB DRASSINOVER - BUCOVINA, ROMANIA
VERONIKA HOFFER, VICKI HOFFER, GEZA HOFFER, SARAH HOFFER - TRANSNISTRIA
BELLE KRETZ - TRANSNISTRIA
DOLU KATZ - TRANSNISTRIA

WE WILL FOREVER MOURN THEIR LOSS. WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

Fulfilling a promise

Lou (Leizer) Hoffer, a Holocaust survivor, and his wife Magda, recently established the Transnistria Grove where they planted 1,000 trees in the Aminadav Forest, near Jerusalem, in honour of their family members and the men, women and children of Transnistria who died during the Shoah. Hoffer was president of the Transnistria Survivor Association for three years and during the war vowed to remember the Jews who were killed.

TELECAST WITH THE 92ND STREET Y
Temple Sinai hosts a telecast with 92nd Street Y featuring **Joel Grey. Cantor Katie Oringel** begins by singing some of Grey's songs, 7:30 p.m. $5/$10.

CHALLAH BAKE
Mattie Schurder runs a challah baking workshop, 8 p.m., Chabad Markham. $5. RSVP mattieschurder@gmail.com

Wednesday, Feb. 17

POMEGRANATE GUILD
Marilyn Levy teaches the technique of creating textile greeting cards to the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles, Temple Sinai, 7:30 p.m. Non-member admission $10, which may be applied to the annual membership fee. More information at Pomegranateguild.ca

MIDRASH AND MATRIARCHS
Toronto Morasha presents **Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** teaching "The mothers of Israel, like you've never seen them before," 10 a.m., Feb. 17- March 16, Beth Emeth Synagogue. To register, email nancywallack@gmail.com

YOUNG RABBIS SPEAK
Rabbis Noah Cheses, Adam Cutler, Jordan Helfman and **Miriam Margles** discuss "Judaism, gender and sexuality," 7:30 p.m. at the Danforth Jewish Circle, 310 Danforth Ave. (Eastminster United Church). Free. For information, 416-781-3511.

BENEATH THE HELMET
Chabad Markham shows the film *Beneath the Helmet*, 7:30 p.m., $8/$10. RSVP 905-866-0420.

Thursday, Feb. 18

WOMEN'S FOLK DANCE
Kehillat Shaarei Torah hosts an evening of women's folk dance with proceeds going to the Zaka Foundation, 7:30 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave. $10.

BOOK CLUB
Shaar Shalom Synagogue's book club reviews *The Street Sweeper*, by **Elliot Perlman,** 2 p.m.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for a volunteer to play piano in its musical matinee program. Call **Cheryl Besner,** 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

Circle of Care is looking for a Yiddish-speaking male volunteer to lead a men's discussion group Monday afternoons. Volunteers also needed for kosher meals on wheels program and friendly visiting. Call **Lisa** 416-635-2900, ext. 284.

INCLUSION CORNER
Celebrate Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month Feb. 13 at the Dani Centre, 8 p.m.-midnight. Play board games, enjoy food and drinks and the music of the Yeshivat Or Chaim Band. For more information, email ssokol@dani-toronto.com

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Tefillah Marks, magnetic book marks, can help people with disabilities navigate a siddur. Available at Yachad. Email torontoyachad@ou.org or 416-986-1985.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
JSpace Canada presents **Prof. Mohammed Wattad,** Zefat Academic College School of Law, Israel, in conversation with **Prof. Mira Sucharov,** Carleton University, on "The future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. RSVP required, at info@jspacecanda.ca.

A TRIBUTE TO SHOLEM ALEICHEM
Friends of Yiddish hosts "A tribute to Sholem Aleichem," featuring **Janie Respitz,** Feb. 21, 2 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free for members, $10 for non-members. RSVP yiddish18@yahoo.ca

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

- Parenting the child/teen with ADHD: A 4-week group for parents who want to learn more about ADHD and develop strategies to assist their child at home and school. Starts Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
- High-conflict divorce: A workshop for parents in a high-conflict situation who want to develop strategies and help lessen the impact on their children. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155

Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Film critic **Shlomo Schwartzberg** discusses and shows clips of romantic films, Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m.

Neuropsychologist **Dr. Susan Vandermorris** provides insights on how to maximize your memory, Feb. 18 Refreshments at 1 p.m., workshop, 1:30 p.m. Free RSVP lisar@mnjcc.org.

- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. Feb. 16, Lecture on "Joshua Glover: the extraordinary story of an ordinary man," 10 a.m.; Feb. 18, lecture on "Brain gym," 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Join the club for 2016. Social bridge, Thursdays at noon, knitting circle and more. Casino trip March 16.
- **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
- **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi,** 416-785-0941.
- **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

- **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- **Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Yakov Fruchter** discusses issues of interest to seniors, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30–4 p.m. Call **Maureen,** 416-781-3514.

- **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
- **Wagman Community Centre.** Learn about the pros and cons of being screened for cancer, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. $3 for non-members. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.
- **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment etc.) and catered lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Call **Amy,** 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.
- Men's cycle class, Thursdays to March 24, 7:30 p.m.
- Intermediate mah-jong, Feb. 24-March 30, 10:30 a.m.
- Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "They went thataway! Why film genres are popular," Wednesdays to Feb. 24, 1 p.m.
- Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," March 2-23, 1 p.m.
- Family yoga, ages 12 and up, Feb. 15, 1 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," March 8-22, 1 p.m.
- Glass fusion workshop with **Marcela Rosemberg.** Make a salad bowl, seder plate or cake stand, March 8, 7 p.m.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- *Voicing Perspective,* featuring visual art and photography from artists with disabilities, on display at the gallery until Feb. 24.
- Family day, Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Enjoy Jungle Gym, sports, *Frozen* performances and more.
- Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays until Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.
- A free forum on affordable housing for people with disabilities, with panelists **Remo Agostino, Bryan Keshen, Nancy Singer, Adam Vaughan, Jijian Voronka** will be held Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre.
- Havana Nights, a concert in support of music programming at the MNJCC will be held Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets $50 at uofttix.ca/havananights. Patron tickets, ext. 328.
- From tummies to mummies: prenatal aquafit, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30- 8 p.m. Ext. 567.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk.** No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people ages 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30p.m. with **Eric Stein.** music@mnjcc.org
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Intermediate mah-jong runs Tuesdays, Feb. 23-March 29, 10:30 a.m.
- Boomerang Health presents "How to lead a more active lifestyle with your kids," by physiotherapist **Kaite Chircop,** Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
- "Is your child a picky eater? Tips and strategies for parents," with **Carolyn Hay** and **Jordana Schwarz,** March 3, 7 p.m.
- The J Singles 50+ group meets for a social painting night, March 6, 7 p.m.
- Free bagel breakfast and socializing, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. ■

SENIOR SIDE OF LIFE

A matter of trust

Dr. Michael Gordon

What does the Volkswagen diesel emissions travesty of deception have to do with medicine? It was a massive abrogation of trust. And when the news hit that a well-respected Toronto-based academic physician was dishonest in her reporting of important research results that could potentially negatively affect patients – that too was a massive abrogation of trust.

For those of us in the practice of medicine, the vast majority of us have an overriding understanding that our prime concern is the well-being of our patients. That does not mean we are all paragons of virtue, knowledge and blemish-free personalities. Physicians are people who have undertaken the practice of medicine – with its long and illustrious history and legacy. That being said, it is an everyday undertaking and sometimes a monumental challenge to make sure that we fulfil our duties and obligations to our patients and, no less importantly, to ourselves and to our profession.

There is a collective duty to the profession that each physician is expected to fulfil. In almost all jurisdictions, it is overseen in a regulatory fashion by our colleges of physicians and surgeons. We are duty-bound to heed their policies and directives, but the innate commitment that each physician must internalize is what keeps the vast majority of us reputable and caring practitioners.

It is very common these days – maybe it has always been so, but I suspect not –for physicians and the health-care system to be criticized by individual patients and by the media. There is something about medicine that grabs the media – on the one hand, the ever-so-popular TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy* or the remote *Chicago Hope* and on the other, the newspaper stories about one hospital or nursing home or errant physician after another causing an affront to the sensibilities of the public.

When it comes to physicians, I believe the vast majority of us want to do right by our patients. The question for those

> *When it comes to physicians, I believe the vast majority of us want to do right by our patients.*

in leadership positions becomes how to build on the intrinsic desires of physicians to fulfil their natural and professional wishes and inclinations to serve their individual patients and the general public. It is not always easy: sometimes, for example, when political forces and circumstances mount, as periodically happens, physicians generally feel that there is pressure on them that might ultimately compromise not just their personal well-being through funding decisions, but ultimately their ability to serve the needs of their patients.

It is not that physicians do not know the realities of economic constraints – such things are part of all of our lives, whoever we are – it is just that when making medical decisions, it is sometimes hard to factor in relative costs and financial impacts, when at the end of that equation is a patient and sometimes in the world of aging, the family of that patient.

Hope springs eternal. It was a bit refreshing although understandably very political, that during the recent election campaign, the parties vying to replace the Conservatives promoted a substantial agenda for the burgeoning aging population. Even though the health-care portfolios sit within the provinces, maybe, just maybe, this time around and with a new government, there will be a translation from political promises to actual investment through the provincial channels in a way that those physicians and other health-care providers, and the facilities and programs that serve the older population and their supporting families will get the help they need to promote their well-being.

And maybe, within that complex interaction with practising physicians, the ability of each and every one of them will be supported and promoted, in keeping with their long legacy of dedication and most important, trust. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Sonia Kotzan is pleased to announce the engagement of Karen Jaclyn Kotzan & Darryl Robert Bloom, son of Justice Ivan & Elizabeth Bloom.

Happy 64th birthday Steve! From your loving wife, Vickie Rothman; mother, Mollie Rothman, children, grandchildren, and siblings in Toronto, Montreal and Israel.

Brenda Gorendar, Meir Sharvit, Sophie & Alex Tsimerman are delighted to announce the engagement of Lianne & Ziv. Grandmother Malka shares our joy.

A big mazel tov and happy birthday to Dave Moscovitch who is turning 95 years young this year. With much love from your children and grandchildren.

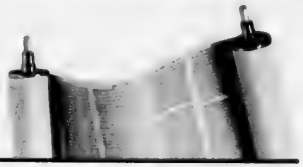
Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to **[redacted]** thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Parshah

Trumah | Exodus 25:1-27:19



Yacov Fruchter considers how to establish a framework in which we direct our hearts and minds to God
Rabbi Shalom Spira explores duelling accounts regarding the process of plating the Ark in gold
Rachael Turkienicz looks back on the confusing history, and true depiction, of cherubs

Yacov Fruchter

I'm currently enrolled in a master of pastoral studies at the University of Toronto's Emmanuel College, which trains future leaders of the United Church. Studying and discussing religion as the only Jew in the room has been interesting, challenging and entertaining. One of the key differences I've noticed is how freely my classmates speak about God and their relationships with God – what we call theology. I've noticed that Jews are more reluctant to articulate our core beliefs about God and often have a less personal relationship with God. We say things like "Baruch HaShem – thank God," but rarely discuss what that means for us. We're much more inclined to discuss traditions or minutiae of Jewish law.

Theology literally means "words or talking about God." So, let's use our parshah to talk about God.

Both this week's Torah reading and Haftorah deal with our relationship with God and ways of accessing God. They explore where and how to communicate with God, as well as how to show gratitude, love, joy, regret and remorse. The Tabernacle as well as Solomon's Temple were built by people who were given divine wisdom to build them as a way of creating a dwelling place for God among the Children of Israel.

In Trumah, we read: "And let them make Me a sanctuary and I shall dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). Many commentaries note that the word for dwell used here – *shachan* – should be read as a point of access and isn't meant to be taken literally. By creating this space of worship, we're establishing a framework in which we direct our hearts and minds to God. God is, of course, not limited to only being in this one physical space.

Upon completion of the Temple, King Solomon asks: "Would God truly dwell on earth? Behold, the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, and surely not this temple that I have built" (1 Kings 8:27).

Let's each find a moment to reflect this week on why, when and where we access God. ■

Yacov Fruchter is director of community building and spiritual engagement at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shalom Spira

"From inside and outside shall you [gold] plate it" (Exodus 25:11). The Gemara, *Yoma* 72b, derives from this that a scholar's interior must equal his facade.

Rabbi Moshe Pfeiffer, a Talmud lecturer in Miami, Fla., observes that there is some degree of equivocation regarding the pedagogical application of this principle. The Gemara, *Berachot* 28a, records a dispute between Rabban Gamliel and Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah on whether to initially ban students from entering the house of study unless their interiors already equal their facades. Rabbi Pfeiffer believes that the more accommodating approach is based on *Pesachim* 50b: "a person should always be occupied in Torah and mitzvot, even for ulterior motives, because from ulterior motives, sincerity will ultimately emerge."

Rabbi Pfeiffer suggests that this debate parallels the duelling accounts on how the Ark was gold-plated. The Talmud Yerushalmi (*Shekalim* 16b), as presented in our manuscripts, reports that the Ark was first plated inside and then outside, reflecting the high admission standards of Rabban Gamliel. However, Rabbi Yisrael Ashkenazi of Shklov, in his *Taklin Chadetin* commentary, records a *Yerushalmi* manuscript with the reverse sequence, representing the possibility of teaching a hypocrite in the hope of rehabilitating him. Rashi on Exodus 25:11 champions the latter approach.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, in his posthumously published *Darash Mosheh*, offers a related message. *Yoma* 21a says the Ark miraculously occupied no space in the Holy of Holies, whereas *Bava Batra* 14a describes how the Ark was filled to internal capacity with the Tablets (and, according to one opinion, the sefer Torah). This paradox illustrates that a scholar should internally saturate himself with Torah, yet refrain from taking up space in the outside world (i.e. have a "zero carbon footprint"). ■

Rabbi Spira is a research assistant at the McGill AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Rachael Turkienicz

In February, we're inundated with images of chubby, baby cherubs holding bows and arrows. Who wouldn't want to be targeted by these cherub-cheeked baby boy angelic figures?

But in this week's Torah portion, we read of the design of the Ark of the Covenant and the two cherubs on the lid. They're not cute and chubby, nor are they gendered. They look fierce, and we wouldn't want them targeting us for anything.

Cherubs first appear in Genesis. After humanity is exiled from the Garden of Eden, God is concerned we'll return there to eat from the Tree of Life. Mortality was just introduced into Creation, and God doesn't trust that we'll undo mortality by eating the fruit of eternal life. To prevent us from returning, God places cherubs and fire at the entrance. In prophetic literature, cherubs are multi-faced, multi-winged creatures with human hands under their wings. They interact with God and do His bidding, but they're never depicted as our friends or guardians.

In fact, the further we can stay away from cherubs, the better off we'll be.

During the Renaissance, cherubs became confused with images of *putti*, who are symbolic of innocent lost souls. These depictions were of children or infants, always male and chubby. There's also record of Cupid in ancient mythology. Cupid is the son of Venus and Mars, the gods of love and war. Cupid is armed for the warfare of love with a bow and arrow. He's portrayed as a *putti* – as an infant, chubby, male with large cheeks.

The February depiction of cherubs is the result of mistakes and confusion. It's now a secular portrayal of a modern holiday for lovers. Our texts give a true depiction of cherubs. Fashioned for the top of the Ark, facing each other with their wings overstretched toward each other, they're frightening. When God would speak, the Divine Voice was heard from the space between the cherubs – the Voice of God speaking from a void guarded by fierce angels – beyond our comprehension and sensory experiences, and a glimpse of the complexities of creation. ■

Rachael Turkienicz is executive director of Rachael's Centre in Toronto, rachaelscentre.org.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

36 VIEWMOUNT AVE. $2,099,000
Appox.4,500 Sq Ft + 2400 Fully Finished Lower Level. 5+2 Bdrms, Main Flr Family Room & Study! Very Large Kitchen W/ Sep. Entrance. Passover Portion. Fantastic Family Home On A Nicely Landscaped 50X140 Lot. Jeffrey Wagman*** Daniel Weisberg* 416-785-1500

BEST VALUE FOR THE SIZE OF THIS LOT – 70 FRONTAGE $3,495,000
Large Home In Forest Hill Set On Deep Lot. Beautiful Pool Set Well Back From The House. Large Principal Rms. 4 Bdrms, Family Rm, Ideal To Renovate Or Build Your Dream Home. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

COULSON AVE CHARMER $2,495,000
Forest Hill, Recently Upgraded 4+Bdrm, Sun Drenched Princ Rms, Chefs Kit/Brkfst, A/G Family Rm, Mst Br Retreat Incls, Steam Shower + W/I Closet, Full Lower Level, One-Of-A-Kind, 'Mud Rm' With Well-Organized Storage. Must See. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

HERITAGE ESTATES MASTERPIECE 4+1 BDRM ON PRIVATE TREE LINED STREET $1,279,000
Recently Updated Luxury Kitchen, Baths And Recreation. Main Floor Has 9ft Ceilings, Office, Family W/Fp + Pwdr Rm. Backyard Has Salt Water Pool, Waterfall, Cabana. Double Car Garage W/7 Car Parking. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875 & Michael Steinman* 905-695-6195

BRACONDALE HILL RD $2,449,000
Exquisite Restoration! 4+Bdrm, 4 Bth, 3rd Flr Mstr Ste, Open Plan LR/DR, Dramatic Family Rm, Mn Flr Family Rm, Excavated L-Level. Steps To Wychwood Barns, Hillcrest Pk. Marianne Miles** 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

OTTER CRES $2,195,000
Caribou Park. Update 4+2 Bdrm, Family Rm + Sun Room on Main. Excavated Lwr Lvl with Large Rec Room, Master Bdrm Features w/o to deck w/l closet + 5 pc ens. Set on 54 x 130 pie shaped lot. Yvonne Crawford* 416-488-2875

NEW LISTING $1,699,000 CEDARVALE WESTOVER HILL RD
Totally Renovated 4 bdrm, 4 bth on great street, family room on main and w/o to deck, hrdwd firs, high ceilings, full lower level in-law suite, over 3600 sf of living space. Professionally landscaped 2 car pkg. Janie Jesin* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

NEW LISTING YONGE/ST. CLAIR 1 BDRM+DEN AT 33 DELISLE $699,000
Luxury Boutique Bldg 24 Hr. Concierge Move Into Open Style Lr, Dr, Kit, Hrdwd S. Merrick* & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

LIVE RIGHT IN FOREST $529,000
Affordable 2 Bdrm Under Renovation, Great Rm W/Centre Dining Island, Plank Flrs. Ss Appls, Walk To Subway, Pkg Locker. Valerie Lennox* 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 8 BRIGHTON PLACE! BATHURST/STEELES!
$575,000! Seldom Available! Spectacular 3St 3Br 3Bth South Facing Exec Townhome! Outdoor Gas BBQ Hookup! 2 Car Parking At Bsmt Door! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTY

350 LONSDALE RD #315 $3000/MO.
Forest Hill Lonsdale House, Reno'd Luxury 2 Bdrm, Parking, Locker, Concierge, Indoor Pool, Walk To Subway + Village Shops. Susan Slater* 416-488-2875

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

4 BEDROOM 5 BATH 50X120' LOT CUL DE SAC LUXURY HOME
Feature Huge Master Bdrm W/ W/O Sep Bsmt. Apt. Mint Cond. Alarm Sys, Huge Rooms, Fireplace, Kitchen. Recently Reno'd. D.C Weisswasser* 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! JUST SOUTH OF LAWRENCE!
$4,000/Mo! Opportunity Knocks! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2 Car Parking! Quick Closing! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

120 Shelborne
1 bdrm from $1295.00 & 2 bdrm from $1595.00. Sabbath elevator, close to synagogues, school & shops.
New! Ladies & Men's gym
Children's Playroom
Ask for Mila at Medallion Corporation
Call 416-256-0660 or 416-782-4120

150 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Florida-Luxury 2/2 1850 SF. Kosher. 5* amenities, Spa, Shul. AVAIL. PESACH stayatwilliams@gmail.com

245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Retired senior looking for part time employment, driver, sales etc. Pls call: Allan 416-402-7536

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Caregivers, Housekeepers, elderly care, Filipino from Israel, Singapore, Hong Kong & the islands. Live in/out, screening guaranteed. Call: 416-733-3915

Live-out Cert. PSW-CPR/First aid. Attend to daily activities. Drive to appointments, etc. Have van & refs. Felipa 647-868-4548.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

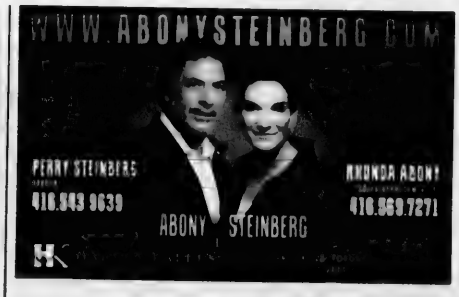
Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

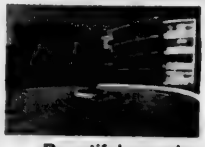
We are the people who care, and it shows!
Nurses & Caregivers
from general attendant to acute injury care
Serving Toronto & GTA since 1985
Call
416 754-0700 • 1 800 567-6877
30
www.nhihealthcare.com

ESSIE SHER
VIP Condos, Townhouses, Semis and Detached events!!
I sell Direct from the builder! No line ups. First prices! Great Locations across the GTA!
Call to get on the list.
Call Essie Sher 416-464-5261
416-739-7200



75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD



Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available Feb/Mar.
Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

55 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry, indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bathurst. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours www.TwoNeptune.ca 647-788-4887

Novel's backdrop is historic fight for better work conditions

CYNTHIA GASNER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

In 1931, during the Great Depression, the downtrodden and overworked factory workers in the Toronto garment district near Queen Street West and Spadina Avenue rose up to strike for shorter hours, safer working conditions, decent wages and recognition of their union.

Award-winning author Anne Dublin has written a novel based on real events that happened during the strike, titled *44 Hours or Strike!* published by Second Story Press.

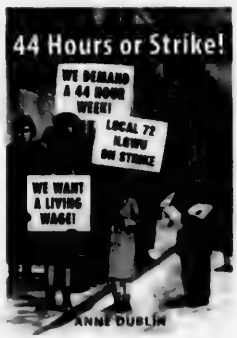
In her book, Dublin uses labour history to present a realistic view of the hard-fought battle that the immigrants faced in the pre-World War II years.

She brings together many issues faced by Jews in the 1930s, including the growing distrust and resentment toward immigrants, anti-Semitism, poverty, as well as family love and inter-racial dating.

The workers are also blamed for the difficulties everyone is facing, especially the eastern Europeans who might have communist ideas.

Teenage sisters Rose and Sophie Abramson become active and join the picket line in the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) strike against the sweatshop owners.

Anne Dublin
ERROL YOUNG PHOTO/WEBSITE



Cover of *44 Hours or Strike!*

After a fight with the authorities on the picket line, Rose is imprisoned. Her 14-year-old sister, Sophie, is left to care for their ailing widowed mother while continuing to spend her days protesting on the picket line in the freezing Toronto winter.

Dublin describes the horrific conditions at the Mercer Reformatory for Women and the effects on Rose of the isolation and abuse in prison.

The question becomes, "Will they be able to continue to fight for a cause they once so strongly believed in?"

Dublin's parents were Holocaust survivors who came to Canada in 1948.

"Because we were very poor, there was no money to buy extras," she says. "I discovered the public library and that opened up a whole new world for me."

A former teacher-librarian, Dublin taught English and French in elementary schools.

She is the author of 10 books – biographies, historical novels and short stories. She is a sought-after speaker. Her book will appeal to both students and adults. ■

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering - Restaurant
COR
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St, Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905.762.0640
www.cafesheli.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

395 ELECTRICAL

Trio electrical services. Specializing in knob & tube removal, & all your electrical needs. For free estimate call Brian 647-282 3380.

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

433 LESSONS

Art Classes for beginners & advanced for adults & children. Pls Call: 416-785-0958

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Bar/Bat Mitzvah photo & video 25 Anniversary special under $1000. Call: Andy 905-763-1584

480 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install, plus repairs on all models. Residential & commercial. 416-722-5225

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

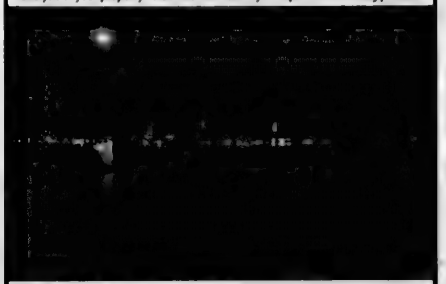
416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

ONEWORLD
PROPERTIES
NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL
YOUR FLORIDA VACATION PROPERTY!
With the Canadian dollar at levels not seen since 2003, sell your Florida based property and take advantage of both capital appreciation in both property value and US dollar vs. the Canadian dollar. Contact our team of professionals for an analysis of your property value and what exactly to expect in the selling process!



Michael Mann 786-478-8180
Yanery Deitermann 305-458-8346
EMAIL: fl.capproperties@gmail.com
One World Properties
SE HABLA ESPANOL

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN
Cancer?
We've "been there".
We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can "be there" for you during your cancer journey.
We provide **confidential peer support** to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.
Hotline: (416) 630-0203
A project of
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

Mordechai Kedar on ISIS, Iran and 'Palestinian emirates'

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Prof. Mordechai Kedar is a lecturer on Arabic and Islamic studies at Bar-Ilan University in Be'er Sheva. Fluent in Arabic, he served as a lieutenant-colonel in the Israeli Defence Forces' intelligence branch. He is a frequent commentator on the politics of the Arab world and in 2008 appeared on *Al Jazeera*, where he sparred with the host and asserted the Jews' historic claim to Jerusalem. Kedar was in Toronto last month as part of a month-long North American speaking tour. In addition to addressing university students and synagogue congregations, he sat down for an interview with *The CJN*.

Your topic at Beth Tikvah Synagogue was on Israel and its enemies. Given the disarray in the Arab world, isn't Israel's strategic position pretty good right now?

We have peace with Egypt and Jordan and Syria as a state is dysfunctional, so it's also not anymore on the list of active enemies. Also we have Hezbollah to the north. This is one circle of enemies.

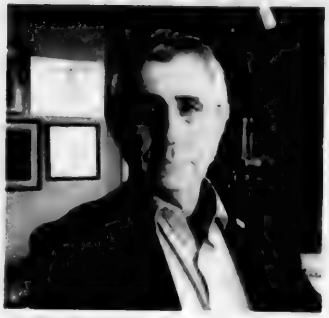
In the second, wider circle in the Middle East, I would count Iran as a strategic threat to Israel, because of its nuclear program, which I believe was never abandoned. So these are the enemies which are states. However, in the Middle East, there are non-state players – terrorist organizations like Hamas and the Islamic State (ISIS). Since the lead in the Arab world has been transferred from governments to organizations, we see organizations today also posing also a threat to Israel.

Do these non-state players threaten Israel existentially?

No, terror cannot topple a state. But terror can make life bitter and hard. This is what we've seen during the last few months. And this brings us to the third kind of threat, the knife intifadah, the stabbings of Jews. This is a threat against the Jewish part of Israel by people who are working within us. Since Israel is not an apartheid state, Arabs can go wherever they like, whenever they like – to work, to cinema, to restaurants – because they are citizens.

Some take advantage of this. They come to the workplace and stab Jews. This is a threat, because it makes everyone a potential stabber. How do you tell one from the other?

This phenomenon no doubt comes from the Islamic State, which turns the use of a knife or cleaver into an art in order to terrorize infidels. Clips of beheadings are uploaded to the Internet. People watch them, are impressed and take the knife in order to do it to the Jews.



Prof. Mordechai Kedar

> *The Iranians were caught cheating time after time over the last 18 years of negotiations. They never implemented what they committed themselves to.*

Is ISIS trying to infiltrate Gaza, take over and supplant Hamas?

This is ISIS' strategy not only in Gaza. It's in many places. So far, around 20 organizations all over the world, from the Philippines in the east all the way to the Sahara in the west, have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. Gaza is one of the places where the Islamic State tries to convince Salafist groups to pledge allegiance to them. Gaza is no different than Nigeria, where Boko Haram has already pledged allegiance to ISIS. Sinai became the Sinai District of the Islamic State.

It doesn't stop with these organizations. In many states in the world, there are individuals who fall in love with the Islamic State, with the methods it employs and with the goals that drive it. San Bernardino, the Boston Marathon, Ottawa, Times Square, Paris, Toulouse and Sydney are only a partial list of places where individuals are walking in the footsteps of the Islamic State.

Does that suggest that what's happening in Israel, where people are attacked with knives, is something we can expect in North America and the rest of the western world?

It's already happening. A few months ago, a Muslim employee slaughtered his boss at work in France. In London, a soldier was beheaded while walking to his workplace. In Oklahoma, there was a case of beheading by a Muslim. So the methods of ISIS are being exported, mainly by social media, in clips that everybody can watch.

So what do you make of the European decision to bring in tens of thousands of Syrian refugees? Canada also is going to bring in 25,000.

Well they have to be checked very carefully. Children definitely deserve to be protected, as do women in most cases and old people who are fleeing from death. However, young adults, or people 18 to 35, should be checked very well.

What should the Jewish community's attitude to the Yazidi people be?

We Jews should view the Yazidi genocide by ISIS as if it was perpetrated against us, no less. After the Yazidis, the jihadists will go after the Christians, the Alawis, the Shiites and the Jews.

We are in line, so we have to step up now, before it comes to our necks. The Jewish community should do what it can to save Yazidi girls from slavery, to stop the genocide and to push forward the establishment of a political unit, whether an autonomous area or independence for the Yazidis, so they can defend themselves.

Let's talk about the U.S.-Israeli relationship. Is it at a particularly low point now?

There are some levels of co-operation between Israel and the United States. On the level of intelligence co-operation, I think the relations are as usual.

The economic relations are excellent.

When it come to political issues, there are two big differences between the Obama administration and Israel. The first is about the deal with Iran. Israel, from the left to the right, considers it an existential threat. The Obama administration views the deal as something that will bring more stability and peace to the world, and everyone will sit around the fire and sing *Kumbaya*.

Another issue is a Palestinian state. In Israel, even the left is afraid that a Palestinian state, especially in Judea and Samaria, will turn into another Hamastan, either by elections or by military coup d'etat. So Israelis on the left and right assume that this will be the fate of a Palestinian state, and that all those who preached to us, day and night, to create a Palestinian state will not come to chase Hamas out after they take this state over, and we'll be stuck with the problem.

If Hamas controls the West Bank, it will be able to target 80 per cent of the Jewish population of Israel, with short-range missiles. The longer range missiles will arrive everywhere, including Haifa harbour. This might paralyze Israel totally, so this is an existential threat.

Let's talk about your plan for the West Bank. You've written that the Palestinians aren't a nation requiring a nation-state, but rather are divided into tribal groupings.

There is a Palestinian nation, just like there's a Syrian nation, Iraqi nation, Libyan nation, Sudanese nation: all are imaginary creations of the West. On the ground, these states are highly fragmented to tribes, ethnic groups, religious groups and sectarian groups that never constituted a nation. The Palestinians are the same. The fact these states failed to replace people's loyalty to these traditional frameworks is the source of the problems we see in the Middle East today.

Because if there were a Syrian nation, they wouldn't kill each other the way that they do. If there was an Iraqi nation, they would live in peace with each other. If there was a Libyan nation, they wouldn't slaughter each other.

The Palestinians are highly divided into clans. Not only that, they don't marry each other. The only way to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East, including with the Palestinians, is to create states that would be socially homogeneous, like the Gulf emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, where everyone is from one tribe – the Nashashibis in Jerusalem, Barghoutis in Ramallah, Erekat in Jericho, Masri in Nablus. Since tribalism in the Middle East is still alive and kicking, we should follow it rather than negate it. That's why the only plan that can bring stability to the Palestinians is eight Palestinian emirates. This will give them stability and prosperity, and give us security.

What do you think will happen with Iran? Will it get a nuclear weapon?

The Iranians were caught cheating time after time over the last 18 years of negotiations. They never implemented what they committed themselves to. I think nobody would buy a used car from them, so why should someone in their right mind buy from them a promise while they are acting day and night to undermine the Middle East, in Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Gaza. Where they are responsible for the bloodbath in Syria and Iraq. When they could not care less about human life and they consider all those who negotiated with them to be wine-drinkers and swine-eaters who are worth nothing compared to true believers like themselves.

I don't believe even one word they say and sign. They are compulsive liars who hide behind the idea of *taqiya*, the Shia concept of deception, which is a necessity to survive in a hostile environment. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

What will it take for a Muslim-Jewish *Nostra Aetate*?

Backstory

JIMMY BITTON
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

As part of a series of gestures to mark the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration entitled *Nostra Aetate*, or "*In Our Time*," last month, Pope Francis paid a historic visit to the breathtaking Great Synagogue of Rome. There, the leader of the Catholic Church spoke about the remarkable advancements in Jewish-Christian relations, laid a wreath at the location where the Jews of Rome were rounded up by the Nazis, and laid another wreath to commemorate Stefano Gaj Taché, the two-year-old Jewish boy who was murdered on Oct. 9, 1982, when five PLO terrorists shot at families leaving the synagogue after the afternoon Shabbat service.

Nostra Aetate is revolutionary in the otherwise dark history of Jewish-Christian relations because it repudiates the age-old charge that Jews are collectively responsible for the death of Jesus. But, what inspired this revolutionary change in Catholic attitudes toward Jews and Judaism? Eminent philosopher and scholar Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks argues that, "It took the Holocaust to bring about *Nostra Aetate*."

From the period of early Christianity through the ensuing centuries, Christians cultivated potent anti-Jewish attitudes. Spearheaded by the early Church fathers, Christianity came to historically understand itself as the religion that God intended Judaism to be. As for the Jews themselves, they were judged eternally cursed for being Christ killers. In one polemical homily, Church father John Chrysostom (354-420), referred to the Jews as dogs, beasts and the vilest of animals. The synagogue, he stated, is "worse than a brothel," before concluding with a decree that "it is the duty of all Christians to hate the Jews." Later, Martin Luther rekindled anti-Jewish attitudes in his 1543 treatise *The Jews and Their Lies*. Therein, Luther advised Christians to burn down synagogues and Jewish schools.

In the 20th century, the Nazis found fertile ground and willing collaborators for the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews. The vitriolic writings of Christian leaders were resurrected by the Third Reich and became a prevalent motif of Nazi propaganda against the Jews.

Today, the major theological issues that have served to separate Jews and Christians throughout time have not been resolved. And yet, Christian attitudes toward Jews since World War II bode well for reconciliation. Now, dialogue, rather than violence, is the model of Christian-Jewish relations. With *Nostra Aetate*, Christianity adopted the modern virtue of religious tolerance and officially delegitimized any Christian theologically inspired hatred of Jews.

In our time, the very urgent question is, can the mostly violent model that has plagued Muslim-Jewish relations be similarly replaced with one of dialogue?

Radical Islamism is on the march, and terror groups like Al Qaeda, ISIS, Hezbollah and Hamas have cast a very dark shadow over Jewish-Muslim relations. The world watches in horror as jihadists strike every continent and Palestinian children are radicalized to view the murdering of Jews as a religious duty. There is no doubt that modern Islam is in a crisis.

In 2004, under the patronage of King Abdullah of Jordan, over 200 Muslim scholars issued a declaration entitled *Amman Message*, which denounced radicalized renditions of Islam. The document stressed that the core values of Islam are compassion, tolerance, acceptance and freedom of religion. However, any momentum that came from the much anticipated declaration seems to have faded far away. Certainly, we have yet to witness the peaceful Muslim majority produce an equivalent to *Nostra Aetate*.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam each share a common Abrahamic tradition and belief in a single God. The monotheistic similarity allows for a meaningful discourse between the three great religions. The Christian world seems to now acknowledge this and has taken significant steps toward reconciliation. What will it take for the Muslim world to do the same? ■

Jimmy Bitton is head of the Jewish history department at the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Kimel Family Education Centre.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Bobby Katz	Jan 23/16	31 Craigmount Drive
David Benjamin Kaplansky	Jan 23/16	20 Tinder Crescent
David Guttman	Jan 26/16	7601 Bathurst Street
Shirley Wenger	Jan 21/16	1055 West 41st Avenue
Lily Smietana	Jan 24/16	784 Centre Street
Dorothy Tress	Jan 26/16	7601 Bathurst Street
Benjy Green	Jan 24/16	9 Cambridge Street
Bernhard Conn	Jan 27/16	525 Lawrence Ave. West 1
Clara Kotzer	Jan 27/16	1035 Eglinton Avenue, West
Lloyd Solish	Jan 27/16	33 Deslisle Avenue
Dave Stoch	Jan 29/16	4069 Pheasant Run
Renee Nash	Jan 27/16	3303 Don Mills Road

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE please call or email at least 15 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.
416-922-3605
or email
ssokolsky@thecjnsales.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

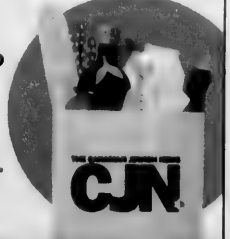
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.



CIJA

CIJA Welcomes **New Board Members**

We are privileged to welcome **Jonathan Goldbloom, Dr. Mario Silva** and **David Spiro** who bring a wealth of talent and a deep commitment to Canadian Jewish advocacy.

JONATHAN GOLDBLOOM

is a communications consultant with a focus on crisis and issues management. He recently worked on Bob Rae's campaign for Liberal Party leadership. Mr. Goldbloom was a member of CIJA's Senior Cabinet in Quebec and of the CIJA Quebec Regional Committee Board of Directors.

DR. MARIO SILVA

is an author and international legal scholar who has had a distinguished career as an elected parliamentarian and leader of civil society. He was appointed by the Government of Canada to serve as the 2014 Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

DAVID SPIRO

is a Toronto attorney who served as the Board Chair of CIJA's GTA Local Action Committee. He has also served on the boards of Jewish Federations of North America, Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, and Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

Nominations to the CIJA Board are guided by an independent process, managed by a Nominations Committee that assesses the background, specific skills, experience, and other relevant qualifications of prospective Directors and submits a list of candidates to the national CIJA membership for consideration. CIJA benefits enormously from the knowledge, experience and passion of its Board members.

We extend our sincerest thanks to David Fogel, Lisa Gamson, and the Hon. Sheila Copps, PC for their distinguished service to CIJA and to the Jewish community. Though they will no longer serve as Board members, their contribution to CIJA will continue to positively impact Canadian Jewry.

Get Involved

To learn about CIJA's dual mandate of government relations and how to make a difference, visit

New members join returning directors:

cija.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

FEBRUARY 18, 2016 • 9 ADAR I, 5776

$2.00 • 48 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Is Ottawa set to restore funding for UNRWA?

Jewish groups concerned, but government insists no decision has been made just yet. **PAGE 8**

Planning a simchah?

Our supplement has lots of tips to help you out.
SPECIAL SECTION

Tetzaveh

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:29 p.m.	6:34 p.m.
Montreal	5:08 p.m.	6:13 p.m.
Ottawa	5:17 p.m.	6:22 p.m.
Toronto	5:34 p.m.	6:38 p.m.
Winnipeg	5:35 p.m.	6:44 p.m.
Calgary	5:41 p.m.	6:51 p.m.
Vancouver	5:20 p.m.	6:29 p.m.

The challenges of Jewish adoption

It can be costly and stressful, but the rewards are life-changing. **First of a three-part series PAGE 5**

PEN Canada to host anti-Israel speaker

Max Blumenthal is cited approvingly by neo-Nazis, so why was he invited? **PAGE 12**

Stop disrespecting Liberals, MP urges

Anthony Housefather insists Trudeau government is sensitive to Jewish, Israel concerns. **PAGE 14**

An equine mystery in rural Quebec

Barbara Kay's new novel is set in the cutthroat world of horse competitions. **PAGE 26**

Kinky Boots
NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 @rvish.com

Big Bang star gives Piers Morgan a show, and former Floyd frontman weighs in

Mayim's immodest moment

Actress Mayim Bialik, an advocate of her Orthodox faith and modesty, put on quite a show for Piers Morgan on the *Late Late Show with James Corden* Feb. 8. The *Big Bang Theory* star declared herself a feminist before turning her back to the camera and pulling down her dress in front of Morgan. Bialik was defending actress Susan Sarandon, whom Morgan had criticized for wearing a low-cut outfit while presenting an award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards Feb. 6. Bialik has been outspoken about the challenges of maintaining faith and modesty in Hollywood.

She's usually less flashy

Waters decries 'bullying' at York U

Ex-Pink Floyd frontman Roger Waters weighed in Feb. 9 on a controversial mural at York University, saying criticism of Israel isn't anti-Semitic, while applauding students and faculty for "standing up… to bullying." He accused businessman Paul Bronfman, who pulled funding from York over the issue, of trying to use "economic muscle" to censor the painting. *Palestinian Roots*, which hangs in York's student centre, shows a man holding rocks looking at a field and a bulldozer. On his back is a Palestinian flag and a map of Israel. Underneath are the words "justice" and "peace." Also Feb. 9, 100 Jewish and non-Jewish faculty members at York issued a statement in favour of free speech and against calling criticism of Israel anti-Semitic. "This tired alibi… is speech suppression and intolerance," they said.

Reject Israel swag, nominees urged

Boycott, divestments and sanctions founder and Palestinian activist Omar Barghouti wants stars like Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence to reject a $55,000 (US) 10-day trip to Israel that's part of the swag bags for some Oscar nominees. The bags, valued at $200,000, also include a lifetime supply of skin creams costing $31,200, laser skin care worth $5,530, and a 15-day tour of Japan valued at $45,000. Key nominees get the bags. "Israel is desperately trying to fight its increasing international isolation through bribes and intimidation rather than by ending its occupation and apartheid," Barghouti said Feb. 10. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi ... 4	News ... 8	Jewish Life ... 22	Parshah ... 32
Cover Story ... 5	Comment ... 10	Wry Bread ... 28	Q&A ... 34
Perspectives ... 7	International ... 19	What's New ... 30	Backstory ... 35

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

$3 billion

The value in U.S. dollars of a deal nearing completion that would make Israel one of India's top-three arms suppliers.

100

The number of attendees at Women of the Wall's first monthly service 1-1/2 weeks after a compromise was reached over prayer at the Kotel.

Quotable

This was not an archive, this was a medieval Facebook... crammed with so much mundane junk that you could reconstruct an entire world from it.

— Novelist Dara Horn on the Cairo Geniza. p. 34.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz continues his series on chicken soup with unusual recipes.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Problem is in the classroom

The mural at York University is secondary to the real problem, which is what is being taught in the classrooms ("York U reviews policies in wake of painting controversy," Feb. 4).

My children attended York, and from discussions with them and students at other universities, it is clear that there is very little attempt to make the learning experience "inclusive," despite York's statement about the controversy.

One student told me that her Palestinian lecturer in a social science course told the class that she intended to teach them the Palestinian narrative. This happened in a course that had nothing to do with the Middle East. When asked about this, she replied that time did not permit the teaching of any alternative to her dogma.

Another lecturer during Israel Apartheid Week gave a reading list of only Palestinian sources. When questioned why there were no Israeli sources, she provided readings from anti-Zionist Israeli writers.

Students are not going to jeopardize their marks by accusing their teachers of bias. The twisting of minds by propaganda in the guise of academia is insidious and hard to deal with.

Morris Sosnovitch
Toronto

Social justice in Canada

The article "Rekindling the light of Jewish social justice," (Feb. 4) is a welcome call to action in our country's Jewish communal trajectory. I graduated from McMaster University in 2002 and moved immediately to New York City to participate in Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps. There was nothing like it at home in Canada. The year-long program retooled and invigorated my relationship to Judaism.

For the first time, I met policymakers and community leaders who spoke openly about how Jewish tradition guided their work in the modern secular world. For the first time, I met Jewish communal leaders whom I could relate to as a young adult, because we had explicitly shared values about social change. For the first time, I found friends from all Jewish backgrounds eager to engage deeply with our tradition in ways that spoke to our daily pursuits. The intellectual and spiritual stimulation from my year in Avodah shifted my relationship to Judaism. For the first time, Judaism became an inseparable part of my identity.

There are many reasons why Canadian Jews ought to think bigger about our communal role as agents of social change. It's our obligation, as our tradition teaches us. It's also a communal game-changer. This work draws in Jews who would otherwise be on the margins, and deepens the ties of those who are already engaged. This pursuit makes Judaism relevant, and in its relevance, it changes people, it changes the Jewish community and it changes the fabric of our country.

Rachel S. Gold
Tulsa, Okla.

Promoting the prenup

It is incorrect that the halachic prenup for Canada I released last week ("Montreal rabbi promotes prenup to address agunot," Feb. 4) "bypasses" the beit din in Toronto or Montreal. It names the Beth Din of America to facilitate and direct the couple to their local beit din at the time of divorce. Couples in Montreal or Toronto should not have to travel to New York for their get.

The completely logical reasons why it is so worded are spelled out in the full explanation and instructions at www.adath.ca.

Rabbi Elisha Schochet disagrees with two of my halachic positions. Both of these opinions are the clearly articulated and published opinions of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, widely acknowledged as the greatest halachic authority of our generation.

Rabbis and couples across Canada must know that by signing this agreement, they are acting in accordance with the highest and most respected halachic authorities in the world, and they are taking the most helpful step possible to eliminate the horror of agunah. How could anyone refuse to do that?

Rabbi Michael Whitman
Hampstead, Que.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

EDWARD SONSHINE, O.Ont., Q.C.

ISRAEL BONDS

THANK YOU
תודה רבה

ERIC W. SLAVENS, FCPA, FCA

Thank you to Edward Sonshine and Eric Slavens, our outgoing Chair and President, for their many years of devoted leadership, exemplary service and sage counsel.

On behalf of our community of investors, we are grateful to have their ongoing leadership support. We also thank all past and present Members of the Board for helping Israel Bonds Canada achieve its goals in the service of the State of Israel.

Israel Bonds Canada / Canada-Israel Securities, Limited. **IsraelBonds.ca**

Israel Bonds are debt securities issued by the Government of Israel. Capital provided through the sale of Israel Bonds has helped strengthen every aspect of Israel's economy, enabling the development of key national infrastructure. Today, expanded ports and transportation networks help facilitate the shipment of "Made in Israel" technology around the world, enhancing national export growth and enabling cutting-edge innovation in high-tech, green-tech, clean-tech and medical innovations that save lives on a daily basis and change the world for the better.

The time had come for my wife's unveiling. My kids and I wanted a monument that honoured her memory and captured who she was. A stone of lasting beauty, so that when we visited her grave, we felt close to her. The monument counsellor at Benjamin's Landmark designed a custom stone at a price we could afford. They truly took the utmost care.

"They thought of everything."

Benjamin's
Landmark Monuments
Through the generations
...a sacred trust

416-780-0635
We are here to help.
www.benjaminslandmarkmonuments.ca

RABBI·2·RABBI

Stepping outside the shtetl bubble

How can rabbis stay engaged with the outside world and balance teaching passion for Judaism with an appreciation of other cultures?

RABBI ADAM CUTLER
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI ADAM SCHEIER
CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Cutler: On a recent flight to Israel, I sat in front of a Christian pilgrim from Calgary who had never before been on an airplane. On my return flight, I sat beside a young Eritrean man, also on his maiden flight, who was immigrating to Calgary after living for five years in Israel. As a frequent traveller to Israel, I was pleased to be among first-time flyers. And as a North American Jew, I was interested to hear the experiences of a religious Christian and an African migrant.

We congregational rabbis spend most of our professional and personal lives surrounded by people with a shared religion from a small geographical catchment. Except when we are engaged in inter-religious dialogue or mentoring someone toward conversion, many congregational rabbis have little substantive interaction with non-Jews. Yet, there is a much larger world beyond our own shtetls. That is the world in which most of our congregants live.

How do you stay engaged with the worldwide human community? What losses are there in living a more cloistered life than most?

Rabbi Scheier: I think many would object to describing a modern Canadian Jew's life as "cloistered." But, to an extent, everyone leads a slightly cloistered life. I once read a statistic that the average, city-dwelling person will meet three new people every day. Over the course of an average lifespan, this comes out to 80,000 acquaintances. While I would hardly call this a shtetl, compare it to the global population – or even the population of our cities – and we ultimately interact with a very small corner of the world.

I once saw a beautiful interpretation of the teaching in Pirkei Avot (4:12), which says in the name of Rabbi Meir, "engage in Torah study, be humble of spirit before every person." The commentator suggested this passage can be read as a warning to those who admirably immerse themselves in Torah study. Be mindful, the teaching exhorts, for even as we immerse ourselves in our own communities of like-minded friends, we are responsible to interact with respect with every person.

How do you think this objective is best accomplished? Beyond the occasional conversations with fellow travellers of different backgrounds, what responsibility do you see for engagement with a broader swath of humanity?

Rabbi Cutler: I often remind myself that God's covenant with Noah precedes God's covenant with Abraham. We are people before we are Jews.

As Jewish adults – all the more so as rabbis – I think we must connect with the greater world around us. We must read great literature and experience local culture. Not only does this link us to our congregants (who are also doing this), but it allows us to experience a part of God's creation. Such activities thicken the experience of being a person, which hopefully can only strengthen the experience of being a Jew.

What becomes tricky is the appropriate educational balance for children. To what extent should Jewish children be educated in the holidays, rituals and beliefs of others? How much time do we want to allocate for children to become knowledgeable world citizens versus committed to Jewish particularity? I believe the experience of being both human and Jewish requires us to engage deeply with Jewish wisdom and more general culture.

How do you balance the two?

Rabbi Scheier: When we speak about "connecting" with the greater world, I agree with you that this is a virtue that I endorse. As a former English literature major, I will often use aspects of literature to illuminate concepts or messages. (For example, as a source for my now-three-year-old daughter Allegra's name, I cited Longfellow's *The Children's Hour*, which mentioned the poet's daughter "laughing Allegra" – a blessing that has proved true in our home.)

However, I would differentiate between appreciation and passion. We must appreciate the beauty and depth that surrounds us, but at the same time, as rabbis, we teach passion for our own religion and its teachings. There is a delicate balancing act between teaching other faiths and doing so in a way that recognizes the uniqueness of our own tradition, without disparaging that of others.

If we can teach a passion for Judaism which is elevated and bolstered by an appreciation for local and foreign cultures, then we've embraced a strong Jewish identity for the 21st century. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 7 (2,233)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

Adoption doesn't have to be a last resort

But it can be difficult, costly, stressful, and lead to unique parenting challenges, especially for Jewish families

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Watching a loved one struggle with the physical, psychological and financial challenges associated with infertility treatment may elicit well-meaning outbursts like, "Well, why don't you just adopt?"

What many don't realize is that adoption can be just as difficult, stressful and costly as infertility – albeit in different ways – and may give way to parenting challenges that are unique to adoptive families in general, and Jewish families in particular.

First, it is important to note it's a misconception that Judaism doesn't welcome the concept of adoption.

According to the JCCA, formerly known as Jewish Child Care Association, a New York-based organization that offers a program called Ametz Adoption Program, caring for a needy child "supersedes the commandment to give birth to children. Traditional sources teach us that nurturing and raising a child are more important than giving birth... Adoption is not only acceptable, it is encouraged. Jewish law assumes that orphaned children will be cared for by others."

Despite this, the fact is that adoption is rarely a first option for families, and many couples must first come to terms with having "failed" to conceive a child naturally.

"It is in our genes that we want to replicate ourselves in terms of giving birth to children, and when that fails, we find people, if they can afford it... move to assisted reproduction," said University of Guelph professor emeritus Michael Grand, who co-directed the National Adoption Study of Canada in 1993 and wrote a book called *The Adoption Constellation: New Ways of Thinking About and Practicing Adoption*.

"They look to that route, and if that one fails, they look to adoption," he said.

Jan Silverman, an infertility counsellor who experienced infertility herself before adopting two children who were just days old when she brought them home, also talks about the concept of "failing" fertility before resorting to adoption.

"You go through the infertility crisis, and you fail at fertility, because you never do achieve that dream of having a child. Then you start on this adoption maze, when you start off with a home study. All of a sudden you're being evaluated... 'Why am I being scrutinized this way?'... 'What else do I have to do to prove myself worthy of having a child?'" said Silverman, who is an advocate for couples coping with infertility, as well as adoption.

Once a couple is legally verified as "adopt ready," which means they've completed a home study and adoption training, they have to be prepared for the financial cost of adopting. According to the Adoption Council of Canada, the costs can range from $3,000 to $30,000, depending on whether a couple chooses to adopt locally through foster care, through a licensed private agency or internationally.

For those to whom money is no object, often patience is a virtue. Wait times can take years, simply because there aren't as many children available today for adoption as there used to be, explained Noelle Burke, an adoption permanency worker with Jewish Family & Child in Toronto (JF&CS).

"The landscape of adoption in the province has changed drastically. To give you an example, at Jewish Family & Child, we might have done significantly more infant adoptions 30 years ago, whereas now we do probably about, on average, three per year," she said.

"If you look at the stats even for private adoptions... young parents are choosing not to place a baby for adoption. There are under 100 of those per year in the entire province," as a result of factors that include more access to birth control, abortion and the lack of stigma associated with single women raising children.

Grand added that the more specific the potential parents want to be in terms of the age of the child, the sex of the child, the cognitive capacity, and the emotional history, the more difficult it becomes.

"If you go in and say, 'I'll take any child who comes my way,' you have a far better chance of adopting a child than if you say I want a healthy, white infant," Grand said.

Yet, even in those cases, another roadblock for Jewish couples is the fact that a woman who decides to place her child for adoption can choose from a list of hopeful couples.

"It has been more and more the practice that the birth parents are part of the process of choosing who the adopted parents will be. If there is a bias against a child going into a Jewish home, that may make it more difficult," Grand said.

Burke suggested that couples advocate for themselves and give birth parents an opportunity to learn about what it would mean to be part of a Jewish family. "I strongly encourage them to advocate and say, 'Let me tell you more about what it is like in my family as a Jewish person and let me tell you about my traditions and why I'm a fantastic resource for a child,' and take the opportunity to break down some of the misinformation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Helping our clients
focus on what really matters

Allan Newman
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Greg Newman
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Discretionary Asset Management can be an ideal solution for busy professionals, business owners, retirees, frequent travellers, or those who simply do not wish to deal with the **day to day demands** of portfolio management. Allowing you to take a hands-off approach, this full service program ensures that your financial goals are met with expertise, **convenience and peace of mind**.

www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com

The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI") SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital Head Office 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergio **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Michael Goldbloom, Ira Gluskin, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Women's auxiliary

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

A group picture of the Women's Auxiliary of the I.L. Peretz Workmen's Circle Schools, 1929.

SeeJN | Praying by the river

NATI SHOHAT/FLASH90 PHOTO

A Chabad man prays by the river in Pushkar, India, late last month. The town of Pushkar is one of the five sacred pilgrimage sites for devout Hindus.

From Yoni's Desk

CJN Prize for Young Writers

At the inaugural awards ceremony for The CJN Prize for Young Writers, held Feb.10 on the campus of York University, some of our community's most gifted young writers displayed their talent to an enthusiastic crowd. It was an inspirational evening, for the winners and their proud families, for the enthusiastic crowd on-hand, and for the staff of *The Canadian Jewish News*.

Speaking to the crowd as the evening got underway, Barbara Kay, the *National Post* columnist and *CJN* contributor – and one of three judges for The CJN Prize along with *CJN* columnists Evelyn Tauben and Norman Ravvin – reflected on her own experiences nurturing young writers (this one included). Next, Carl Ehrlich and Sara Horowitz, representing the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York, meditated on the great history of Jewish writing and literature.

Then it was time to hand out some awards.

Jasen Sagman took home The CJN Prize, along with a cheque for $1,800 (a nice payday for any writer), for his essay, *Who speaks out for Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands?* Ten runners-up prizes were also handed out to Michael Aarenau, Zack Babins, Mitchell Consky, Sarah Czosniak, Yardena Katz, Mira Katz-Blumenthal, Shoshana Mirlas, Jonah Simcha Chaim Muskat-Brown, Jessica Pollock and Roni Zveiris.

After everyone in attendance had collected their awards, four of the runners-up and Sagman took turns reading from their essays. If any of them were nervous, it didn't show.

Mira Katz-Blumenthal distilled the history of the Yiddish lullaby as "a primary vehicle through which Jewish mothers were able to articulate their dreams and aspirations for their children" during a reading of her piece, *Loving Lullabies: Yiddish Cradle Songs as Vehicles of Maternal Expression*. Mitchell Consky followed with an energetic recitation of *Forty-Five Seconds of Free Fall Adrenaline*, chronicling his maiden skydiving voyage, an experience he shared with his Israeli instructor.

Sarah Czosniak took the crowd on a trip through the Canadian prairies in her essay *Finding Judaism in Rural Manitoba*, including visits to the former Jewish farming colony in Bender Hamlet, Manitoba, and the ghost town of Hirsch, Sask., where she stumbled upon a Jewish cemetery. She then turned the stage over to Jessica Pollock, who considered the role of Jewish mothers as the pillars of Jewish communities in pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe in *The Saga of the Eastern European Eshet Chayil*.

Finally, Jasen Sagman read from his winning submission, a passionate defence of Jewish refugees displaced from Arab states after 1948 War of Independence. "This call to guarantee the rights and reparations for Jewish refugees from Arab states will not counter Palestinian rights and claims," he explained. "Rather, it will encourage all parties to recognize the fact that there were two groups of refugees, each of whom are entitled to redress and to an enduring peace and co-existence."

All told, the evening was a reminder of the reciprocal relationship between *The CJN* and the Canadian Jewish community – and, of course, an opportunity for Jewish mothers and fathers to *shep naches* from their talented children. As the ceremony drew to a close, there was little doubt that the future of Jewish writing in Canada looks bright. ■ — YONI

Guest voice

Shinshinim remain our friends long after they return to Israel

Michael Diamond

On Jan. 18, a diverse group of educators, rabbis, heads of schools, leaders from Hillel and several youth groups, along with lay leaders from Toronto's Jewish community met at Kibbutz Shefayim north of Tel Aviv to begin a six-day, whirlwind tour focused on the selection of a new cohort of shinshinim, for a program that brings young Israelis in their gap year before entering the Israel Defence Force (IDF) to Toronto for a year of service.

Toronto has the most extensive and intensive shinshinim program in the Diaspora. In 2016-17, Toronto will welcome 24 of the 115 shinshinim in the whole Diaspora. There will be 72 host families, and literally tens of thousands of children, adolescents, young adults, adults and seniors will experience these young people – sometimes intensely, sometimes less so – throughout the year.

The shinshinim are seen as rock stars in our day and supplementary schools, and they integrate into their host families in ways that ensure enduring positive change and relationships with Israel. You will see them at major milestone events like the Walk with Israel and Federation's campaign launch.

These are not just any young Israelis. These are the kids who come to live in our homes and invest in our children. They go to our camps, and spend their days in our schools and synagogues. They are incredible young people, who we learn to appreciate and respect and love during their time in Canada. And when they return home, we maintain, and even strengthen, our relationships. When they get married – and we had our first shinshin wedding only a few months back – we are invited. They return here to celebrate bar and bat mitzvahs, or just to visit. And through it all, as they wind their way through their Israeli lives, they remain our young friends.

The 48 candidates who applied to be shinshinim in Toronto. Twenty four were selected.

The Israel Engagement Team of UJA, along with its partner the Jewish Agency of Israel, take the selection process seriously. It's no accident that, to a person, the shinshinim are engaging, energetic, bright, knowledgeable, and highly capable of communicating their passion for Israel and Judaism.

During our time in Israel, we interviewed and we made choices. We met 48 young Israelis, each of whom was exceptional, every one selected from a deep pool of 2,000 candidates gathered by the Jewish Agency for Israel. The candidates told us why they wanted to take a year of their life to invest in Toronto with us. They shared their excitement about making a difference in our community. They told us why they insisted on making a difference.

It was not easy to choose. The candidates left after 36 hours together, went back to their homes, and awaited the calls that night which would let them know whether they were going to be spending a year in Toronto.

Later that week, we reunited with over 70 of our shinshinim alumni at a restaurant in Tel Aviv. Many of them traveled for hours from their homes and army bases to join us. And at the end of the week, we gathered with the 24 chosen young Israelis for a Shabbaton in Jerusalem to begin the next chapter in their lives. We got to know them better, we talked about life in Toronto and about making our community stronger by building closer connections with Israel, and becoming personally stronger and more Jewishly connected in the process.

And then, as the chosen ones led us in a Havdalah service to close Shabbat, their parents joined us and we interacted together as one big Jewish family – 60 older Canadians, 24 newly chosen shinshinim, their parents and many of their alumni predecessors all sharing in the excitement of the people-to-people connection between Toronto and Israel that can only come from a program like this.

We kvelled, we marveled, we strived, we interacted and created, we generated new ideas to strengthen Jewish life around Israel in Toronto. We reunited with former shinshinim and learned of their leadership work in Israel, heard of their experiences in the IDF and university, felt intense pride that we had a hand in helping these young Jews to become the best that they can be. And we returned with the knowledge that we would be introducing another 24 outstanding young Israelis into the Toronto community in 2016-17, our 10th year of this incredible program.

For more information about UJA's shinshinim program, please visit www.jewishtoronto.com/shinshinim ■

Michael Diamond is a business consultant, entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist. He is involved extensively in Jewish and non-Jewish community life and sits on or chairs several boards and committees of a number of non-profit organizations.

Come Out of The Cold
THIS WINTER
Winter with us!
MIDTOWN TORONTO'S PREMIERE RENTAL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
Inquire About Our Winter Stay Program
This winter join us at The Dunfield for a wonderful winter stay in your private, fully-furnished suite. Relax in the warmth of our full service rental retirement residence – where our resort-inspired living takes place 365 days a year!
Discover great food, superb service and a robust social calendar all in a well-appointed environment where your happiness is the order of the day.
Call today to arrange a personalized tour and enjoy a complimentary meal.
Dunfield
77 DUNFIELD AVENUE TORONTO 416.481.8524 WWW.THEDUNFIELD.COM

News

Is Canada considering restoring funding to UNRWA?

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

As the Trudeau government continues to reverse foreign policy decisions of the Harper administration, questions are being raised whether that will include the resumption of funding for UNRWA, the UN agency that provides services to Palestinian refugees.

In a Feb. 5 article, the *Globe and Mail*'s Ottawa bureau chief Robert Fife reported that as part of a humanitarian package in the anti-ISIS mission, "the Liberals are expected to provide $15 million in annual funding to UNRWA... after the former Conservative government cut all $30 million in annual funding in 2009."

Contacted by *The CJN* last week, Fife said, "I expect the announcement in a month's time... The information came from a well-informed source."

Asked to comment on Fife's report, Global Affairs Canada stated: "The government of Canada provided $15 million in funding to UNRWA for humanitarian assistance in 2012. Canada has not yet made decisions on the allocation of new funding for humanitarian assistance stemming from the Feb. 8 announcement regarding Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. We are currently assessing the needs and programming options in the region. Canada remains concerned about the needs of vulnerable Palestinians and currently funds a substantial package of humanitarian assistance in the West Bank and Gaza."

For many observers of the Middle East, UNRWA remains a problematic organization. Its staff in Gaza have been linked to Hamas; unions representing UNRWA teaches and workers have been taken over by Hamas; the terror group's weapons were found in at least three UNRWA schools during Israel's war with Hamas in 2014; the agency's staff have ushered students to Hamas military training camps; and the curriculum at UNRWA schools has been called inflammatory and anti-Semitic.

Palestinians get their monthly food aid at an UNRWA distribution centre in the Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza last April. ABED RAHIM KHATIB/FLASH90 PHOTO

Avi Benlolo, CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said his organization "is opposed to funding UNRWA.

"This UN agency has been criticized for aiding and abetting Hamas... It has also been criticized for employing people sympathetic to Hamas' goal of destroying Israel, which would make it difficult to control the allocation of funds. I prefer that Canada set up its own agency on the ground with Canadian aid workers, not locals, to ensure the funds are used to assist the most vulnerable, especially children."

Meanwhile, UN Watch, a Geneva-based NGO, published reports in August and November that accused dozens of UNRWA staffers of "using the imprimatur of their official positions to incite Palestinian stabbing and shooting attacks against Israeli Jews, with one calling on Facebook to 'stab Zionist dogs.'

"UNRWA's strategy of impunity, denial and deflection only enables more incitement and violence. It's time to put an end to the pattern and practice of UNRWA school principals, teachers and staff members posting anti-Semitic and terror-inciting images, indicating a pathology of racism and violence within UNRWA," wrote UN Watch executive director Hillel Neuer.

Contacted in Geneva, Neuer told *The CJN* that "UN Watch is concerned about these reports [of restored UNRWA funding]. We think it comes at the worst possible time."

Neuer noted that at first, UNRWA denied UN Watch's reports of incitement – UNRWA spokesperson Chris Gunness urged the media not to report them – then confirmed them and suspended four staff members. They should have been fired, Neuer said.

"If someone urges to stab Jews because they're Jews and they're suspended and then returned to the classroom, it's absurd," he said.

Neuer said UNRWA is a politicized agency that fails to conform to the United Nations' stated goal of neutrality. It promotes a narrative of Palestinian return to Israel and its replacement. "It is subversive to peace, compromise and the two-state solution that Canada adheres to."

David Bedein has been tracking UNRWA for years. As director of the Israel Resource News Agency and of the Center for Near East Policy Research, Bedein has reported on Hamas taking over two important unions representing UNRWA staff and on those same school workers leading thousands of students from ages nine to 16 to attend three-week Hamas military training camps.

Bedein said the Center for Near East Policy Research, along with the Lawfare Project and the Legal Forum for Israel, retained two Arabic-speaking experts in Islamic studies to review more than 250 text books used in UNRWA schools. Among their findings were the "delegitimization of both Israel and of the Jews' very presence in the country, demonization of Israel and the Jews, non-advocacy of a peaceful solution to the conflict and, instead, emphasis on a violent struggle for the liberation of Palestine without limiting it to the areas of the West Bank and Gaza. Jihad, martyrdom and the so-called 'right of return' are part and parcel of that violent struggle."

Asked to comment, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs did not respond by *The CJN*'s deadline. ■

Mingle with federal & provincial parliamentarians, ministers & former prime ministers.

The Pearson Centre
FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY

HONORARY CHAIRS

Rt. Hon. John Turner | Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell | Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien | Rt. Hon. Paul Martin

Join in the launch of the *Pursuing Justice Project* with the HON. IRWIN COTLER.

March 31, 2016 | King Edward Hotel, Toronto

Co-chaired by Sandra Pupatello and Monte Kwinter MPP

For more info, contact Gary Gladstone, Director, Outreach:
ggladstone@thePearsonCentre.ca | 416-830-4313

For tickets, visit COTLER.EVENTBRITE.CA

thepearsoncentre.ca

Councillor seeks clarity on school nutrition funding

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

James Pasternak

According to the City of Toronto website, "Student nutrition programs are a cost-effective way to promote health and learning among students." The nutrients they provide "create healthier eating habits, help prevent obesity, support better scores in math, reading and science."

To advance those goals, the city subsidizes breakfast, snack and lunch programs in a number of Toronto schools

Unless of course you're a student in a private school. Then you're on your own.

On Jan. 26, at a meeting of the city budget committee, Coun. James Pasternak tried to get to the bottom of the policy that sees the allocation of municipal resources withheld from private schools. Pasternak, a member of the budget committee, told *The CJN* he was unaware of any formal policy that would restrict new health-related nutrition funding only to publicly funded schools (several Jewish schools have been grandfathered into the program.)

In fact, said Pasternak, council in 2009 indicated one of the principles in the delivery of programming is its universal applicability, and in July 2012, it adopted the nutrition program "for all Toronto schools. It does not say publicly funded schools."

Pasternak asked Dr. David McKeown, the city's medical officer of health, to explain the policy whereby private schools are ineligible for nutrition funding. McKeown told the budget committee that the city policy was meant to "come in line with provincial funding policy. There are really two reasons the city doesn't fund private schools. One is that the province doesn't fund them and the approach used in 'Nourishing Young Minds' is our approach, to ensure that our programs get funding from both levels of government to ensure they are fully viable.

"There are significant challenges in trying to assess need in the 300 private schools in the city," McKeown added.

Coun. Joe Mihevc also addressed the issue of nutrition funding for private schools. "That is going to create a problem," he told the budget committee. "We have 300 private schools in the City of Toronto. Staff have told me that to get a handle on it, it will be a heck of a lot of work, and we are still this year two years to go in the regular thing."

"The regular thing" Mihevc was referring to is the plan to bring 20 per cent of public schools under the nutrition program's umbrella by 2018. Currently, 14 per cent of public schools are funded, with the goal to increase that to 16 per cent in 2016, en route to 20 per cent in 2018.

Including private schools in the program is something that will have to wait, Mihevc told *The CJN*. "Not now, but at some point, if there are kids that need supports for student nutrition, they can get it."

"There may be some energy to look at the private schools," once the 20 per cent goal is reached, he said. At the moment, "we have to prioritize."

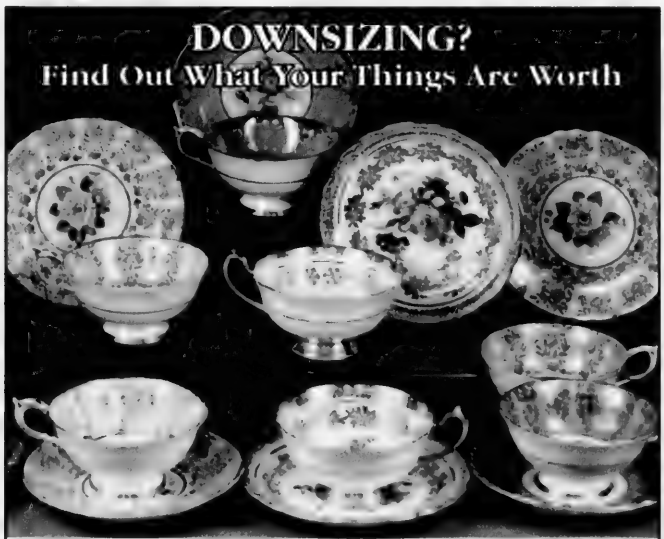
"I want to see every kid get a breakfast every morning who wants it or needs it. But right now, it's a question of phasing it in in a logical way," he said.

Pasternak, however, suggested McKeown was off base in saying the city was merely attempting to harmonize its funding with that of the province. "That's not appropriate, because this is a made-in-Toronto program," he said. "These are unelected bureaucrats who have taken it upon themselves to reject outright the applications from private schools."

He also suggested that it was a slap in the face to faith communities, both in being led to believe in rejection letters that there was still hope for funding in subsequent years and in being dismissed so readily.

"The City of Toronto relies heavily on faith communities for social capital, for running Out of the Cold, food banks, emergency shelters, community support services, spiritual guidance," Pasternak said. "The same people who praise the religious communities for all these great works and the social capital they invest in the programs, they say, 'Sorry, you're not eligible.' It's pulling out the rug from religious schools," he added.

Currently, 160,000 Toronto students participate in breakfast, snack and lunch programs every day. Pasternak said Toronto allocates $9.9 million to health programs. ■



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

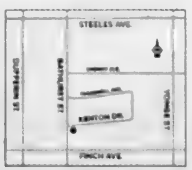
A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

For Canada's highest level of Alzheimer's and dementia care, it's the One.

One goal, one mission, one purpose. To provide the highest level of care in the world. One Kenton Place is a state-of-the-art residence built to provide unparalleled levels of care, service, and innovation for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. It's where personal, loving care combines with a customized full day activity schedule and leading edge programs at the forefront of Alzheimer's research to provide the highest level of care anywhere.

- Person centered care tailored to individualized needs
- 24-hour call bell emergency response and resident location systems
- 24-hour registered nurses and supervision
- Customized full daily activity schedule
- COR certified Kosher meals
- Daily housekeeping



One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one.

1 Kenton Drive, North York, ON

BOOK A TOUR TODAY: 647-932-7913 • ONEKENTONPLACE.CA

My open letter to Trudeau: Jewish invisibility hurts

Gil Troy

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I get it. Of course you're annoyed. All you did was sign off on a perfectly reasonable statement marking International Holocaust Day by mourning the suffering of all who suffered.

What could be easier, nicer and less controversial? Yet, suddenly, the Jews erupt in fury, whining that this broad, sensitive embrace of all the victims didn't single them out. And even after you backpedal, many Jews still seethe.

Allow me to explain – and it has nothing to do with Harper-hankering. As a historian who knows that a political gaffe is a politician caught telling the truth, I believe you were being sincere. That's what scares me. I worry that if you can universalize the Holocaust, you will return to the bad old days of Jean Chrétien's "evenhandedness," which was a form of moral blindness. Doubting nationalism's virtues; minimizing the moral gap between democracies and dictatorships; and wanting to see the world, and especially much of the developing world, as much kinder, gentler and western than it is, this approach tended (and tends) to blame both sides of any conflict equally.

The key to understanding the Holocaust and to empathizing with those of us who felt excluded when you didn't single the Jews out for sympathy, is realizing that the Nazis singled us out for slaughter. Yes, they killed others, targeting dissidents, Communists and gays. But hating Jews, killing Jews, and what they in their ugly, techno-sterile language called "exterminating" Jews was central to their ideology, to their mission. It was "The war against the Jews," not just an unjust war. It wasn't any kind of evil. It was a specific evil, with a particular pathology and focus.

Let's face it – and I don't mean this condescendingly – you're too decent to absorb the extent of the Nazi evil. Unfortunately, we Jews are raised with the added burden of recognizing this obsession, because we have been targeted by it – and are still targeted by it. Your colleague, former Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, recalls the lesson his parents taught him following the Holocaust: that some events "in Jewish history, in world history, are too terrible to imagine, but not too terrible to have happened."

You don't invent Auschwitz, you don't kill three out of four European Jews, you don't murder six million people and you don't destroy a 1,200-year-old Euro-Jewish civilization without being supremely focused. The war against us was such a Nazi priority that even as Germany was losing the war, the Nazis stepped up the pace of the murder, diverting resources to killing our people, not protecting their own.

So, yes, we work hard to ensure that no one misses the point. And we are enraged because anti-Semitism has returned with a vengeance, masquerading as "just" "anti-Zionism."

This visibility-invisibility issue is playing out to our disadvantage again. Shortly after your statement, Israeli first responders killed three heavily armed Palestinian terrorists in mid-attack outside Jerusalem's Damascus Gate. The terrorists killed Hadar Cohen, a sweet 19-year-old who had just been drafted two months earlier to serve her country. Yet *CBS News* proclaimed (in a headline that was amended after complaints): "Three Palestinians killed as daily violence grinds on."

Forgive us our trauma. It's not "daily violence" that both sides provoke equally. It's not Palestinians being killed as part of some routine. It's Palestinian terrorists hunting Jews, being raised to hate Jews – and "succeeding." The next day, PA President Mahmoud Abbas hosted the parents of some of the murderers.

So, no, we won't be polite. We will be outraged. And we will pound away until you reassure us that you see how central anti-Semitism was then and is now in the current conflict. Please reassure freedom-lovers worldwide that while positioning Canada to be a constructive force for peace, you won't succumb to the moral laziness of a pox-on-both-your houses evenhandedness, failing to see who is guiltiest for perpetuating this conflict. ■

Recognizing pluralism at the Wall a good first step

Sara Horowitz

I have a confession to make about me and the Western Wall. We have, if you will forgive the pun, a rocky relationship.

In the late 1980s, around the time the Women of the Wall first organized to assert the right of women to pray as a group and read from the Torah at the Kotel, an Israeli colleague approached me and asked for my support. "The Kotel?" I remember saying to her. "Why would you want to pray at the Kotel?" I explained that I never felt spiritually inspired there. I found synagogue prayer much more uplifting. At the Wall, I always felt jostled and alone amid a cacophony of strangers. In a shul or chavurah, you could hear the words of Torah being chanted, and your voice intertwined with other voices in song. Intellectually, I understood the importance of the Wall to centuries of Jews. But emotionally and spiritually, I preferred to pray elsewhere.

"Well," my colleague responded, "isn't that precisely the point?"

She was right, of course. The type of praying permitted to women at the Wall has been radically different from that allowed men. A man can come alone or with other men. If he chooses, he can wrap himself up in solitude in a tallit and share his voice only with God. Or he may pray as part of group, sing, chant from the Torah, receive an aliyah. A women goes solo, wrapped in solitude, perhaps, but never in a tallit. Even on Rosh Chodesh, the new moon festival, designated since ancient times as a women's holiday, she prays only as an individual.

Some years ago, I accompanied a friend to the hospital for breast cancer treatment. I was planning to leave soon for Israel. When I drove her home, she asked me if I would put a note on her behalf into the Wall. Ask God, she said, to let her recover. Ask God to help her son grow up and marry a Jewish woman, no matter what happened to her.

Although I have lived in Jerusalem and travelled there for frequent and extended stays, until that time, I had never placed a note into the stones of the Kotel. I felt that inanimate objects, even the foundational stones of the Temple Mount, were simply inanimate objects. Notwithstanding the moving lyrics to a 1966 song that, echoing Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook, declares: "There are people with hearts of stone,/ There are stones with human hearts" – and with respect for those who place heartfelt and impassioned *kvitelach* into the cracks of the Kotel – I never felt comfortable doing it. To me, the practice feels idolatrous.

> *The type of praying permitted to women at the Wall has been radically different from that allowed men.*

But I could not refuse the request of a friend struggling with cancer. So I went to the Kotel, wrote a note on her behalf, and placed it in a fissure. And then I thought: what? I should put in a prayer on her behalf, and not one for myself? So I did. Contrary to my own ideas and feelings, I penned a *kvitel* and left it there.

If the Kotel has the power to move us spiritually, sometimes against expectations, it is because of its long history in the hearts and minds of Jewish people. To exclude anyone from praying meaningfully there is wrong. The recent designation of a portion of the area along the Wall for pluralistic practices is a step in the right direction. Some women are unhappy with that compromise. For one thing, it denies that the carefully delineated practices of Orthodox women in the group fit the framework of Jewish law, making haredi Judaism the final arbiter of Halachah. That, of course, is part of a larger issue of contention that spills into areas such as marriage, divorce and conversion. But designating a space that recognizes Jewish pluralism makes for a good first step. Take it as a metaphor. ■

Prime ministers, presidents and the Jews

Michael Taube

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberals were recently admonished for not mentioning the Jews (or anyone else, for that matter) in a Jan. 27 press release about International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Did the Liberals make this omission on purpose, or was it an oversight?

Opinion is mixed, to be sure. Trudeau has apologized for the incident. My sense is that the only error was in judgment. We'll see what happens with future press releases.

During this brouhaha, I started to think about my old friend and boss, former prime minister Stephen Harper. Would he have ever allowed this to happen? Would Jews, and other communities, have been mentioned in a Tory press release instead of "victims," the umbrella term the Liberals used?

Having held the pen for some of Harper's speeches, I can confidently say that it never would have happened. The Jewish community would have been mentioned.

It also got me thinking about American presidents and their (mostly) positive relations with Jews. Would they have handled this type of situation the same way as Harper or Trudeau?

Let's examine two presidents who stand out a bit more than the rest.

George Washington had a very good relationship with the Jewish community. As a strong believer in religious liberty and freedom, he felt all communities had an important role to play in building the country.

In particular, his 1790 letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., still stands out as one of the most pro-Semitic documents in early American history.

Washington wrote, "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it were by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For, happily, the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

He also wrote this enlightening section, "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Abraham Lincoln, much like Washington before him, also had very good relations with American Jews. "I myself have a regard for the Jews," he once famously said.

Jonathan D. Sarna and Benjamin Shapell's book, *Lincoln and the Jews: A History*, shed new light on this rarely discussed subject. Lincoln's ancestors "were fascinated by Jews, and many in the town bore names," like he did, "from the Hebrew Bible." Early on, he was "deeply influenced" by schoolbooks that contained pro-Semitic passages, including Lindley Murray's *The English Reader* and William McGuffey's *Eclectic Third Reader*.

As well, Lincoln's parents "evinced no interest whatsoever in converting Jews to Christianity," so he was never taught to think differently of them.

"Lincoln knew Jews," Shapell noted. This future president "interacted with Jews, represented Jews, befriended Jews, admired Jews, commissioned Jews, trusted Jews, defended Jews, pardoned Jews, took advice from Jews, gave jobs to Jews, extended rights to Jews, revoked an expulsion of Jews, and even chose a Jew as his confidential agent."

As the authors note, "[h]is relationships with Jews were not exploitative but warm and genuine, and went further and deeper than those of any previous American president." Lincoln was "influenced by the Jews whom he befriended," and he "took account of Jewish sensitivities."

It's impossible to know how Washington and Lincoln would have handled the press release error. Times were different, and neither man witnessed the Holocaust. But based on their beliefs, support and appreciation of Jews, they would likely have favoured Harper's strong support over Trudeau's mea culpa. ■

The Three Menchketeers

Bernie Farber

It was 1979. Queen had a hit with *Don't Stop Me Now*, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin had just signed a historic peace accord, and the Iran hostage crisis began. It was also the year the three of us became life-long friends.

I was Jewish, Steve Kennedy was Protestant and Jack McCarthy was Irish Catholic. We came from different backgrounds, but shared much in common.

Our parents were our role models. They taught us about social justice and compassion for our neighbour, and instilled in us a sense of humour that has carried us a long way. We were all social workers. Steve very early on became a trusted friend and roommate after we were recruited as part of a team of youth workers to handle teens who were one step away from reformatory. Jack worked with the Ottawa-Carleton Children's' Aid Society, where I met him when I began working there as a protection worker that year.

We were baby boomers who had visions of changing the world. In our 20s, with frenetic energy to spare and in a more innocent time, we entered the field of social work with lofty goals.

We worked hard, we played hard and we were hit by various curveballs that showed us the world had many dark places. Poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage depression and family violence became part of our work life and, in their own way, brought us closer together. When you work with such trauma, you need a shoulder, someone to listen. We became each other's shoulders and confidants.

Jack had already been married to Sharon for a couple of years when we all met. He was the one with the house, where many an evening was spent over good food, wine and beer, and where we learned so much about each other.

Steve, born in Barrie, Ont., moved to Trenton as a young boy. His dad was in the Canadian Armed Forces, and it was as a result that this Jewish kid, while visiting Trenton with Steve, learned to drink beer from quart bottles at the legion hall. Jack, like me, was born and bred in Ottawa,

> *We worked hard, we played hard... We became each other's shoulders and confidants.*

and despite the differences in our faiths, we both entered adulthood with similar values.

I taught them Yiddishisms. We were the "Three Menchketeers," rebels in our own way. Our work, even with agencies that depended on municipal and provincial funding, was always community-oriented and child-focused. Jack worked to change the system to better reflect the needs of single parents (mostly mothers) who were trapped in poverty and living in assisted housing.

My attention was usually on the family and the-then provincial government's poor funding of agencies tasked with helping and protecting children in need. Steve worked with agencies that housed tough kids who could no longer live at home because they acted out so defiantly.

This was life-changing work for us, and despite its inherent sadness, it nevertheless made us understand that life requires hope.

I married Karyn in 1984 and moved to Toronto. It was a traditional Jewish wedding at Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas. My brother, Stan, was my best man; Steve and Jack, one Protestant the other Catholic, stood by me as my groomsmen under the chupah. We remained close. Steve got married to Karen in 1985, and to this day, the three couples get together whenever we can.

Alas, time, distance and work have affected our ability to see each other as we once did.

Nonetheless, late last month, after much planning, Jack, Steve and I met halfway between Ottawa and Toronto, at the Waring House Inn outside Picton, Ont. It was a weekend of food, wine and memories. How we laughed and how we told stories, and despite now being in our 60s, we came away feeling like were 25 again. For that very brief moment, we were once again the "Three Menchketeers." ■

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a **customized wealth management strategy** focused on consistent, long-term growth.

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise, LIT
Director, Wealth Management
Senior Wealth Advisor
416-[illegible]
[illegible]@scotiawealth.com
www.thewiseinvestmentgroup.ca

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod,® a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management™

[illegible]

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
Including all taxes.
Book by March 4, 2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child **FREE***
*Included in Family Rates. Excluding Air

March Break Mar. 10-21
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer July 03-14, July 24 – Aug. 04, Aug. 07-18, Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND - One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All Inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay MORE for LESS!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• *FREE* – EXCLUSIVE $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
416.485.9455
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

PEN Canada questioned over anti-Israel speaker

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

From the perspective of the organized Jewish community, Max Blumenthal is beyond a polarizing figure.

As they see it, he's so far out on the fringe of the anti-Israel movement and his biases are so glaring that you've got to venture past people like Noam Chomsky and Norman Finkelstein before you start to get into Blumenthal territory. Then you've got to go a little farther – so far that the neo-Nazi Stormfronts and David Dukes of the world feel comfortable citing the U.S. writer as an authority when it comes to slamming Israel.

So why, ask the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, did PEN Canada invite the controversial author to discuss reporting from Gaza?

Blumenthal, author of *The 51 Day War: Ruin and Resistance in Gaza* and *Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel* will headline a Feb. 24 event at the Toronto Reference Library called "Embattled Truths: Reporting on Gaza." Olivia Ward, a foreign affairs reporter at the *Toronto Star*, is the co-panelist.

PEN, which promotes freedom of expression in Canada and abroad, is co-hosting the event in conjunction with Independent Jewish Voices and Another Story Bookshop as part of "Freedom to Read Week."

CIJA and the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center are perplexed at PEN's choice of Blumenthal as their headline speaker.

"We thought this is an odd choice," said CIJA spokesperson Martin Sampson. "Why would they do that? Why would they put their reputation at risk by associating with Blumenthal?

"I think his extreme positions disqualify him for being a rational, reasonable contributor in the discourse about Israel," he added.

"Max Blumenthal represents the radical left's extremist belief that Israel is the embodiment of all evil and has no right to exist," said Avi Benlolo, CEO of the Wiesenthal Center. "His most recent book – (which has been) dubbed the 'I Hate Israel Handbook' – supports the mainstreaming of growing anti-Semitic attitudes by conflating Israel with Nazi Germany. While shunned by conventional media outlets, the book is popular on major anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi and conspiracy theory websites such as Stormfront and David Duke's Rense, where his work is used to promote anti-Jewish hate.

"I'm not sure what PEN is trying to achieve by giving Blumenthal a podium from which to spew his hatred, but if its goal is to contribute to increasing anti-Semitism in Canada, then I guess they will succeed," Benlolo said.

Max Blumenthal

Blumenthal is no stranger to controversy. His book *Goliath*, published by Nation Books, was eviscerated in a review by columnist Eric Alterman in *The Nation* magazine. Alterman called Blumenthal "a profoundly unreliable narrator," accused him of a lack of even-handedness, criticizes him for titling chapters that compare Israel to Nazi Germany and notes that after spending time with Blumenthal, left-wing Israeli author David Grossman asked the American author to tear up his phone number.

PEN spokesperson Brendan de Caires said the group's mandate is to "raise difficult subjects," without necessarily endorsing the views of those advancing them.

"We are a free speech organization. We embrace an open exchange of ideas," he said, adding that Blumenthal is a widely read author who has reported from Gaza and his experience fits the topic PEN was considering – reporting from a war zone.

"The whole premise of our discussion is that this is a hot topic," he said.

De Caires said PEN tackles difficult subjects regularly, such as the polarization of political reporting in Canada and free speech and digital warfare, the original topic for the event that was replaced by the panel on war zone reporting.

De Caires pointed to reaction on PEN's Facebook page, where the announcement of Blumenthal's upcoming address prompted "a huge amount of dialogue on this." Posts ranged from allegations the library would be "hosting raving anti-Semites" to the response, "if a Jewish person isn't in favour of apartheid they somehow hate all Jews?"

De Caires said in the past few years, PEN's Freedom to Read events attracted about 120 people. He said audience members can challenge Blumenthal's views during a question period. "We have no stake in the content of what Mr. Blumenthal says," de Caires said. "We support his right to say it."

Ana-Maria Critchley, manager of stakeholder relations for the Toronto Public Library, said she was aware Blumenthal's appearance has stirred controversy, but the event will be going ahead. "Blumenthal has been invited very clearly not because of his personal views, but to speak on his experience as a journalist," she said. ■

Faith groups key in refugee resettlement, event told

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Nurtan Topbas, left, and Kathy Sykora chat at an interfaith refugee panel event at Congegation Darchei Noam. JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

Faith communities in Canada tend to play a larger role in resettling refugees than they do in many other countries, *Globe and Mail* international affairs columnist Doug Saunders told a Feb. 5 event on the interfaith response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

In honour of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of the Greater Toronto Area in collaboration with Congregation Darchei Noam, Toronto's Reconstructionist synagogue, presented a panel on efforts by Toronto's Jewish, Muslim and Catholic communities to sponsor and help refugees – particularly from Syria – integrate into Canadian society.

The event was held at Darchei Noam, and the audience of close to 250 people came from a cross-section of the three faith groups.

Saunders moderated a panel consisting of Naomi Alboim, professor and chair of the Policy Forum at the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University and a public policy consultant who in 1979 was the Ontario region's federal co-ordinator of the Indochinese Refugee movement; Habeeb Alli, member of the Canadian Council of Muslim Theologians and the Canadian Council of Imams, and a community development manager at International Development and Relief Foundation; and Martin Mark, director of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Refugees.

Saunders emphasized the pivotal role Canadian faith groups have played in various international refugee crises since the 1950s and noted that in other countries, the government often plays a more direct role in settling refugees, with faith groups being more removed.

Regarding the current Syrian refugee crisis, Saunders said Canada is tending to accept what he called the "tougher cases," refugees who've been living in displacement camps in neighbouring countries rather than refugees of greater means who may have been able to pay their way to Europe. For that reason, in Canada it will "take the support of schools, communities and faith groups to make sure [the refugees] get the hand-holding they need," Saunders added.

The panelists took turns highlighting what their communities have been doing to help the Syrian newcomers.

Alboim, who's also a member of Darchei Noam's Syrian refugee sponsorship committee, said Lifeline Syria, a group she helped form last June that trains and assists groups sponsoring Syrian refugees, complements the work of mostly faith-based sponsorship agreement holders who "have been working in the trenches since the late 1970s to sponsor refugees from all over the world."

She noted that Canadian Jews were very active in sponsoring Vietnamese families in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The Jewish community has stepped up in the current crisis, she explained, with 35 groups working under the umbrella of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) to form sponsorship groups, while others have formed independent sponsorship groups and some synagogues have joined mosques or churches to submit joint applications to sponsor Syrian families.

The current wave of anti-refugee and anti-Islam sentiment sweeping Europe "brings back painful memories" for us as Jews, she added, noting, "We're responding to this crisis as Jews, because it's the right, humanitarian thing to do, because it's an opportunity to put our values of welcoming the stranger and tikkun olam into practice, and as [many of us are] children of refugees, we're paying it forward."

Alli said Canadians must come to recognize that Islam is not a hindrance to Syrian refugees' integration into Canada.

"To those who call me and say, 'I want to sponsor a refugee but I'm wondering if they are Sunni or Shiite,' I say, 'Aren't they human beings?'" he said, adding that Canadians must trust the government, which is screening the refugees in collaboration with the UN Human Rights Council.

Mark noted that the Catholic response to the crisis has been significant, and Catholic charities have been working on the ground in countries such as Jordan and Turkey to help displaced Syrian refugees, believing that "settlement starts overseas."

Further, nearly one-third of the sponsorship agreement holder groups in Canada are Catholic agencies, he said.

Saunders said that while Canada gives refugees "a quick pathway to permanent residence and citizenship," education and employment are crucial. "Research shows that when people have the same level of education and employment and average income as people around them, the cultural stuff becomes a lot less difficult and tends to take care of itself," he said. ■

THANK YOU
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto extends its sincere appreciation to philanthropic leaders Ed & Fran Sonshine for their visionary gift of $3 million towards Phase 2 of Sherman Campus.
Ed & Fran Sonshine Way will be the indoor "main street" connecting all people and spaces throughout Sherman Campus.
Tomorrow Campaign
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Ad generously sponsored by
FABRICLAND

Labelling government anti-Israel is unhelpful: Housefather

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

The Jewish community should stop fighting the battles of the last federal election and accept that a Liberal government is in power, Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather advised a Montreal Jewish audience on Feb. 8.

He said the community should be respectful in its dealings with the government and avoid labelling it as anti-Israel or anti-Semitic, which is false and counter-productive.

"Impugning the government because of one word in a press release has to end, because it is not effective... Stopping the rhetoric is how we will achieve the most," Housefather said at a meeting organized by the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, described by founder Frederick Krantz as an independent pro-Israel think-tank now in its 28th year.

Housefather said it would also be wise for Jews to show the government they care about other issues in addition to Israel, which they do.

He insisted the government has "enormous sensitivity" to Israel and Jewish concerns, noting that the Prime Minister's Office approved his attendance at a meeting of the International Council of Jewish Parliamentarians, held in Israel in December, the cost of which was paid for by that organization.

The experience showed Housefather that, besides the United States, Canada's current government is "more favourable to Israel" than any of the countries the other parliamentarians represented, and that includes in combating the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Canadian Institute for Jewish Research chair Jacob Kincler, left, introduces MP Anthony Housefather.
JANICE ARNOLD PHOTO

He noted that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has repeatedly denounced BDS, including labelling goods from the West Bank, because he believes it's "wrong to single out Israel when there are dozens of countries occupying disputed territories."

Housefather stressed that he wishes to be a forceful voice in his caucus for the concerns of the Jewish community. Although there are "at least" seven Jewish MPs – all Liberals – he, along with Michael Levitt of Toronto and Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr of Winnipeg, are probably the most "connected" to the community, he said.

In that regard, Housefather sees one of his most pressing tasks as speaking up about the danger Iran continues to pose to the world.

The normally unflappable Housefather was taken aback by the hostile reaction of a couple of audience members to his defence of Canada's lifting of certain economic sanctions against Iran and signalling that it wishes to resume ties with the country.

He called it "insulting" when one man shouted "bulls--t" as he spoke.

Housefather said he was "skeptical" about the nuclear deal, but that Canada must now "go with the world" and abide by the agreement.

He said he will raise awareness – "scream" – about Iran's funding of terrorism abroad, as well as its vow to destroy Israel, its Holocaust denial and its atrocious domestic human rights record.

"Iran is clearly an enemy of Israel and the Jewish People," he said.

But Housefather also said, "It is right for us to engage [with Iran]. We gain nothing by ignoring it... We would be penalizing Canadian companies. [The French company] Airbus can sell planes to Iran, but Bombardier can't. It doesn't make any sense."

In response to a question from audience member Nathan Elberg about the tone of Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion's pronouncements on Israel – which Elberg said couches support for the Jewish state in "demands" – Housefather said the Jewish community is "misinterpreting" what the minister said.

In his private discussions with Dion, Housefather said he has found no "equivocation" on Israel and that Dion had no intention of drawing a "moral equivalence" between Palestinian terrorism and Israeli government action.

Housefather said he has suggested that foreign affairs and others departments run communiqués by him first to avoid any wording that could be misunderstood by the Jewish community or that is insensitive.

Elberg also expressed concern about the appointment of new Toronto-area MP Omar Alghabra, whom the Conservatives have accused of having expressed anti-Israel sentiments in the past, as a parliamentary secretary to Dion.

Housefather answered that Alghabra is one of three such secretaries to Dion, and that his only responsibility is consular relations. "His influence [on policy] is limited. I looked into the allegations against him, and most are false... all were before 2004," Housefather said.

"CIJA [the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs] met him, and he affirmed his support for the government policy on Israel."

Audience member Machla Abramovitz raised concern about the effectiveness of the vetting of the 25,000 Syrian refugees Canada is committed to admitting.

Housefather explained why he is satisfied with the multi-step process and the conditions Canada has put in place, such as not accepting single men.

"We, as a people, know how necessary it is to bring in refugees... The last thing we want is another St. Louis," he said, referring to the ship transporting hundreds of Jewish refugees in the eve of World War II that was sent back to Europe. ■

The numbers speak for themselves.
DON'T YOU WISH YOU HAD INVESTED WHERE YOUR HEART IS?
ANNUALIZED RETURNS*
Capital Returns | Tel Aviv 25
2015 | 4.35% | –11.1%
41 MONTHS | 40.0% | 9.3%
GO WHERE THE SMART MONEY GOES!
The Holy Land Investment Fund
The Holy Land Investment Fund (HLIF) is a conservative mix of Israeli investments predominantly in publicly traded Energy, Real Estate, Financials and Technology sectors - all of which have shown tremendous growth. It also invests in government and corporate bonds.
The HLIF is also a perfect RRSP diversification tool. With Israel's, low unemployment rate, population growth and booming all-round economy, the future looks even brighter.
FOR ACCREDITED INVESTORS ONLY.
HLIF is RRSP and RRIF eligible
Call us today 647.341.2663!
Zale Newman, President • zale@bondstreetmercantile.com
*CAPITAL RETURNS TO DECEMBER 31, 2015
Put your money where your heart is.
Bond Street Mercantile/BSM Capital Corporation • Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance

McGill undergrads asked to consider BDS motion again

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

A new campus group at McGill is stepping up its BDS campaign. MCGILL UNIVERSITY PHOTO

For the third time in less than 1-1/2 years a boycott, divestment and sanctions motion is expected to be considered by the McGill University undergraduates' association.

A new campus group called the McGill BDS Action Network has submitted a motion for consideration at the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) winter general assembly to be held Feb. 22.

The motion calls on SSMU to support any BDS campaigns on campus and to pressure the McGill board of governors to divest from corporations "complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories."

Similar motions were brought before SSMU general assemblies in the fall of 2014 and March of last year.

In the first instance, the motion was shelved indefinitely, and students voted that the same motion could not be brought forward again.

At last year's winter general assembly, a reworded BDS motion was defeated 276-212 by secret ballot.

In both cases the motions were submitted by Solidary for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR). McGill BDS, which was officially launched on Feb. 4, claims to be a broader-based, "grassroots" campaign.

Among the campus groups it lists as endorsing the motion are the McGill Black Students' Network, McGill Students for Feminisms, the McGill Syrian Students' Association, the environmental activist group Divest McGill, and the Union for Gender Empowerment, as well as SPHR.

In contrast to last year, the response from pro-Israel students has been muted.

A spokesperson for Israel on Campus at McGill, which led the coalition of students opposed to the motion at that time, told *The CJN* Feb. 11 that the group won't be "leading this campaign's mobilization," but some of its members will be involved.

Zina Rakhamilova, a campus co-ordinator with StandWithUs Canada, said that the pro-Israel organization is involved in countering the motion and has "a professional campus person on the ground in Montreal mobilizing the students and planning a strategic campaign with our research staff and campus professionals."

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is working with Hillel, the main Jewish campus organization, in trying to encourage students to vote against the motion.

"CIJA Quebec and Hillel Montreal are currently supporting the students in their focused and well-reasoned response to the upcoming BDS anti-Israel motion anticipated on Feb. 22 at McGill University," Eta Yudin, CIJA's associate director of Quebec public affairs and Jewish community relations, said in a written statement.

"It is completely unfortunate that this type of motion continues to come up, almost wilfully in spite of the 'no' response... last year. It is as if the original movers of the motion are ignoring democracy. At this point, the feeling among the students is 'enough is enough.'"

Yudin said the BDS movement's "only real success is in getting headlines, but when it comes to their stated purpose, it is a failure. Canadian and Quebec universities are increasing their exchanges with Israeli counterparts and the number of joint projects or initiatives is at an all-time high."

Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather said Feb. 8 he is encouraging Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to denounce the motion. Last year, as Liberal leader, Trudeau tweeted: "The BDS movement, like Israeli Apartheid Week, has no place on Canadian campuses. As a McGill alum, I'm disappointed."

As far as Housefather, a McGill law graduate, is concerned, there should be a moratorium on BDS motions for 20 years.

McGill BDS said that it has also submitted a report to the university board of governors' Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility on why McGill should relinquish its holdings in four specific corporations said to be profiting from the occupation or the expansion of the settlements.

They are G4S, a British security services company; L-3 Communications, an American surveillance and reconnaissance provider; the Israeli Mizrahi-Tefahot Bank; and the U.S.-based global real estate broker Re/Max.

McGill BDS scheduled several campus events before the Feb. 22 general assembly to raise awareness of its cause, including a talk by Chicago Rabbi Michael Davis of Jewish Voices for Peace. ■

BEST.
SUMMER.
EVER.
SAVE 50%*
SPEND IT
IN ISRAEL.
Experience four weeks in Israel for as low as $2,999 USD.
Visit numerous historical sites in Israel plus jeeping, rapeling, snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, torpedo boating and more.
The Anne Samson Jerusalem Joruney (TJJ) is the more affordable and highest quality Israel summer trip for Jewish teens.
Find out how you can be a part of this amazing journey!
Learn more and register:
tjj.ncsy.org
647.984.5342 leib@ncsy.org
TORAH HIGH
NCSY
Inspiring the Jewish Future
*In comparison with 12 similar teen trips to Israel
†not including registration fee and flight surchage

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Holy Blossom Temple: Life can blossom here. Come and grow with us!

JOB POSTING

Director of Community Engagement

Reports to: Executive Director and Senior Rabbi

Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto's first synagogue, is a leading Canadian Reform Jewish congregation with a rich history of responding to both **tradition and modernity** in our religious and spiritual expression. We pursue meaningful opportunities for personal growth and family fulfillment at every stage of life through **belonging, learning, prayer and ritual**, and **acts of service** for our congregation and community, our city and country, the Reform Movement, **Israel**, and all the world.

We are a vibrant congregation in which all of our members, old and new, can connect through participation in Temple life. We come together to learn, pray, have fun, share in each other's joys and sorrows, reach out to one another in support and compassion, and create lasting and meaningful memories.

Read about some of the things we're doing here: www.holyblossom.org

The Director of Community Engagement will be an integral part of the leadership team at Holy Blossom Temple (HBT), ultimately responsible for all member acquisition and retention strategies, member relations programs and operations. In addition to working with the lay and professional leadership to ensure all events and programs are successful. In this role you will be responsible for:

1. **Membership Acquisition**

Drives new member acquisition, including meeting or exceeding growth goals (net) for new members and retaining existing members.

- Develops and operationalizes acquisition strategies. Identifies and follows-up on prospective members and other opportunities to increase membership and converts prospects to members
- Works collaboratively with communication resources and drives frequent/regular community, web and social media communications and engagement
- Being the face of HBT to prospective members

2. **Membership Engagement and Retention**

Increases member connection and commitment to HBT programs and services and ensures the member experience is consistent, integrated and aligned to HBT goals for member experience and engagement. This includes:

- Develops and operationalizes retention strategies, including volunteer engagement.
- Gathering data and provide insight and analysis about member satisfaction, engagement, and retention and interests to ensure that they are connected to programs, services, and other members in ways that meet their needs.
- Collaborating regularly with HBT lay and professional leadership, to ensure that the member experience is consistent, integrated and aligned with member needs.
- Overseeing new member orientation and integration to ensure effective onboarding. Collaborating with clergy & program teams to ensure a seamless transition based on member-specific interests

3. **HBT Community Development**

Responsible for supporting and driving member engagement in communities and interests within HBT

- Individually and programmatically help members find groups that meet their interests.
- Create a web to connect congregants – creating community engagement through building existing and new groupings within the Temple community including chavurot.
- Professional leader for the volunteer teams
- Online community development (working closely with communications director)
- Outreach to other organizations in the Toronto Jewish "eco-system" to find partnership opportunities

Required Skills & Experience:

- BA/BS in Business, Marketing or related field or equivalent experience.
- Minimum of three or more years of Member Acquisition experience in a relationship-driven environment
- Ability to quickly build rapport and develop effective relationships with prospective members and congregants.
- Knowledge of community engagement and/or social media strategies to drive acquisition and retention
- Consistently self-driven and goal-oriented with the ability to set effective team and individual goals and take ownership for results
- Demonstrated ability to multi-task and adapt to changing contexts and priorities
- Strong analytical and critical-thinking skills with the ability to identify and leverage relevant data to use in planning and decision-making.
- Ability to understand, adapt to and interact with diverse people, teams, perspectives and cultures
- Proficient in using email, Internet, and other PC-based applications (e.g. Microsoft Office, customer service/tracking applications) with the ability to learn and adapt to new technology.

Compensation commensurate with experience.
Visit our website for complete position details.
Deadline for applications: **February 25, 2016**
Please send applications to: **opportunities@holyblossom.org**

1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K9
416.789.3291 • www.holyblossom.org

Federation denies report Israeli singer supports BDS

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT, VANCOUVER

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver is preparing a warm welcome for Israeli pop star Achinoam Nini, who is set to perform in the city on Yom Ha'atzmaut, and is decrying what it says is an erroneous *Jerusalem Post* report suggesting Vancouver Jews are "outraged" about her appearance because she allegedly supports the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

"We take these concerns very seriously, and we have done our due diligence by looking closely into the facts. To the best of our knowledge, reports suggesting Ms. Nini promotes BDS are incorrect," the federation said in a statement, referring to a Feb. 9 *Post* story about the left-wing artist, known simply as Noa.

"We contacted Ms. Nini's manager directly to clarify her position. He provided the following statement: 'Noa is opposed to BDS. To say that she is a BDS supporter is an outright lie. She has never supported BDS – on the contrary – she has done all she can to bring many top artists to Israel and has done so with great success. Noa has a strong love for the State of Israel. She has served in the army, and her husband is an army officer,'" the federation statement read.

"Jewish Federation is unambiguous in our opposition to BDS, which is discriminatory and is antithetical to peace. We are deeply committed to continuing the fight against BDS at every opportunity," the statement added.

The group that denounced the federation for inviting Nini and claims she is associated with the BDS movement calls itself Vancouver United with Israel. Its only online presence is a Facebook page with 35 likes. The anonymous individual or individuals associated with the page did not respond to *The CJN*'s requests for comment.

The group posted links on its page to statements by Nini expressing support for left-wing Israeli groups B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence.

In 2014, Nini and fellow Israeli singer Ariel Zilber were both selected to receive awards from ACUM, a non-profit group that seeks to ensure respect for copyright laws protecting artists' work. Zilber has expressed support for the political views of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, a far-right advocate of an exclusively Jewish Israel. Nini, by contrast, is a committed peace activist well known for her duet with Israeli Arab singer Mira Awad, with whom she represented Israel at the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest. Nini decided not to appear at the ACUM awards ceremony, citing "ideological reasons" and asked that "nobody accept the prize on my behalf."

Achinoam Nini

More recently, in January, she cancelled her membership in the Israeli Union of Performing Artists (EMI) after the organization decided to present Zilber with a lifetime achievement award.

In a Jan. 31 blog post published in the *Times of Israel* titled "Creative dissonance," Nini discussed Zilber's political views in detail, referencing his collaboration with Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh, a radical right-wing rabbi in the West Bank. Rabbi Ginsburgh, she said, authored a booklet that exalts Baruch Goldstein, the 1994 murderer of 29 Arabs who were praying in a Hebron mosque.

"As if all this were not enough, Zilber has outwardly supported the murderer of [Israeli prime minister] Yitzhak Rabin, Yigal Amir, and supported his amnesty and release stating that he can 'understand him,' since he was simply acting ideologically to 'save the State of Israel,'" Nini wrote.

Of her decision to reject the ACUM award in 2014, she said she wanted neither the glory nor the money. "I simply wanted to stay away from what I considered to be a real betrayal of the message artists should be sending out to society. It was unconceivable to me that an artist who had put his art in the service of such radical racism and hatred of the other, who had expressed time and time again, in words, music, public activity and political activism, all the values that a society must shun and condemn, and on top of it all, had supported the killer of a prime minster, be elevated to the status of cultural icon and role model." ■

Aboriginal trip to focus on Israeli innovation

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Chief Ron Evans, the leader of the Norway House Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba, believes Israeli entrepreneurship can motivate his community's youth to achieve more.

For the third time in five years, Evans is leading a group of younger community members on a tour of Israel.

There will be 25 Norway House band members going on the 2016 Youth Leadership Development Mission to Israel, Feb. 22 to March 2, Evans said.

Norway House is a community of about 6,000 some 450 kilometres north of Winnipeg on the northern shore of Lake Winnipeg. Evans, who served two terms as grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, said the Israeli experience naturally resonates with Canada's First Nations.

"Our aim is to develop the next generation of First Nations leaders by looking through the lens of Israel's inspiring story," he said. "Israel is first and foremost the land of the heritage of the Jewish People, who have achieved self-determination in a modern democracy and diverse state. Those of us from First Nations communities can appreciate the fascinating balance between modern and ancient that we see in Israel, and especially the sense of connection to the land of one's ancestors."

There is also a spiritual connection between his people with their Christian faith, and the land of Jesus as well as of the Jews, he said. "We learn the stories of the Bible. Therefore, a visit to Israel will resonate more with my people than a trip to a theme park such as Disneyland."

This year's mission – the previous trips were in 2012 and 2013 – will be focus especially on Israel as the "start-up nation." "We want to see what we can learn from Israeli innovation," Evans said. "Perhaps we will be able to forge some links that will benefit our community economically."

So, while there will be visits to Christian religious sites – the area around the Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem and a reputed baptism site on the lower Jordan River – and some of the regular tourist destinations including Yad Vashem and Jerusalem, Independence Hall and Jaffa, Caesarea, Masada and the Dead Sea, and a visit to a Bedouin village – the Norway House group will learn about Israeli technology and economic development.

Chief Ron Evans

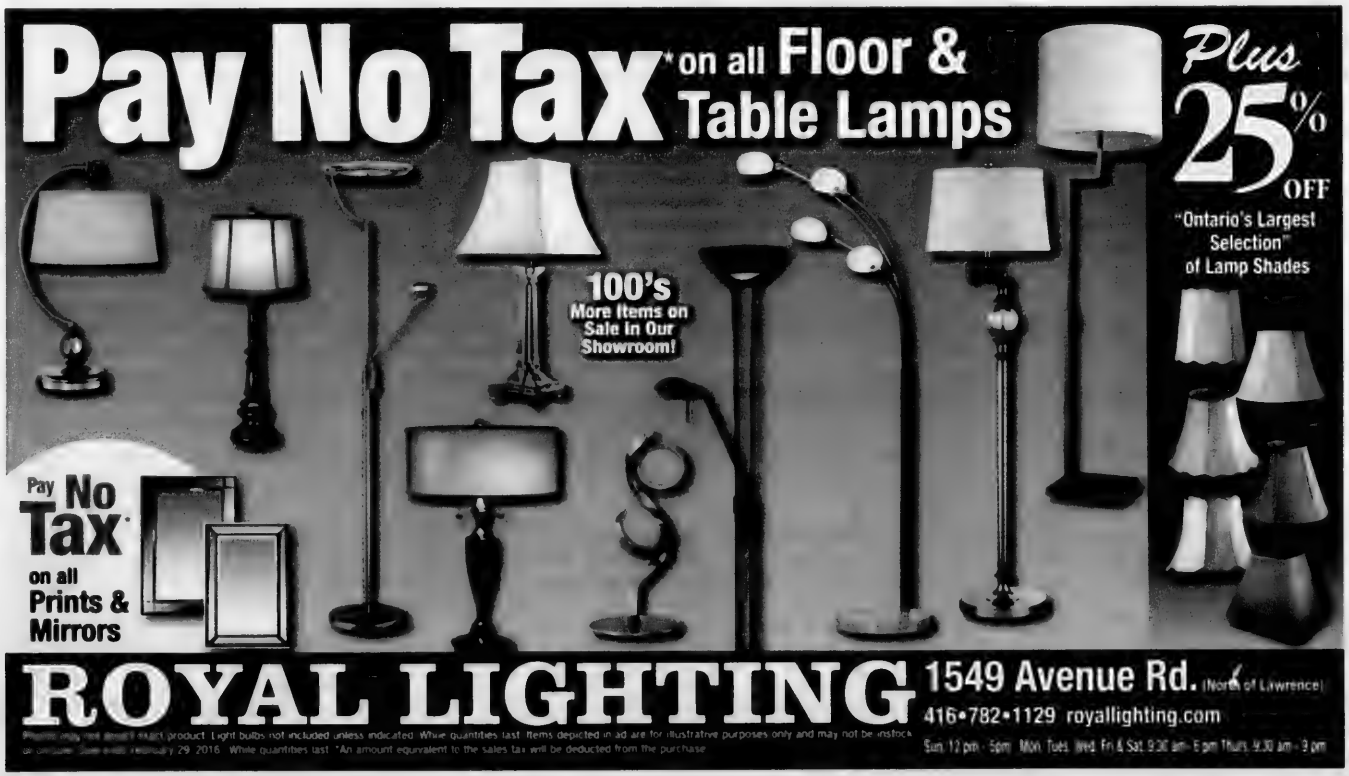
On their second day in Israel, for example, they will receive a briefing on Israel's high-tech sector. They will later be introduced to new developments in medicinal agriculture, including a tour of projects in the Upper Galilee, and water technology. They will also visit the Ahava factory, a hospitality staff training centre in Herzliya, a 3D printing operation and Kol HaOt, an international Jewish educational art program.

Evans said it was difficult to attract participants the first year. "There was a lot of fearmongering about war and violence. But that first trip was so successful that we didn't have any trouble getting together the second group. We had a full slate for this year, including Norway House author Brenda Fontaine, and other aboriginal community leaders are asking us how we organized the trip.

"We hope to make this mission to Israel an annual event."

Shelley Faintuch, community relations director for Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and associate director of local partner services of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, who organized the mission's itinerary, noted that the Norway House Cree Nation successfully raised all of the funds for the trip through various initiatives, including a golf tournament, silent auctions, raffle tickets and pancake breakfasts.

"I am very excited to do the mission with Norway House Cree Nation this year. Learning about small entrepreneurship in Israel, seeing Israel through the eyes of first-time visitors and sharing the adventure. There could be nothing better." ■


Pay No Tax* on all Floor & Table Lamps
Plus 25% OFF
"Ontario's Largest Selection" of Lamp Shades
100's More Items on Sale In Our Showroom!
Pay No Tax* on all Prints & Mirrors
ROYAL LIGHTING
1549 Avenue Rd. (North of Lawrence)
416•782•1129 royallighting.com
Sun. 12 pm - 5pm Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri & Sat. 9:30 am - 6 pm Thurs. 9:30 am - 9 pm
*An amount equivalent to the sales tax will be deducted from the purchase

Adoption 'was something I felt I had to do,' mom says

Elissa Gamus, right, with her son Joseph, and husband, Steven Rayson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Montreal-based mother Tanya Margolese said adopting a child was a "lifelong dream" of hers.

"Whether or not I'd have my own children, it was something I felt I had to do, to take a child who is in the world and doesn't have what it needs, and to be able to give and provide for it," said Margolese. She and her husband have four children – one biological, two stepchildren and one adopted.

She recalled the challenges associated with the two-vear process and the search for "the youngest, healthiest child that we could get."

Having chosen to pursue an international adoption in Ukraine, Margolese, her husband and youngest daughter, spent 2-1/2 "difficult" months in Ukraine to go along with the protocol outlined by the State Department of Adoption in Kiev.

"We went through what they called a blind adoption, basically. You go there not knowing who you are getting."

She said families are granted appointments with the Ukrainian adoption department to choose a child out of a catalogue full of hundreds of photos.

"If you haven't chosen a child by the third appointment, there is no fourth appointment, which is scary and it puts on a lot of pressure."

Margolese and her husband connected with a young girl, who was seven at the time, and brought her home in 2012.

"She sat with us, but spoke no English, so we couldn't really communicate verbally… but when she walked into the room, she took my breath away. It was a very touching moment."

She said there were a few challenges in terms of helping their daughter adjust to a new life with an observant Jewish family.

"Her interpersonal interactions weren't as strong as they should have been. I think her level of maturity was lower than it should have been. She had never really grown up in a family, so she didn't know the various roles of the people in the family, and it took her a while to establish herself within our family in terms of her role as a daughter. They said she was a leader, and she came thinking she was a leader in our home, too," she said with a laugh.

"Even today, I have to remind her who the mommy is."

Elissa Gamus, a Toronto-based family lawyer, said she adopted her son following struggles with infertility, but said adopting a child wasn't a last resort because she couldn't get pregnant.

"I got married later, and we experienced infertility issues, but I [intended to] have a child through fertility and a child through adoption," she said.

Gamus and her husband enlisted Michael Blugerman, one of Ontario's most experienced adoption counsellors and facilitators, to help them through a private adoption.

But Gamus said she was "very, very lucky" to successfully adopt her son, Joseph, from birth.

"A girlfriend of mine is a midwife, and she had a patient who was looking to place her son for adoption and she mentioned it to me. We were seeing Michael at the time for other opportunities, and he said, 'It's not going to happen. Joseph is black and in the black community, the families keep their children, even if it means that the grandparents will raise him, so forget about it,'" Gamus recalled.

But they went ahead through the legal process and red tape and were able to finalize the adoption without a hitch.

"One of the things that was addressed to us was that adopting a child out of your race, and who is not visibly of your race, [would present challenges,]" she said.

"Joseph is visibly black, and his personality, like the way he walks, his interest in certain things, he connects both with the Jewish community and with the black community."

Gamus said Blugerman explained to them that adopting a black child into a Jewish family is much less common than adopting Asian or Russian children, and warned her to "be aware that you are going to have some challenges."

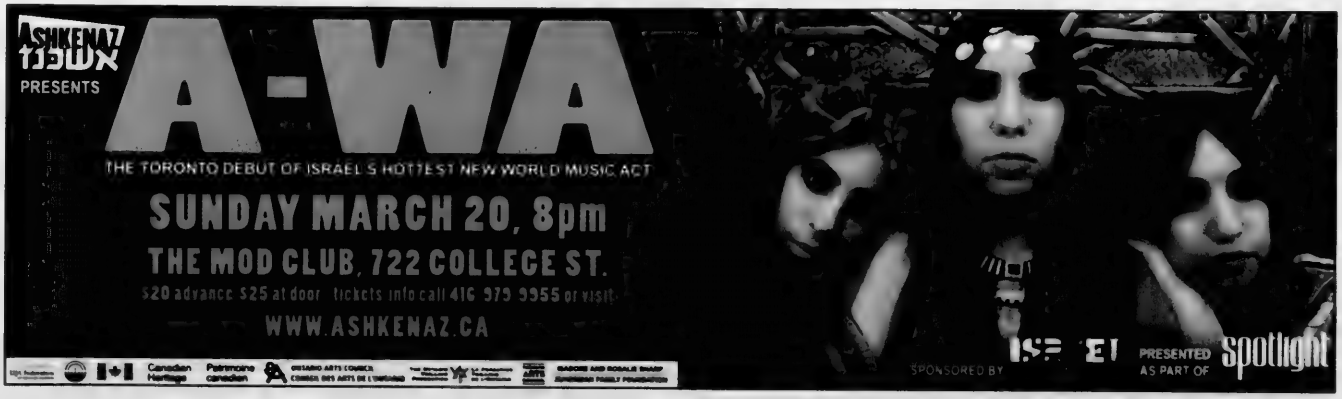
Beyond the social challenges, Silverman said there are differences between raising a biological child and an adopted child.

"When you adopt, there are differences. You can talk about it being exactly the same, but it's just not… My daughter didn't finish high school. I have two friends in the Jewish community whose kids didn't finish high school, but other than that, they all went to university. The commonality in that is that they are also adopted," she said.

Silverman said it's natural to point the finger at the parents, but that is usually not the issue.

"I'm a really good mom. There were other issues that were involved… I have two successful adoptions. I have two really good kids. But there is a recognition of difference [between having biological children and having adopted children]… The fact that my daughter's birth mother only went to Grade 8… we know that there is a higher incidence of learning disability in the adoption community. It's true. It's not that biological kids don't have learning disabilities, but the percentage is higher," Silverman said.

"We want to deny the heredity and think that it is all about environment, nurture over nature, but it's not. A line I learned at an adoption conference once, which I love, is that we are nurturing nature. And I think that is brilliant and that says it all." ■



INTERNATIONAL

Situation not ripe for two-state solution: Netanyahu

ADIV STERMAN
AND **MARISSA NEWMAN**
JERUSALEM

Israel has no choice in the current political reality but to continue its control of the West Bank, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week, asserting that the Palestinians have yet to meet the basic requirements outlined by the government for a final peace agreement between the two nations.

Netanyahu told a special Knesset debate on the two-state solution Feb. 10 that he was in favour of the idea, but in practice did not see it being possible unless the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state and agree to a demilitarized state.

He also rejected the claim that Israel's policies in the West Bank were driving the current round of violence, as asserted by some officials in the international community.

Netanyahu has held fast to both demands of recognition and demilitarization since accepting the idea of a two-state solution in 2009, but they have never been formally accepted by the Palestinian Authority.

"It's only natural that they give us what they are asking for themselves," the prime minister said of his requirement for Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

He added that experience has taught Israel that only the IDF can guarantee a full disarmament of the West Bank, not the UN or any other international force.

"There is no security separation. None. It doesn't exist," Netanyahu said. "Israel must be responsible for its security," he continued, adding that without mutual recognition and disarmament, the Jewish state could not afford to sign a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

The prime minister also appeared to mock Opposition leader Isaac Herzog over his recent acknowledgment that a negotiated two-state solution was not currently possible and his call for Israel to take unilateral action.

"Good morning, Bougie," he called out, using Herzog's nickname. "It seems you are the last to realize the reality."

Netanyahu said that in light of the string of protests which flared across the Arab world in 2011, he began doubting the feasibility of achieving a two-state solution. He characterized the Arab Spring uprisings as "anti-West, anti-liberal, anti-Israel," and said he faced "serious criticism" for his assessment.

"My responsibility as prime minister is not to dig my head in the sand," he said. "We are fighting the enemy inside our borders and outside them." The prime minister referred to the upgraded security fence at the border with Egypt, without which he claimed Israel would have been "overrun" with migrants and subject to infiltration by jihadist terrorists.

"In the face of the incredible changes around us... in the current circumstances, we can't implement two states for two nations," he said.

Netanyahu said that while he had no desire of creating a binational state, if the West Bank were to be evacuated by Israel the region would be overrun by Islamist extremists who strive to destroy Israel.

Netanyahu rejected statements that Palestinian terrorism stems from "desperation."

"Terror is not a result of occupation," he said, in an apparent reference to comments along these lines by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. "The terror stems from a culture of death. Its goal is not to free a state, it is to destroy a state.

"Terror is the result of a totalitarian ideology" and a desire to kill Jews, the prime minister said.

Herzog said Netanyahu's words were "hollow," adding that he believed it was possible to achieve security for Israeli citizens by ensuring a separation between the Jewish state and the Palestinians, but that the prime minister was uninterested in such a solution.

"You do not really intend to separate from the Palestinians, we may surround the state with fences, but the Palestinians will remain among us," the Zionist Union leader said. Herzog warned that "without separating from the Palestinians, Israel will turn into an Israel-Arab state," and Jerusalem will have "an Arab mayor."

"You have even failed at guaranteeing 'life itself'," Herzog said, referring to a 2015 tweet by Netanyahu regarding the Iranian nuclear threat in which the prime minister stated that "when we talk about the price of housing, about the cost of living, I don't forget life itself for a single moment."

Earlier in the week, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the actions of Israeli extremists were driving a nearly five-month-long wave of attacks.

UN chief Ban and others have blamed the violence on Palestinian desperation over the lack of a political horizon after years of stalled peace efforts.

The last round of U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian talks fell apart in 2014 amid mutual recriminations. ■

Times of Israel/Timesofisrael.com

PM plans fence around Israel

Benjamin Netanyahu, centre, visits construction work on the fence between Israel and Jordan on Feb. 9. MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/FLASH90 PHOTO

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced his intention to "surround the entire State of Israel with a fence," including sealing off openings in the West Bank security barrier.

Speaking during a tour of the Jordan border area in the south on Feb. 9, Netanyahu said the extensive project would also address the potential threat of cross-border tunnels into Israeli territory.

"If you're thinking of erecting a fence there you have to take into account that they could tunnel underneath it," Netanyahu said. "The people who said that there is no significance to [retaining] territory in the modern age should go to Gaza."

In its 2014 conflict with Israel, the Gaza-based terrorist group Hamas, as well as firing thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israel, used a network of subterranean passages to infiltrate Israeli territory, launch attacks and in one case, during fighting inside Gaza, kidnap the body of an Israeli soldier.

"In our neighbourhood, we need to protect ourselves from the predatory animals," Netanyahu said in an apparent reference to extremist Islamist movements.

Unlike the borders with Egypt and Jordan, where both sides of the fence are in relatively open areas, Netanyahu hinted at potential problems implementing a reinforced barrier in West Bank "where you have built up areas, buildings along the separation line."

But, the prime minister added, Israel is "formulating a plan to seal off the openings in the security fence in the West Bank.

"At the end of the day, in the State of Israel as I see it, there will be a fence like this one [the border fence with Jordan currently under construction] surrounding its entirety," he said. "We will surround the entire State of Israel with a fence, a barrier."

The project, which is also set to include a new fence along the border with the Gaza Strip, will cost "many billions," he said.

Last month, construction began on a security fence along the Jordanian border.

In accordance with a 2015 government decision, approximately 30 kilometres of fence is initially being built, from Eilat to beyond a new international airport currently under construction in the Timna Valley. This portion of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and will cost approximately NIS 300 million ($110 million), which will be drawn from the Defence Ministry budget.

In 2013, Israel completed a five-metre-high barbed wire fence along its border with Sinai, seeking to prevent terror groups, drug smugglers and African migrants from infiltrating Israeli territory from the Egyptian peninsula. ■

Times of Israel/ Timesofisrael.com

ANALYSIS

Why Sanders is no big deal – to Judaism or America

DANIEL TREIMAN
JTA, NEW YORK

Bernie Sanders WIKI COMMONS PHOTO

Bernie Sanders is having a month of historic firsts.

In New Hampshire on Feb. 9, he handily won the Democratic Party contest, becoming the first Jew to win a presidential primary. In Iowa, he became the first Jewish presidential candidate – the first non-Christian, even – to win delegates in a major party's caucus or primary.

But that's trivia.

What's more significant is that he's the first Jew to mount a credible campaign for the White House.

It's not that credible Jewish politicians haven't run for president before. There was Republican Sen. Arlen Specter in 1996 and Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman in 2004. But they were out of step with their parties and their candidacies went nowhere. (Both later quit their parties.)

And if the prospect of Republicans nominating a pro-choice Jew in the 1990s or Democrats tapping a Jewish hawk in the Iraq War's aftermath seemed far-fetched, the notion of a Jewish socialist with a thick Brooklyn accent giving Hillary Clinton a run for her money is really incredible.

Yet one aspect of Sanders' improbable candidacy is, remarkably, treated as mostly unremarkable: his Jewishness.

Sanders doesn't go out of this way to highlight his Jewish background, nor have his supporters or opponents made it an issue. The Jewish community has not rallied around him, nor has there been, until now, any Jewish groundswell of public pride or anxiety over his campaign. We have not heard calls for Jews to support their fellow Jew.

Contrast this with the prominence of gender in discussions of Clinton's candidacy.

Former secretary of state Madeleine Albright and feminist icon Gloria Steinem caused a stir recently when they seemed to rebuke younger women who back Sanders over Clinton.

"There's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other!" Albright said.

Meanwhile, American Jews are united in comparative nonchalance about Sanders' Jewishness. Partly that's because few expected he would do so well. But it's also because Lieberman already broke the Jewish glass ceiling. His 2000 vice-presidential run proved Americans were prepared to put a Jewish candidate a heartbeat away from the presidency.

Of course, Lieberman wasn't just a Jewish candidate. He was a very Jewish candidate. He wore his identity on his sleeve: an Orthodox Jew outspoken in his support for Israel and other Jewish causes.

Sanders is different. He describes himself as "not particularly religious." He is married to a non-Jewish woman. He is aloof from Jewish communal life. A Sanders campaign ad described the candidate simply as "the son of a Polish immigrant."

Tellingly, last Rosh Hashanah, Sanders wasn't in synagogue. He was in church – well, not church per se, but he was at Liberty University, the conservative Christian educational citadel founded by the late Jerry Falwell. Sanders was there preaching his secular brand of social justice gospel. Democratic socialism, not Judaism, is his real religion.

But Sanders is also, in his own way, a very Jewish candidate.

Sanders cleverly acknowledged as much during his Feb. 6 *Saturday Night Live* appearance alongside his comic doppelganger, Larry David. Playing a rabble-rousing socialist immigrant aboard an ocean liner bound for America, Sanders introduces himself as "Bernie Sanderswitzky, but we're going to change it when we get to America so it doesn't sound quite so Jewish." To which David deadpans: "Yeah, that'll trick 'em."

It's not just Sanders' Brooklynite bearing that marks him as inescapably Jewish. Nor is it the fact that he volunteered in Israel on a kibbutz. (After all, former Republican presidential hopeful Michele Bachmann also worked on a kibbutz, and her 2012 presidential campaign's Judaic highlight was her mangling of the word "chutzpah.")

Rather, Sanders' personal and political story is emblematic of a whole generation of Jewish idealists.

Sanders was far from the only young Jew in the early 1960s to fervently embrace socialism, following in the footsteps of Jewish radicals from earlier eras. Like many Jews, Sanders was deeply invested in the black struggle for civil rights; he was active with the Congress of Racial Equality and attended Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. After college, Sanders was in the vanguard of the mini-migration to Vermont of socially conscious Jewish urbanites going "back to the land."

Today, Sanders invokes his Jewish roots to explain his passion for combating bigotry.

In one of his campaign's most memorable moments, a young hijab-wearing woman at a Sanders rally told the candidate she was worried about anti-Muslim rhetoric in American politics. Sanders beckoned her over for a hug.

"I'm Jewish," he said. "My father's family died in concentration camps. I will do everything that I can to rid this country of the ugly stain of racism."

Sanders' disconnect with organized Jewry, his attenuated religiosity and his marriage to a non-Jew are not atypical for American Jews, plenty of whom are unaffiliated, secular and intermarried. Sanders fits comfortably into the growing category that Jewish demographers dub "Just Jewish."

At the same time, Sanders' staunchly left-wing stances occasionally have taken him outside even the liberal mainstream of American Jewish politics. For instance, Sanders backed the Rev. Jesse Jackson's historic presidential bids in 1984 and 1988, notwithstanding the black leader's then-acrimonious relationship with the Jewish community.

On Israel, too, Sanders expresses positions that would put him at odds with Jewish communal leaders. He has strongly criticized Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and suggested that as president he would "maintain an evenhanded approach to the area." Yet he has come under fire from anti-Israel activists, as when he was heckled at a 2014 Vermont town hall meeting for expressing sympathy with the Jewish state over the threat it faces from Hamas rocket attacks even as he condemned Israel's conduct in Gaza.

Iowa and New Hampshire can't tell us much about how Sanders will perform with Jewish voters, and Clinton has plenty of Jewish devotees. But these early contests do indicate that Sanders' Jewishness isn't hurting him with Democrats. If anything, Sanders' fans find his disheveled-old-Jewish-socialist-from-Brooklyn image to be a charming badge of authenticity.

Still, there are those who think being Jewish can be a political liability. New York City's former mayor, Michael Bloomberg, who is toying with the idea of jumping into the presidential race, once expressed doubt that America would elect a "short, Jewish, divorced billionaire." Bloomberg may be correct that being a billionaire or short could be a liability, but is he right about Jewishness?

Polling suggests that Jews may be America's most popular religious group. Jews are warmly regarded by Democrats and Republicans, evangelicals and atheists. A recent poll by the Pew Research Center found that only 10 per cent of Americans are less likely to vote for a Jew for president, compared to 20 per cent who said they were less likely to vote for an evangelical Christian.

Perhaps it's because everyone can seem to find something to like about Jews: to conservative evangelicals, Jews are the Bible's "chosen people;" to secular and liberal Americans, Jews are liberal, secular types.

Sanders' identity as a socialist may be much more problematic: 50 per cent of Americans say they wouldn't vote for a socialist. And the fact that he's not particularly religious could be a liability: 51 per cent of Pew respondents said they were less likely to vote for an atheist for president.

If Sanders' Jewishness is not an issue, perhaps it's because Jews are so well-integrated into contemporary American life. Indeed, Sanders is not the only presidential hopeful with intimate Jewish ties. His rival for the Democratic nomination has a Jewish son-in-law who donned a yarmulke and tallit at his wedding to Chelsea Clinton. The winner of New Hampshire's Republican primary, Donald Trump, has a daughter who converted to Judaism and goes to an Orthodox synagogue.

What's remarkable is how unremarkable this is. ■

OPINION

The end of Israel's religious establishment?

Gerald Steinberg

If you read the standard media reports on Israel, particularly on core identity issues such as religion and politics, it's easy to conclude that the religious establishment, including the Chief Rabbinate, is getting stronger, and efforts to build alternatives are all failing. But this would be a false impression, reflecting too much emphasis (including from media reports) on formal structures, while missing informal – but far more important – social and cultural flows.

In Israel, the Jewish religious establishment, in different forms, is closely integrated into the political structure and represented by political parties that, while small, are often the linchpins in governing coalitions. As a result, they're able to exert power far in excess of their actual support among the population, which gives institutions such as the Chief Rabbinate disproportionate impact. And like other political actors around the world, these groups cling tenaciously to power, which in this case means attempting to block all efforts at significant reform and liberalization.

In the current situation, with a very narrow government majority (61 to 59 in the Knesset), survival rests on co-operation with the small religious parties that represent these entrenched interests. As a result, the Knesset has walked back some of the earlier agreements to liberalize positions on personal religious status, particularly on such issues as conversion, marriage and divorce. Thus, in formal terms, it appears that nothing is changing.

However, informally and unofficially, the process is very different, although less visible and below the radar of most journalists. A large and increasing number of young Israeli Jews are experimenting with new and interesting forms of Jewish life. In Jerusalem and other cities, there are dozens of new and unaffiliated minyanim (prayer groups and congregations), reflecting the full range of options and far removed from the official rabbinate, which is rapidly moving itself into irrelevance. Many young couples choose to ignore the state religious structures when they get married and are developing new twists on ancient Jewish rituals to make the occasions meaningful to them.

None of this is easy, the power of the rabbinate and its accompanying institutions is deeply rooted in 2,000 years of Jewish history in the Diaspora, and working out how to adapt to the return to our homeland and national sovereignty is one of the major challenges of modern Israel. Although democracy is not entirely foreign to Judaism, there is also a long tradition of fealty to rabbinical authority.

In addition, during this long history, women were largely excluded from power-sharing, but in 21st-century Israel, this is changing, although not smoothly in the formal religious institutions. Instead, many women are active in the alternative and unofficial structures – particularly in the advanced educational frameworks focusing on evolving Jewish law and traditions, as well as in kosher certifications (a major source of political and economic power).

Much of the media attention has been focused on the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where the conflicts over symbolism are played out in public view. Recently, the government voted for the first time to remove part of this area from official rabbinical control, allowing pluralist groups, including women, to gather and pray without the previous restrictions. This move, which was taken against the strenuous objections of the religious establishment, is primarily designed to appeal to Diaspora groups, particularly in the Reform and Conservative movements, where mixed prayers (men and women) is the norm.

None of this means that the conflict has been resolved – nothing in Israel, and particularly Israeli politics, is that easy and straightforward. But Judaism as a religion, tradition and culture has always evolved through the actions of the kehillah – the congregation. Rabbis can persuade, educate and cajole, but they cannot impose their views on the wider public. And in Israel, as Jewish society changes, so will the rabbinate. ■

SPORER, HARRY ז"ל

Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University and the YU Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov mourn the passing of Harry Sporer, ז"ל, beloved husband of Hania Sporer, ז"ל, and father of Mrs. Marsha Lax. Harry and Hania Sporer supported many worthy causes benefitting Toronto and Worldwide Jewry.

Mr. Sporer was respected and admired and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Heartfelt condolences are extended to Marsha and Michael Lax and family. May they all be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
TORAH MITZION
BEIT MIDRASH

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Richard M. Joel, President, Yeshiva University
Jeremy Magence, President, CFYU
Eli Rubinstein, President, YU Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov
Stuart Haber, National Director, CFYU

Jewish Life

The Agenda marks its 10th anniversary

Steve Paikin and the new studio of *The Agenda*.

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Click on Steve Paikin's blog and you can see the anchor of TVOntario's flagship current affairs show giving a tour of its brand new studio. *The Agenda with Steve Paikin* now has a bright backdrop, multiple sets, and a massive audio-visual screen, all of which was made possible by a personal bequest.

"Donald Pounder loved the show and remembered us in his will. The new sets are fantastic. They give us flexibility and utility," Paikin said in a recent telephone interview.

The new look of *The Agenda* – it airs on TVO week nights at 8 and 11 p.m. – is one of several changes that have been made as the show marks its 10th anniversary.

Paikin, 55, said there's also a new format. Instead of devoting one hour to a single subject, *The Agenda* will now air smaller segments on multiple subjects. "The original format was a one-on-one interview and a 40-minute debate. It was good for 9-1/2 years.

"You have to change before people tell you you're stale. Not everyone wants to watch a 50- or 60-minute interview. Sometimes they want something bite size."

But he stressed that this change does affect the quality of the content. "I don't want to give the impression that we're not having in-depth discussions and interviews. We still do the longest interviews on television."

Paikin acknowledged that the format changes were made to appeal to a younger audience. "We keep tweaking the show to attract younger viewers," he said. "We're always trying to find new voices to reflect the province."

He said the new format is better suited to digital platforms. "I don't care if people watch us on TV, smartphone or computer. We're platform agnostic.

"Unlike other shows, we don't lose money if you watch us online."

The Agenda does not depend on advertising dollars, as TVO is a public broadcaster. "It's nice not to have to look at the ratings."

The Agenda is actually the fifth current affairs show Paikin has hosted at TVO.

Back in 1992 he was a news anchor on CBLT and a rising young star at CBC, when Howard Bernstein, his executive producer at CBC, introduced him to Peter Herrndorf, then chair and CEO of TVO. They thought Paikin would be the right person to host a new current affairs show being developed at TVO.

"I had been at CBC for seven years and worked my way up to anchor," Paikin said. "I thought it was what I wanted, but it turned out it wasn't what I thought it would be. I was reading scripts that other people wrote. It was more performance than journalism."

> *Unlike other shows, we don't lose money if you watch us online.*

Paikin jumped the ship for TVO in 1992.

"Peter (Herrndorf) told me it would take awhile to get adjusted and that I would always miss working at the CBC, but I would not regret leaving.

"He was absolutely wrong. After four days, I felt at home and I did not miss the work at the CBC. Working in depth was so interesting... It's all about good story telling and analysis. I devoured that mission from the moment I got here."

He hosted *Between the Lines* until the 1994 debut of *Studio 2*, a magazine-style, current affairs program, he co-hosted for 12 years. He also co-created and hosted the Queen's Park magazine, *Fourth Reading*, as well as *Diplomatic Immunity*, a weekly foreign affairs commentary show.

Paikin said his work at TVO has been a foundation to do many other "fascinating projects." He's moderated six political leadership debates (three federal and three provincial), he's produced six feature-length documentary films, and he's now writing his seventh book.

He's also a visiting professor at Ryerson University and the chancellor of Laurentian University in Sudbury.

In 2006, *The Agenda* replaced *Studio 2* to save money, he explained. "One anchor was cheaper than two."

When TVO's current CEO, Lisa de Wilde, announced the cancellation of *Studio 2*, there was a risk this change would alienate *Studio 2* viewers, Paikin said.

"Someone [working on *The Agenda*] asked, 'What size audience will we need to remain on the air?'"

De Wilde responded by saying the show's success would be measured by fulfilment of its mission to educate viewers, he recalled.

"She said our mission was to raise the important issues... and if we're engaging with the issues in depth and in a meaningful way, we'll deserve to be on the air.

"Well it's our 10th season. So far, so good."■

YIDDISH CORNER

וועגן אַ בייזער שוויגער און אַ קלוגער מאַמען

GERRY KANE
yankele635@gmail.com

1. די שוויגער: וועגן מען קוקט זיך אַרײַן אין דער פֿאַלקס ליטעראַטור פֿון כּמעט אַלע פֿעלקער נעפֿינט מען אַז אַלע שטעלן אַ "שוויגער" אויפֿן נידערעקסטן סרעפּל; קיינמאָל נישט זיס, אַלעמאָל זויער. אַ שוויגער הערשט אין אַ וועלט וווּ דאָס יונגע וחיבל קען איר קיינמאָל נישט געפֿעלן, קיינמאָל נישט סאָן נעמען פֿאַר איר זינדעלע.

און ווען עמעצער פֿרעגט די שוויגער וווּ ס'געפֿעלט איר די נייַע שנור ענטפֿערט זי מיט אַ פֿאַרקרימטער נאז – "זי איז אַ באַלעבאָנדע." וואָס האָט זי געמיינט מיט אַזאַ ארויסזאָג? זי האָט געמיינט אַז די שנור איז נישט קיין גרויסע באַלעבאָסטע.

*נחום סטוטשקאָוו, וואָס האָט יאָרן לאַנג אָנגעפֿירט מיט אַ פֿראָגראַם וועגן יידישע וועלטער מיינונגען אויף דער יידישער ראַדיאָ אין ניו יאָרק האָט געענטפֿערט דאָס יונגע וויבל וואָס האָט אַרײַנגעשריבן צו אים וועגן דעם וואָרט "באַלעבאָנדע". "נעמט זיך נישט צום הארצן. דאָנקט גאָט, וואָס זי רופֿט אײַך נישט מיט קיין ערגערע נעמען...וואָס מען דאַרף אַ קאָפּ זיי צו געדענקען: שלימפּעה, שמאָדעה, סאָרג, שליאָך, ניעראָבע, שילוט, לאָרוּוט, שווינסוה, הקדש, פּענעצע, דרײפּקע, פּליאָודרע....און וואָס, מיינט איר, מיינען די אַלע וועלטער? חלילה, עפּעס נעפֿערלעכע ואַכן? היבש זיך נישט אָן, אַלץ וואָס זיי מיינען איר אָפּגעלאָזענע, ניט קיין ציבעלעך...אָט אזוי זענען זיי, די שוויגערס. קיין ואַך געפֿעלט זיי נישט. זיי זענען באַלעבאָסטעס, די שניר זענען בעלעבאָנדעס."

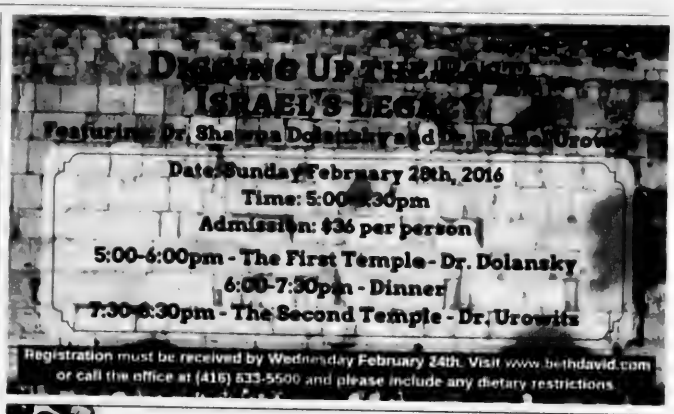
2. די קלוגע מאַמע: "האָסט געפֿרעגט אַ גוטע פֿראַגע הײַנט, איך?" אזוי האָט זי בארגריסט איר זוניעניו יעדן סאָג וועג ער איז אַהיימס געקומען פון שולע. איר זוניעניו איז אויפֿגעוואַקסן צו ווערן אינער פֿון די אָנגעזעענסטע נאָבעל פֿרעמיע געווינער אויף דער וועלט. זײַן נאָמען? אזידאר איזאַק ראבי. אין דער וועלט פֿון אַסאָמישער פּיזיק איז ער נעשטאַנען אויפֿן זעלבן ניוואָ ווי איינשטיין און אָפּענהיימער. ער איז געווען אַ שותף מיט אָפּענהיימער אין מעגלעך מאַכן די אַטאָמישע באָמבעס וואָס מען האָט געווארפן אויף יאַפּאַן. וואָס אזא שוידערלעכע דערגרייכונג האָט צו טאָן מיט ראָבויס מאַמען וועל איך אײַך אין ניכן דערציילן.

מיינט נישט אַז די מאַמע פֿון ראבי, האָט געוווסט פֿון אַסאָמישער פּיזיק. זי האָט נאָר געוווסט פֿון מאַכן זיכער אז איר אתה, נישט לאַנג נעקומען קיין אַמעריקע פֿון פּוילן אָן אַ וואָרט ענגליש, זאָל זיין אַ גוטער שילער און מיט לערנען עפּענען אַ סיר וואָס וועט אים אַרויסלאָזן אויף די וועגן פֿון דערגראַיכונג אין אַמעריקע. זי האָט נישט געוואָלט אַז איר קינד זאָל זיין אַ שנייַדער וווּ זיין סאָסע.

די מאַמע האָט נישט געוווסט פֿון פּעדאַגאָגיע. זי האָט בלויז געוווסט פֿון דעם יידישן מינהג אַז דאָס קלוגע קינד פֿרעגט זיין לערער פֿראַגעס און אַ גוטן לערערס ענטפֿער מוטיקט דאָס קינד צו פֿרעגן גוטע קשיות מיט אַ סיפֿערער אינהאַלט. פֿאַר אונדז יידן איז עס אַ רעליגיעזע, און סאָציאַלע פֿאַראַנטוואָרטליכקייט צו מוטיקן קינדער צו פֿרעגן פֿראַגעס.

ווען עמעצער האָט איסאַק ראבי, נאָך זיין געווינען די נאָבעל פֿרעמיע, געפֿרעגט פֿאַרוואָס ער איז געוואָרן אַ ווייסנשאַפֿטלער האָט ער געענטפֿערט, "מיין מאַמע האָט מיר געמאַכט אַ פֿאָרשער און דעם וווּ אזוי האָט זי נישט פֿאַרשטאַנען. אלע מיינע פֿרײַנט, וועו זיי זענען אַהיימגעקומען פֿון שולע האָבן די מאַמעס געפֿרעגט 'וואָס האָסטו געלערנט אין קלאַס היינט?' מיין מאַמע האָט מיר געפֿרעגט, איך, האָסטו געפֿרעגט אַ גוטע פֿראַגע, היינט? דער סיפֿער אונטערשייד אין דער פֿראַגע וואָס מיין מאַמע האָט מיר געפֿרעגט האָט מיר געמאַכט פֿאַר אַ פֿאָרשער."

*מאַמע־לשון, פֿון נחום סטוטשקאָוו, פֿאַרוועלט אויסגאַבע, 2014



This Passover your kids will ask
"why is this view different from all others"?

Celebrate Passover at the Inbal Jerusalem Hotel with breathtaking views of the Old City and warm Jerusalem hospitality. Enjoy sumptuous gourmet cuisine prepared by the Inbal's Executive Chef whether at our festive Seder with fellow guests or in a private dining room with family and friends.

VARIETY OF PACKAGES AVAILABLE
FOR RESERVATIONS & MORE INFORMATION
FREE [illegible]
WWW.INBALHOTEL.COM

* Rates are for double room in USD ! More details, rooms options and terms will apply
* Kashrut: glatt meat ,mehadrin products only, no kitniyot, hand shmura matza for seder, gebrokts
* Reservations made by February 10th, 2016 will receive a 10% discount!

Debut author draws on family's wartime experiences

DOROTHY LICHTBLAU
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

"I didn't write a novel about the Holocaust but about post-Holocaust trauma and mostly about reconciliation," states Renate Krakauer about her debut novel, *Only By Blood*.

And the result is a sensitive portrayal not only of the consequences of unbridled racism and genocide, but also of those who choose to be humane and the possibility of putting things right. Krakauer has portrayed these themes not only through well-drawn characters and an action-packed plot but also via relationships that raise questions about identity, love and what one may be driven to do under duress.

A significant part of the story is set during World War II and Krakauer vividly describes the widespread devastation, loss and grief by drawing us into the lives of two Polish families; one Jewish and the other Catholic. However, the tale spans 60 years and travels back and forth between Canada and Poland. Complex and dynamic it reads like a mystery novel.

Though Krakauer is a child survivor of the Holocaust, she says *Only By Blood* is not an account of her or her family's experiences. She admits that she drew on aspects of her family's history to write the narrative.

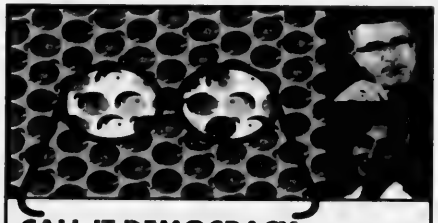
> *I always thought that women were the unsung heroes of the Holocaust. I realized I wanted to write about a Jewish woman and a Catholic woman, each of whom saved her daughter's life.*

Renate Krakauer

Born in 1941, Krakauer was an infant when her parents made the difficult decision to leave her in the care of a Polish woman of their acquaintance, who lived on the outskirts of a village in eastern Poland. She says her early memories are not tainted by war or terror, though her parents' recollections are quite different. Inadequately clothed, always starving, her mother and father hid separately in cramped conditions always under the threat of discovery by the Nazis.

Krakauer was an oblivious three-year-old when the war ended. "It was when we came to Canada that I stopped being happy," she says. She describes herself as, "an insecure immigrant." Though only a school-aged child, she was, "very aware of being different from the general population and the established Jewish population." An only child and bereft of an extended family, the young Renate felt alone.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



CALL IT DEMOCRACY

AN EVENING WITH SHARON ABRAHAM-WEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL (ACRI) AND CRAIG SCOTT, FORMER MP TORONTO-DANFORTH

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 @7:00 PM
MILES NADAL JCC, 750 SPADINA AVE.

Attorney Sharon Abraham-Weiss has focused ACRI's formidable legal prowess addressing some of Israel's most challenging issues.

ACRI is responsible for many of Israel's groundbreaking civil rights laws, including the disqualification of racist political parties, the right to equal rent assistance for Arab and Jewish families, and the inclusion of Conservative and Reform Jews in nationwide religious policy-making.

Craig Scott has served as Member of Parliament in Canada's House of Commons and is a faculty member at Osgoode Law School.

Register at WWW.NIFCAN.ORG or 416-781-4322

New Israel Fund of Canada
קרן ישראל חדשה בקנדה

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services

We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs

• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations

Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years

2 year warranty

WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*

Seniors Never Pay Tax

*on projects over $1,000. before tax.

HST

Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorsnovator.com

BUY • SELL • TRADE

• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver

90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS

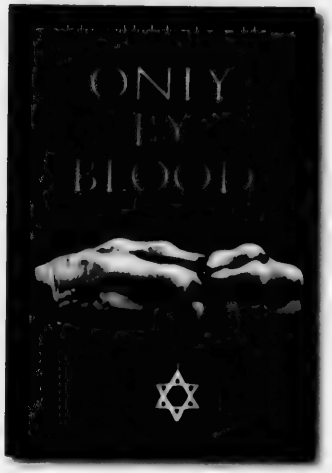
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

SICILY ADVENTURE TOUR
JEWISH HIGHLIGHTS
10 DAY TOUR $3,000

MAY 13TH TO 23RD / OCT 14TH TO 24TH
WWW.JEWISHSICILIAN.COM CONTACT BILL GENOVA
416-367-0380 billgenova@rogers.com

Wishing you a Healthy & Happy Chanukah

Cleaning Protection Restoration
MARBLE RESCUE
Insured and Bonded
Technicians with over 15 years experience.
We'll beat any written residential quote by 20%
416-782-BUFF(2833)
Don't replace your dull, damaged stone & marble. Turn to us!



> *For Hitler, if you had one drop of Jewish blood you were tainted.*

Meanwhile, her parents devastated by recent losses, had no time to devote to healing. They had to build a new life. They founded their future on the one asset that was not taken from them. University educated Poles, Charlotte and William Tannenzapf had worked in their respective professions (pharmacy and engineering) until the war erupted. Eventually, they were able to use their professional knowledge "to carve out a niche for themselves" in Toronto.

The idea for *Only By Blood* came to Krakauer about eight years ago when the descendants of her mother's long estranged brother found and contacted her. Sadly, her mother and uncle had died before this reconnection took place. Nevertheless, Krakauer discovered cousins she had long wished for. Yet, what moved her most was that her father, who had vehemently reproached his brother-in-law for becoming a traitor to the Jews during a time of rampant anti-Semitism, was willing to meet his Polish granddaughter and her husband and to pronounce, "I feel an affinity with you."

Krakauer says, "I was amazed. A man of 98 was able to change his mind."

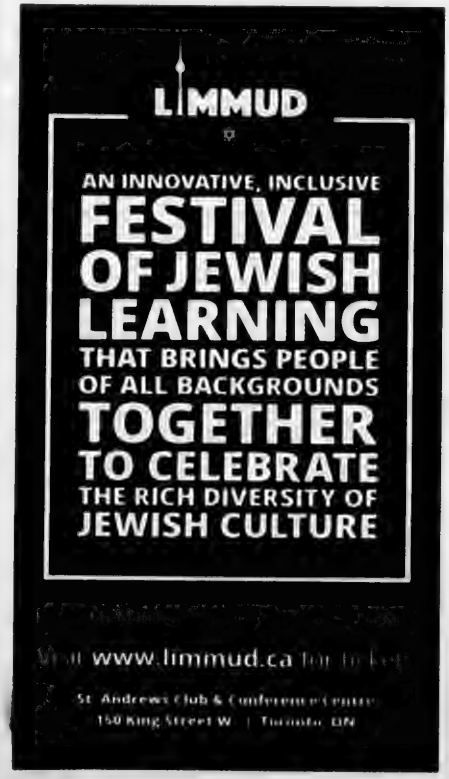
This unexpected event and reconciliation seeded a story that began to take form during writing courses Krakauer took at the Haliburton School of the Arts and Humber School for Writers. Through fiction she explored the meaning of identity and how it is shaped. She also looked at racism and its relationship to identity. "For Hitler, if you had one drop of Jewish blood you were tainted."

Krakauer also felt impelled to examine the lives of women of the Holocaust. "My mother saved my life. I always thought that women were the unsung heroes of the Holocaust. I realized I wanted to write about a Jewish woman and a Catholic woman, each of whom saved her daughter's life." To deepen her understanding of the time Krakauer researched survivors' accounts.

Only By Blood begins in a doctor's office in contemporary Poland. Mania is finishing her examination of an elderly patient who tells her he knew her mother's sister when they were both young and still living in their home village. Mania is stunned by this coincidence. Saddened by the reminder that she has not met her aunt and knows little about her family, she decides to once more try to learn about her family's past when she next sees her mother. However, Mania does not realize her plan. Krystyna, her mother, becomes ill and dies without revealing more about her history. Yet, her dying words are a plea. She asks Mania to, "Find them and make it right." And thus Mania begins her quest.

Mania is the central character of the novel but Krystyna and Rose, a Polish Jew and a survivor, are its subject matter. "Both are strong, competent, loving woman willing to do anything for their daughters," Krakauer says. "However, Krystyna was not traumatized by the events of World War II, as was Rose. Krystyna's losses were self-inflicted. She made choices. Rose didn't make choices. She suffered the loss of her family because she was a Jew. Each woman is guarding a secret."

Yet the story cannot be described simply as a mystery though it is a page-turner. Essentially, one can say *Only By Blood* is a poignant and compassionate inquiry into human commonalities that transcend religious and cultural differences even under horrific circumstances. ■



A glimpse at the exotic world of horse sport

MARTIN LOCKSHIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Barbara Kay is well known in Canada and beyond as a talented and courageous newspaper columnist. A regular writer for the *National Post*, she generally espouses a neo-Conservative worldview. Two recent columns were titled "The key to a successful culture? Monogamy" and "Marking the end of a hollow president's feckless record on terrorism," referring to U.S. President Barack Obama. Kay speaks forcefully and occasionally acerbically against the forces of political correctness. For example, a 2014 article of hers was titled "Rape culture and the delusions of the feminist mind." She is a proud Jew and a strong supporter of the State of Israel.

Kay, who has taught writing at the university level in Quebec, has certainly perfected the genre of the hard-hitting 800-word opinion piece. Now she has branched out into a very different genre, publishing a 463-page mystery novel, *A Three-Day Event*, with 18 major and nine minor characters. (A list at the beginning of the book with short notes beside each name is meant to help readers keep them straight.) The action in the novel takes place almost exclusively in rural Quebec, in the circles of wealthy people who own horses, and their employees who train them for competitions.

Canadian Jews can relate easily to some of the themes and characters in the book. Three members of an affluent Montreal Jewish family play major roles. A gentile spouse is part of the mix, as well as the deceased Jewish father of the family who still looms large and speaks from beyond the grave. A character named Dr. Werzberger, a bit player, described by one gentile character as the "abortion rights crusader... [a] swarthy, beetle-browed, beaked-nosed Jew," is a thinly disguised Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

But most of the novel revolves around the unfamiliar (to most Jews, at least) cut-throat world of horses and people who dedicate their lives to horse competitions.

The mystery involves the murder of an unpleasant person and anonymous acts of violence against horses. More than one character in the book says that the acts of violence against the horses bother them more than the murder. Remarkably, the investigation of the crime is not carried out by the police or a private detective, but by a sub-group of the main suspects.

On her website, Kay explains how she came to write a novel and why it revolves around the world of horse sport: "Many non-fiction writers are curious to know whether they can pull off a work of fiction. I too wondered for decades, but it wasn't until my daughter was betrayed by her mentor in horse sport that I found my inspiration. Suddenly my 10 years of immersion in the fascinating world of high-stakes, three-day eventing competition opened a creative seam I had never thought possible."

To help us cope with all the unusual and unfamiliar aspects of buying, selling, training and riding sport horses, Kay gives us a helpful three-page glossary. There we learn that a "three-day event" is comparable to a triathlon competition for humans, and "combines dressage, cross-country jumping over fixed and natural obstacles, and stadium jumping."

Anti-Semitism hovers in the background of the plot and occasionally moves to the forefront. We are told that the main Jewish character, Ruthie (Jacobson) Cooper, "knew she lived in a Golden Age of tolerance and freedom unprecedented in Jewish history. Naturally she followed the escalating progress of global anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism (almost always invariably one and the same, of course) with concern and apprehension." But only when she was well into her adult years did she directly experience "racial hatred" for the first time and "found it an odd and very unsettling feeling."

A Three-Day Event,
by Barbara Kay,
Peloton Press

> *The book provides an insider view of the unusual combination of the more familiar world of Quebec Jewry and the exotic world of horse sport.*

All the Jewish characters in the book, including Ruthie's intermarried brother, feel comfortable with and proud of their Jewish identity. They are all wealthy and upstanding human beings. They sprinkle their words with Yiddish terms like *mazzik* and *ziess*. They like eating bagels (presumably Montreal bagels).

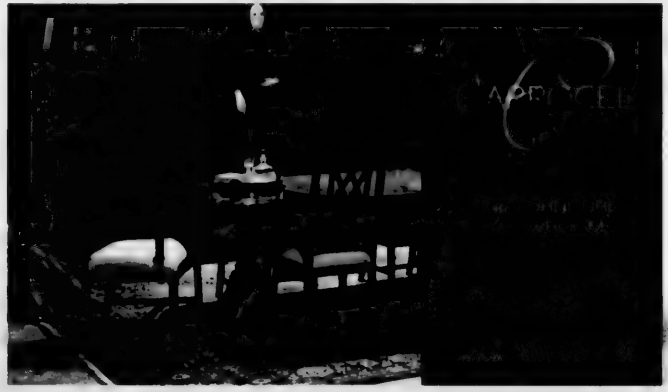
Kay tells us that Ruthie "knew her history... and was engaged in the collective cultural life of her people." But when you look carefully, the only evidence of Jewish involvement (aside from bagels and the occasional Borscht Belt humour) for her and the other Jews is heightened concern about anti-Semitism and an interest in the Shoah.

Not surprisingly for a novel set in Quebec, language issues are important. (It's useful to know at least some high school French if you read this book, but it's not a problem if you do not.) The choice of which language to speak at any given time is significant. Many of the characters have a high consciousness about language issues. I enjoyed learning from their conversations about the concept of faux amis ("false friends") or false cognates, words that look the same in English and French but have different meanings. (For example, the French déception means disappointment, not deception.)

A surprising aspect of the book is the alignment of the cultural, ethnic and religious groups of Quebec. In this novel, prejudice originates in gentile Anglo circles, both among rich and working-class English speakers, who dislike Jews and French Canadians. The French Canadians and the Jews, on the other hand, get along amazingly well almost all the time. An alignment like this makes some theoretical sense, but is not, as far as I know, the common cultural reality.

In sum, the book provides an insider view of the unusual combination of the more familiar world of Quebec Jewry and the exotic world of horse sport. ■

LAND ROVER JAGUAR
THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI



Cheat yourself happy

DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

There's no doubt that getting dinner on the table, day after day can be a challenge. Most people have between seven and 10 recipes that they gravitate to, which they know their family will love and that can be made efficiently and well.

I, too, tend to rely heavily on a few hand-picked favourites but I do attempt to try something new at least once a week. That way, my repertoire gets longer and longer and I don't have to wonder, mid-aisle in the grocery store, what the heck I can make for dinner tonight.

I also periodically find that it helps to cheat, just a little. Using canned tomatoes can make a mighty difference to your stress level and to the time it takes to get a meal on the table.

Chicken with tomatoes and pesto

You would never think that just three ingredients could result in a delicious meal, but they do. If you can't find cheeseless pesto, simply combine 2 cups of fresh basil, ½ cup lightly toasted pine nuts, 2 cloves garlic, and about 1/3 cup of really good olive oil in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until fully ground and liquidy, adding up to 2 more tbsp. of oil to achieve the correct consistency.

- ❑ 1 can (19 oz.) regular stewed tomatoes
- ❑ ¼ cup (heaping cheeseless basil pesto
- ❑ 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts

Pour the tomatoes into a large non-stick skillet set over medium-high heat. Bring the mixture to a boil. Boil gently until some of the excess juices have evaporated, about 5 minutes. Dollop the pesto into 4 mounds, about 3-in. apart. Place a chicken breast on top of each dollop of pesto. Reduce the heat and simmer the chicken breasts, covered, for 10 minutes. Turn the chicken breasts over; simmer, covered, until the chicken breasts are cooked throughout, about 8 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

Chickpea and avocado salad sandwich

This sandwich is full of good for you. The chickpeas are an excellent source of manganese, a very good source of folate and a good source of fibre, protein and iron. Avocados are particularly nutrient dense; they contain 20 essential nutrients, including fibre, potassium, E and B vitamins and folic acid.

- ❑ 1 can (19 oz.) chickpeas
- ❑ 1 large ripe avocado, pitted
- ❑ 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ juice of one lime (about 2-1/2 tbsp.
- ❑ ½ tsp. salt
- ❑ ¼ tsp. pepper
- ❑ 2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- ❑ 8 slices whole grain bread
- ❑ 3 tbsp. light mayonnaise (optional)
- ❑ 20 thin slices cucumber
- ❑ 4 large lettuce leaves

Drain the chickpeas into a colander and rinse under cold running water. Transfer the chickpeas to a large piece of paper towel and rub vigorously to dry and to remove as much of the skin from the chickpeas as possible. Transfer the chickpeas to a large bowl. Add the avocado, garlic, lemon juice, salt and pepper.

Using a potato masher or fork, mash the ingredients together. Stir in the cilantro. Lay half of the bread slices on a work surface. Spread the mayonnaise evenly over the bread slices, if using. Divide the chickpea mixture evenly over each piece of bread, spreading it lightly. Top with cucumber slices, lettuce and remaining bread slices. Makes 4 servings. ■

La TRAVIATA
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
La Traviata
where Veal Parm
is the new flanken
Buy 1 entrée, get 1 FREE!
With the purchase of any appetizer. The free entrée must be of equal or lesser value. Not valid with any other offer. The coupon has no cash value. One coupon per bill/table. Expires March 20/2016. Not valid on Saturdays.
Accepting reservations 7 days a week!
852 Wilson Avenue, North York, ON
416 635 8091 www.latraviata.ca

STEELES DELI RESTAURANT
New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions
SPECIAL $2.00 OFF
Any Adult Dinner Entrees
Dine-In Only
FREE Home Delivery on orders over $50.00
(within immediate area)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Not to be combined with any other offer. Valid until 03/18/16. Special only creditable on total bill, not for each separate meal
FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT • DINE-IN • CATERING

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP
If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

WRY BREAD

#TousAvecUneProblem? France embraces its kippah 'problem'

David Levine

#TousAvecUneKippa continues to spark social change in France.

The hashtag phenomenon (meaning "Everyone in a kippah") was created in January 2016 when, in the aftermath of several violent anti-Semitic attacks, a Jewish community leader advised men to stop wearing their skullcaps in public, "until better days."

The idea was simple: citizens were invited to take and share pictures of themselves wearing kippot in a display of solidarity with France's beleaguered Jews.

In only a few short days, the phenomenon went viral, and photos of average citizens, politicians and celebrities wearing kippot took social media by storm. Many were moved to take the campaign off-line, donning skullcaps in their daily lives and sparking changes they would never have anticipated.

Collette (last name withheld), a 23-year-old nursing student living in Paris, says it was "an honour" to post her first selfie in a kippah: "It was eye-opening. It made me proud to stand beside French citizens under threat, and it led to a ton of new Twitter followers."

The experience left Collette feeling responsible to continue her campaign in the streets – and before she knew it, she wouldn't leave home without a kippah.

"It's a political statement," she says, "but they also look pretty great. I love the velvet ones."

Collette is not alone. In fact, so many French men and women found it hard to take off their kippot that #TousAvecUneKippa has spawned a trend in the world's fashion capital, with decorative, personalized, vintage and ironic kippot appearing on runways and *couturiers* across the country.

After a few short weeks, Collette found herself in a community of activists and trendsetters who were noticing more and more changes the longer they wore a kippah.

Philippe, 30, is a graphic designer who collects vintage kippot from American bar and bat mitzvah parties of the 1980s.

"At first, it was funny," he says. "I'd order a baguette, they'd give me a bagel. My butcher wouldn't sell me pork."

"I started getting letters from the bank," says Michel, 41, a tattoo artist and competitive slam poet, his eyes welling up, "telling me that my credit score had been upgraded. They never gave me a reason."

Henrietta, 32, found herself growing frustrated at the assumptions she encountered: "A woman walked up to me the other day and said 'I know a young man in Tolouse – Erik – he's also been wearing a kippah lately. Do you know him? Erik? In Tolouse?'

"I nearly lost it. Why should I know some random guy in Toulouse? Because we're both on social media? Does she think we all know each other?"

The incidents keep piling up. Louis, 24, returned to university to find that he had been transferred to pre-med. Louisa, 47, bought an expensive duvet set, only to find holes cut in the sheets.

Predictably, right-wing politicians and pundits began denouncing the group as a fifth column of French society.

"This is how they work," said one pundit. "They own and control the social media, and now they're using it to undermine our democracy.

"I bet Mark Zuckerberg wears a kippah."

As relationships with friends and families grew strained, these non-Jewish kippah wearers began to frequent the few stores, parks, restaurants and churches where they felt welcome – until almost all of them wound up living in a single neighbourhood, which quickly became known as The Twittle (short for "Twitter shtetl").

Thankfully, no violence has yet been reported, but threatening graffiti has appeared in the neighbourhood, promising "No forgiveness for the ones who crucified our values."

There is a silver lining: the situation has been a welcome distraction for France's Jews, who have used the time to remove their kippot, change their names, and integrate seamlessly into secular French society.

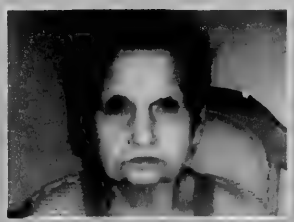
"It was a rough few centuries," says Marie Girard (formerly Miriam Greenbaum), "but at least we've gotten rid of anti-Semitism for good." ■

Follow A. David Levine on twitter at @adavidlevine

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Excited to wish our Anyu & Grandmother Hedy Landau a happy 90th birthday (Feb.10)! With love and kisses from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren



Happy birthday and mazel tov to Mame Bobe Jenta Sokol Klajner from your children, grandchildren, sister and family.

Much love, laughter and health to Keith & Sheila Alexander who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in Florida with friends and close family.

Susan & Mark Shapiro, Nancy & Randy Amos announce the marriage of their children Marni to Jeff, Aug. 14 in San Francisco.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to classifieds@thenja.on.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Rabbi Shmuli Nachlas, director of JYN, with Young Leadership honorees, Sydney Bernknopf, Jamie Forman, Tamara Klein and Sam Shiff

Philanthropist and major benefactor Larry Robbins, Denise Robbins and Rabbi Eliezer Robbins

Leon Elmaleh, Preci Elmaleh, Tamara Wolf and Denise Elmaleh

Yosef and Lauren Barrett

Jewish Youth Network

The seventh annual Jewish Youth Network (JYN) Gala and Award Ceremony recognized Sam Shiff, Jamie Forman, Tamara Klein and Sydney Bernknopf, the 2015 Young Leadership Honorees who distinguished themselves through exemplary volunteerism, leadership and dedication to the Jewish community of Toronto. The JYN is an independent charitable outreach organization dedicated to the spiritual and social wellness of Jewish youth throughout Ontario. ■ – *The Socialite*

Michelle Spritzer and Daniel Kaplan

Norma and Mark Malinowicz, Dvira Ovadia and Brian Lipovetsky

Gala committee members Tanya Forman, Debbie Litvack, Jacquie Rabinowitz and Gala chair Sylvia Babins

Jade Ilmer, Chani Nachlas and Michelle Spritzer

Rabbi Shmuli Nachlas and Dr. Howard Jacobs

Korin Bodani, Michael Klein and Allan White

KATAN STUDIOS PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Day Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

FEB. 18 – FEB. 25

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Feb. 18

WOMEN'S FOLK DANCE
Kehillat Shaarei Torah hosts an evening of women's folk dance with proceeds going to the Zaka Foundation, 7:30 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave. $10.

BOOK CLUB
Shaar Shalom Synagogue's book club reviews *The Street Sweeper*, by **Elliot Perlman**, 2 p.m.

FRUMBA
Women's dance fitness at Beth Emeth Synagogue starts today. Email **Bette**, frumbadance@gmail.com

Friday, Feb. 19

SYRIAN RESPONSE DINNER
Annex Shul, Beth Tzedec, Holy Blossom, Temple Sinai and Ve'ahavta hold a Shabbat dinner for people in their 20s and 30s to discuss the Syrian refugee issue, 6 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. $25. RSVP required at 416-781-3511.

Saturday, Feb. 20

RAMAH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
New and returning campers in grades 1-4 are invited to dinner and a movie at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 7 p.m. $5. RSVP www.campramah.com

CHABAD SHABBATON
Shaya Rose discusses "The new science of post-traumatic stress, its parallels in chassidic philosophy and its impact on our lives today," at Chabad Markham, following morning services.

Sunday, Feb. 21

A TRIBUTE TO SHOLOM ALEICHEM
Friends of Yiddish hosts "A tribute to Sholom Aleichem," featuring **Janie Respitz**, 2 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free for members, $10 for non-members. RSVP yiddish18@yahoo.ca

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of March 3 is Feb. 22. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Some friendly visitors

In honour of Shabbat Shirah and Music Week, members of Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack Middle School student council visited One Kenton Place to sing and dance with their residents. From left, Tali Barak, Rena Zevy, Danielle Wellen chat with a new friend.

BOOKS AND BAGELS
Rosemary Cohen reviews *Fields of Exile* by **Nora Gold**, 10:30 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. $5.

PURIM KATAN PALOOZA
Sonshine and Broccoli perform at Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns campus, 18 Neptune Dr., 10 a.m. Come in costume. Free but RSVP purim@ahschools.com

GLOBAL UNITY EVENT
One hour of Jewish unity, Torah study and inspiration streamed live around the world, noon, Chabad Markham. Featuring **Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Rachel Frenkel, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.**

MIDRESHET YOM RISHON
Classes for women. **Shira Lipner** discusses "Maximizing the opportunities of a leap year"; **Rabbi Yair Spitz** discusses "The golden calf and the Torah's approach to art," 10-11:20 a.m., Congregation B'nai Torah.

Monday, Feb. 22

REMEMBERING THE SHOAH
Piotr Cywinski, director of Auschwitz Birkenau State Museum, discusses "Creating a future that remembers the Holocaust," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Dough*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes commentary with **Larry Ankiewicz.** $5.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

THE SYRIAN BRIDE
Beth Emeth Synagogue shows *The Syrian Bride*, 7 p.m. $5.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
JSpace Canada presents **Prof. Mohammed Wattad**, Zefat Academic College School of Law, Israel, in conversation with **Mira Sucharov**, Carleton University, on "The future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict- inside and outside Israel," 7:30 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. Register at conflictfuture.eventbrite.ca or 416-782-1050.

Thursday, Feb. 25

THE BOOK OF JUDGES
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner teaches a class for women on "The book of Shoftim: The judges and the judged in an era of turmoil," starting today, 1:30 p.m., 49 Michael Court, Thornhill. Email info@torontotorah.com or call 647-234-7299.

TMJ SOCIETY
The TMJ (Temporomandibular Joint) Society of Canada meets at 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Email tmjscanada@gmail.com

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings to March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy,** 416-225-2112, ext. 204

Circle of Care is looking for a Yiddish-speaking male volunteer to lead a men's discussion group Monday afternoons. Volunteers also needed for kosher meals on wheels program and friendly visiting. Call **Lisa**, 416-635-2900, ext. 284.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

) High conflict divorce: A workshop for parents in a high conflict situation who want to develop strategies and help lessen the impact on their children. Not for individuals in an abusive situation. Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155.
Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Neuropsychologist **Dr. Susan Vandermorris** provides insights on how to maximize your memory, Feb. 18. Refreshments at 1 p.m., workshop, 1:30 p.m. Free RSVP lisar@mnjcc.org

Celebrate Purim and enjoy a new play from the Smile Theatre company, March 24, 1:30 p.m. Register at ext. 0.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. Feb. 21, Concert with Strings Attached Orchestra, 1:30 p.m.; Feb. 23, lecture on "Tony Curtis: more than just a pretty face," 10 a.m.; Feb. 25, lecture on "Mobility, posture and exercise," 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

◗ **National Council of Jewish Women.** 416-633-5100. Seniors' lunch and learn program, Feb. 23, **Michael Ziskind** entertains, noon, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. RSVP.

Aviva Club is looking for new mature members to join discussion. Email reception@ncjwctoronto.org

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Social bridge, Thursdays at noon, knitting circle and more. Casino Rama March 16.

◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.

◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi,** 416-785-0941.

◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.

◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com

◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Yakov Fruchter** discusses issues of interest to seniors, Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen,** 416-781-3514.

◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

◗ **Wagman Community Centre.** Learn about the pros and cons of being screened for cancer, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. $3 for non-members. Register at 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. **Amy,** 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ Gourmet Purim hamantashen workshop March 15, 6:30 p.m.

◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Mondays, 2 p.m.

◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong, Feb. 24-March 30, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "They went thataway! Why film genres are popular," Wednesdays to Feb. 24, 1 p.m.

◗ Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," March 2-23, 1 p.m.

◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," March 8-22, 1 p.m.

◗ Glass fusion workshop with **Marcela Rosemberg.** Make a salad bowl, seder plate or cake stand, March 8, 7 p.m.

◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ *Voicing Perspective,* featuring visual art and photography from artists with disabilities, on display at the gallery until Feb. 24.

◗ Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Special Interview,* Feb. 21, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Screening followed by a panel discussion. Co-presented by Reena, Spotlight on Israeli Culture and Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month. Box office opens one hour before screening.

◗ Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Novelist **Allison Pick** discusses her new book, *Between Gods,* Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Iain Scott** teaches 4 sessions on "Opera appreciation: All in the family," starting March 21, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays to Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ A free forum on affordable housing for people with disabilities, with panellists **Remo Agostino, Bryan Keshen, Nancy Singer, Adam Vaughan, Jijian Voronka** will be held Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre.

◗ Havana Nights, a concert in support of music programming at the MNjcc will be held Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets $50 at uofttix.ca/havananights. Patron tickets, ext. 328.

◗ Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.

◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk.** No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein.** music@mnjcc.org

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ Gourmet Purim hamantashen workshop, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

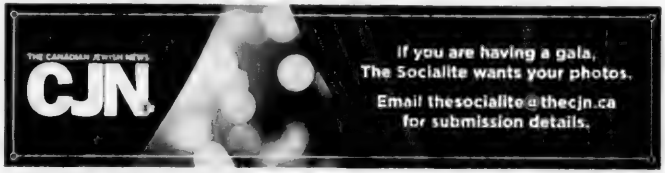
◗ Intermediate mah-jong runs Tuesdays, Feb. 23-March 29, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Spring session of PJ Plus, a parent and tot educational program, starts March 27.

◗ "Is your child a picky eater?" Strategies for parents, with **Carolyn Hay** and **Jordana Schwarz,** March 3, 7 p.m.

◗ The J Singles 50+ group meets for a social painting night, March 6, 7 p.m.

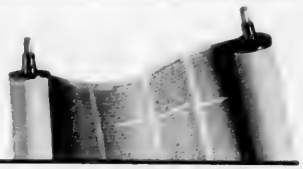
◗ Free bagel breakfast and socializing, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. ■



Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
The HARLEY PASTERNAK
Power Your Metabolism
Powerful 2 Horse Power
1500 Watt Blender
Now Available in 12 Colours!
You would expect to Pay Three Times as Much for Exactly the Same Features
Save $150
Choice of Colours
All Metal Drive, Japanese Precision Blades Blends Whole Fruits, Vegetables, Frozen Fruit, Ice & Nuts
Makes Smoothies, Hot Soups, Sauces, Dips & More!
Lowest Price In Ontario
199.99
Compare at 349.99
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016 Toronto's Best Housewares Store
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.caynehousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont. One Traffic Light North of Steeles Ave. East of Yonge St.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat-Sun 10-6
BRIDAL REGISTRY

Parshah

Tetzaveh | Exodus 27:20-30:10



Rabbi Aaron Katchen explains why conflict is not a bad thing, so long as it's constructive
Rabbi Michal Shekel interprets the *kohen gadol*'s attire as a call for modesty, humility and piety
Rabbi Howard Morrison considers reasons why Moses' name is absent from this week's Torah portion

Aaron Katchen

"These are the clothes that you should make: the jewelled breast-plate, the ephod-apron…" (Exodus, 28:4)

The Talmud relates a story about a non-Jew who hears this section of the parshah being read from the Torah. Intrigued, he asks who the fancy clothes are for. He is told, for the *kohen gadol*, the high priest.

Enamoured with the honour afforded the position, the man sought to convert on condition he become the *kohen gadol*. Shammai chased the man away with a builder's rod. Hillel accepted him and learned with him so that the convert could understand for himself why anyone not born from the priestly line could not be *kohen gadol*; even someone as great as King David could never be *kohen gadol*.

This story appears among a number of stories about Hillel and Shammai. Both were giants of Torah and leaders of the Jewish community. They came to represent *machloket l'shem shomayim* – literally, disputes for the sake of heaven.

This week marked the observance of the Jewish Week of Constructive Conflict (www.9Adar.org), a week dedicated to cultivating a culture of constructive conflict across personal, political, religious and other divides. The week is dedicated to increasing public awareness around the values and skills of constructive conflict as well as awareness of organizations that work to promote these values and skills year round. It is commemorated annually the week of 9 Adar, which marks the day 2,000 years ago that healthy disagreements "for the sake of heaven" turned destructive.

What Hillel and Shammai teach us, and this week elevates, is that conflict is not a bad thing. Pursuing truth is not a bad thing. During the days of Hillel and Shammai, each was able to represent valid viewpoints and challenge each other; their arguments focused on the ideas and not the people. Their disagreements did not prevent them from living as one community. ■

Rabbi Aaron Katchen, who is based in Toronto, directs Ask Big Questions Canada in partnership with Hillel.

Michal Shekel

Tradition holds that Aaron was a humble man. This trait, an essential part of his being, was also woven into the very fabric of his clothes. The specifics of the attire of the *kohen gadol* (high priest) have far greater implications than what the well-dressed high priest should wear.

Take for example one detail of the robe: "On its hem make pomegranates of blue, purple and crimson yarns, all around the hem, with bells of gold between them all around." (Exodus, 28:33) What is the purpose of the golden bells? Do they function to announce the arrival of the high priest before God, do they remind him to maintain a spiritual mindfulness as he performs his sacred duties, or, is their sound a reminder for us, stirring us to seek holiness?

Isaac Arama, writing in *Akedat Yitzkhak*, finds great significance in the bells. They were placed between the pomegranates, fabric ornaments that muffled their sound. While the tinkling of the bells proclaims holiness and piety, muffling the sound teaches that we should not go around declaring how pious we are. Secondly, placing the bells on the hem of the garment provides a lesson in humility: If something nice is said about you, great, but don't let it go to your head. Be like a pomegranate, more precious on the inside than would be indicated by the outside rind.

Compare this to the pressure placed on us today to "toot your own horn." You are nobody unless you have a public presence, exaggerating and boasting of your accomplishments. We participate in this chaotic din because modern success depends on it.

By adorning ourselves in a virtual set of priestly attire we can experience a different measure of worth, one that values modesty, humility and piety. Best of all, one size fits all. ■

Rabbi Michal Shekel is the executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Har Tikvah Congregation in Brampton, Ont.

Howard Morrison

From the time the Torah records the birth of Moses, Parshat Tetzaveh is the only portion that does not explicitly mention his name. Twice it says "*you*," referring to Moses, but the name never appears.

Reasons abound. Since the parshah focuses on Aaron and his priestly sons, it is as if Moses asked to have his name removed so that full honour would go to his brother and nephews. Another rationale suggests that when Moses pleaded with God to be removed from the Torah following the sin of the golden calf, his name was removed from this parshah. Yet another posits that since the yahrzeit date for Moses, 7 Adar, always surrounds this parshah, the name of Moses is missing to accentuate the sadness of this week on the Jewish calendar.

Appropriately, Jewish communities honour the sacred work done by the chevra kadisha (religious burial society) during the week of Parshat Tetzaveh. In a leap year, some defer that honour to the week of 7 Adar Bet, the additional month. The chevra kadisha's work with the deceased from death through burial is called chesed shel emet, the most truthful and honourable act of kindness that one can perform for another.

In life, when we perform acts of kindness for another expecting no reward, the other party may, nevertheless, reciprocate. However, the acts of kindness of a chevra kadisha cannot be reciprocated by the other party of blessed memory.

The explanations and practices associated with the omission of Moses' name in this parshah teach us many values: we should be humble. Our name need not stand out when doing the right thing. We should bestow honour on others when they are deserving. We should appreciate the acts of ultimate kindness performed by members of the chevra kadisha, who receive their due recognition during the week of the yahrzeit of Moshe Rabeinu. ■

Rabbi Howard Morrison is senior rabbi – mara d'atra at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

SERVICE DIRECTORY

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

RENOVATED 1 BEDROOM
Minutes From Rosedale Subway Stn. Over 1000 Sq. Ft. Gourmet Kitchen S/S App. Hardwood Through Out. 9' Ceilings. Designer Custom Closet. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

THE PRIMROSE $354,900. 1101 STEELES AVE W #314
Sun Filled 2 Bed, 2 Bath Split Plan With Solarium And Bright Eat-In Kitchen. Mehre Zuckerman* & Elana Levinson* 416-785-1500

2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN, VIEW OF CN TOWER!
Rare Open Concept Spacious Unit With A South Facing View Of C.N. Tower. Chef Inspired Kitchen With New Quartz Counter Tops, Extra Storage Space & Rare Attached Pantry To Kitchen. Daniel Weisberg* 416-785-1500

OPEN HOUSE

35 SARANAC BLVD #1113
Sun 2-5p.m. DANIEL WEISBERG 416-785-1500

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry. indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bathurst. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours www.TwoNeptune.ca 647-788-4887

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

120 Shelborne
1 bdrm from $1295.00 & 2 bdrm from $1595.00. Sabbath elevator, close to synagogues, school & shops.
New! Ladies & Men's gym Children's Playroom
Ask for Mila at Medallion Corporation
Call 416-256-0660 or 416-782-4120

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

SUMMA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Professional Property Management & Consulting
We get "TOP MARKS" for Management, Consulting and Renting! Our superior service includes managing multi-unit Residential/Commercial/Retail/Industrial properties. We also offer specialized services to manage and rent condo properties.
647-341-7990
www.summapm.com
propman@summapm.com

150 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Florida-Luxury 2/2 1850 SF. Kosher. 5* amenities, Spa, Shul. AVAIL. PESACH stayatwilliams@gmail.com

230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Commercial kitchen for rent in GTA. Fully equipped & licensed. Contact-rtkculinarygroup@gmail.com

245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

A kindergarten teacher looking for full time position. Pts. call: 416-226-4361

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Caregivers, Housekeepers, elderly care, Filipino from Israel, Singapore, Hong Kong & the islands. Live in/out, screening guaranteed. Call: 416-733-3915W

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Exp. female caregiver looking to care for the elderly or the ill men or women. 647-739-7138

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the **Metropolitan Licensing Commission** 416-392-3000

CJN
REPLYING TO AN AD WITH A CJN BOX NUMBER?

Address your mail to:

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
1750 Steeles Ave. W.,
Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

370 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416.782.3302
www.bistrogrande.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

395 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

433 LESSONS

Art Classes for beginners & advanced for adults & children. Pls Call: 416-785-0958

Offering One-on-One Lessons for iPad/iPhone, Mac and PC. Call for details. 647 821 1964.

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

*PLEASE NOTE OUR **NEW** PHONE NUMBER:*

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment ***before*** deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE

34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available March/April.

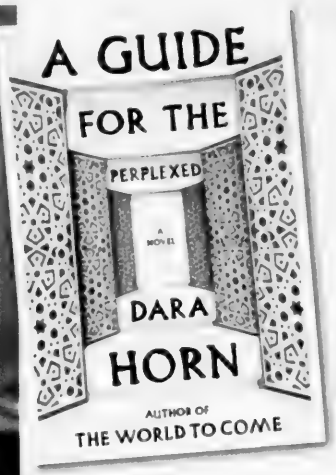
Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Dara Horn: novelist explores memory and history

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Dara Horn



Accomplished Jewish studies scholar and author Dara Horn received her PhD in comparative literature from Harvard University in 2006, studying Hebrew and Yiddish. Before that, at 25, she published her first novel, *In the Image*, which received a 2003 National Jewish Book Award, the 2002 Edward Lewis Wallant Award, and the 2003 Reform Judaism Fiction Prize. She was chosen by *Granta* magazine as one of 20 "Best Young American Novelists" in 2007. Her fourth and latest novel, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, was selected as one of Booklist's Best Books of 2013 and was long-listed for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Horn spoke to *The CJN* in advance of her Feb. 10 lecture at Holy Blossom Temple about some of the concepts explored in her latest novel, including memory, history and mortality.

Can you tell me about the book and the ideas in your lecture?

My most recent novel is the story of a software developer who creates an app that records everything that its users do. But there is also a historical component that is about the discovery of the Cairo Geniza, which was this massive trove of about 190,000 medieval documents that were discovered in a storeroom of a 1,000-year-old synagogue in Cairo. It was discovered by the scholar Solomon Schechter in the late 19th century, and the reason I put these ideas together was because as a writer, I've always been fascinated by how memory works. This goes back to my childhood, when I thought, wouldn't it be amazing if we could write down everything that ever happened to you and never lose any of this time that is leaving us out of our lives every day? Now, thanks to social media, my childhood dream has come true and turned into a nightmare where every idiotic thing I do is recorded forever and ever.

Normally, a *geniza* is for documents that had God's name on them, because they can't be thrown away, but this community in Cairo, they saved everything that had Hebrew letters on it. So you can imagine, this wasn't just Torah scrolls. This was things like a sales receipt, love letters, children's homework, business inventory, medical prescriptions. What's amazing is that some of them were these valuable documents – valuable because they were written by someone famous. Maimonides' drafts of his original *Guide for the Perplexed* were found there, and Maimonides was actually a character in the novel, because part of book goes back to the time of Maimonides, and he is a character in it.

This was not an archive, this was a medieval Facebook. It was crammed with so much mundane junk that you could reconstruct an entire world from it. So this question of this data storage then and now – what we save and why we save it –one of the things I was exploring through this book was this question of what memory means in modern times.

What are some of the concepts in your book that relate to the way we remember and document moments?

The contemporary plot of the book is actually a rewrite of the Joseph story from the Torah, but with women characters instead of men. A lot of it is about this woman's relationship with her sister.

A lot of it is about the dynamic between the sisters, which relates back to the question of data and memory, because siblings are kind of this ultimate test of how we remember the past.

That dynamic is what gives the theological dimension to the Joseph story in the Torah, because when Joseph reunites with his brothers at the end of the story, he says to them, "Don't be angry at yourselves that you sold me to into slavery, because it was to save your lives and God sent me ahead of you." He is basically rewriting the history – and it was true, because he being in Egypt was the reason they were able to survive the famine, because he does this food-rationing program. But it's also true that he is looking back at this negative family history and understanding it in a new way.

A lot of the book is about the question of memory versus history, how the way we choose to remember the past and how we understand the past and how we define ourselves through the past and our understanding of the past.

Will social media platforms that allow people to record every moment of their lives change the way we document history and how we decide that something is noteworthy?

Because of the advent of social media, it changes who becomes, and who we consider, as important in our society.

A museum will typically only display about 10 per cent of the works that it owns, because there is only so much space on the wall. What a curator's job to do is to select works from that enormous collection and to frame them and exhibit them in a way that tells a certain kind of story. In different times, those stories are going to be different, even if we're looking at the same material. The way we understand the past is going to change our beliefs and the decisions we make about how we choose to understand that past.

Will our modern obsession with documenting all the mundane aspects of our lives help or hurt the human experience and the way we remember the past?

What I find is that there is usually a generational divide where older people say, "Well this is too much, and we have to make decisions about what we keep, what we save," while younger people are much more cavalier about it and say, "Oh we just take seven million pictures and save everything on my phone and don't even bother printing them off and selecting them."

The reason why older people would have greater discomfort with it is because older readers are more likely to have the experience of packing up a deceased parents' house or downsizing or packing up a child's room after they've grown up and moved out.

The reality is, we have to contain our ancestors. Genetically, we contain our ancestors. That is the obligation that mortality imposes upon us, this requirement that we curate our ancestors lives.

Young people are also immersed in a more fleeting time of life, where changes are more constant. "I just graduated from college and now I'm moving on to my first job." Everything is much more compressed, whereas an older person is more likely to be living in the same place for a longer time, having more stable relationships. Also young parents, and I am one – I have four small children – are very aware of the fleetingness of their children's lives.

A lot of this is a fear of mortality. So much of what we post online are these fleeting things. Whether it's something as casual as here is a lunch that is about to get eaten, or something like a baby who is going to grow up, this is an attempt to fight mortality. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

The enigmatic Franz von Papen and the crystal vase

Backstory

EROL ARAF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

No Weimer-era politician played a greater role in placing the crown of tyranny on the brows of Hitler than Franz von Papen. And yet he was a man of irreconcilable contradictions, for no sooner had he engineered Hitler's appointment as chancellor in 1933 than he expressed serious doubts about the excesses of Nazi terror. Von Papen almost paid with his life for that affront during the Night of the Long Knives, when friends and associates were murdered, but he ultimately remained loyal to Hitler's Germany.

Von Papen served the Third Reich with distinction as ambassador to Austria and Turkey, but was free of personal animosity toward Jews. He faithfully supported Nazi policies of the deportation of Turkish Jews in France by advising the Turks not to interfere in these matters, but worked with the Vatican's Apostolic Delegate to Turkey, to save Jews. During the Nuremberg trials, he inadvertently admitted that he knew about the deportation of Jews from France, but later stated that as a devout Catholic his conscience could never have accepted the mass murder of Jews.

This was the man who walked into my father's store of ornaments and tableware soon after his appointment as Reich ambassador to Ankara on a bitterly cold day in November 1939. He had done his research – he knew that my grandfather, Aron Araf Effendi, was the secular head of the Jewish community of Ankara and that my father, Elijah Araf, spoke fluent German. Elijah was speechless. He had attended the Olympics in Berlin in 1936 and knew that the times were hard for German Jews.

They chatted for a while, and von Papen bought a blue crystal vase for a returning diplomat at the German embassy. After that visit, the von Papens became regular customers and other members of embassy also shopped at Elijah's store.

At the time, the Araf clan lived in a mansion opposite the synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of Ankara. Based on the recollections of my relatives, the house had a courtyard redolent with the harmonies of an Andalusian garden. Sensuously ornamented arches, sun-washed ivory white plastered walls seducing the changing colours and shadows of the day, receding soft rounded edges, cupola crowned portals supported by mosaic embroidered columns – all embracing the effervescent fountain.

The fount was embedded in a rainbow-coloured floral enclosure displaying winter aconites, snow drops and wind flowers intertwined with eruptions of hyacinths and inevitable darling roses of the East. The Sephardi oasis, in the shadows of two thorn trees, was surrounded by a horseshoe-shaped three-storey building crowned with orange cream coloured terracotta tiles.

They were nine brothers and sisters: Vitali and Daniel were doing their military service; Joseph, the youngest brother, was studying law at the university; Virginie, the eldest daughter had married, but Elijah, Rachel, Perla, Rosa and Eliza lived at home with Aron and his devoted wife, Karen.

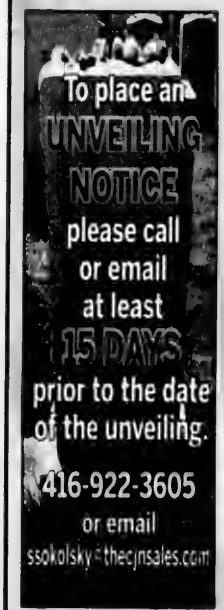
The last time Elijah saw von Papen was in Karpich Baba, the only restaurant of quality in Ankara, in the company of a man of the cloth whom we identified, years later, as Giuseppe Angelo Roncalli, the future Pope John XXIII who was then serving as Apostolic Delegate to Turkey. Just as Goering had saved von Papen's life during the Hitler purges, Roncalli too saved him from the noose, as he testified that the German diplomat had worked with him to save Jews during the war.

In the final analysis, was von Papen a suave, aristocratic and cultured Dr. Faust who fell into the web of Mephistopheles' blandishments? Or was he Mephistopheles masked as Dr. Faust?

Heinrich Heine may have provided the answer:

"I called the Devil and he came
And then I saw with a wandering gaze
He was not hideous, he was not lame
But a genial man with charming ways,
A man in the very flush of his prime,
Experienced, suave and in touch with his time,
As a diplomat, his talent is great,
And he speaks wisely of church and state." ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES



Steeles Memorial Chapel

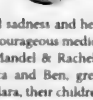
Lebane, Herb	Jan. 20, 2016	7300 Yonge St
Lax, Rachel	Jan. 20, 2016	Private
Kirschner, David (aka Kirshner)	Jan. 20, 2016	343 Clark Ave
Preisman, Alla	Jan. 20, 2016	Private
Helfand, Larry	Jan. 20, 2016	331 Coldstream Ave
Dolman, Howard	Jan. 21, 2016	40 King High Ave
Baldor, Timma	Jan. 21, 2016	28 Hollywood Ave
Moses, Agnes	Jan. 22, 2016	147 Elder St
Luftspring, Rose	Jan. 23, 2016	784 Centre St
Kind, Shoshana (Suzi)	Jan. 23, 2016	135 Antibes Dr
Erdos, Joseph	Jan. 23, 2016	Private
Grunhut, Gertrud	Jan. 24, 2016	110 Promenade Circle
Lazar, Ida	Jan. 24, 2016	1500 Steeles Ave W
Engel, Ilan	Jan. 26, 2016	50 Disera Dr
Wasserman, Jerry Saul	Jan. 26, 2016	22 Clarissa Dr

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Esther Cohen	Jan 30/16	15 Barberry Place
Sidney Olyan	Jan 28/16	1 Canterbury Place
Perry Silver	Jan 30/16	63 Painted Rock Ave.
Rae Resnickoff	Jan 31/16	29 Daffodil Avenue
Sarah Cohen	Feb 1/16	550 Cummer Avenue
Ronald Glick	Jan 31/16	10 Old York Mills Rd
Faye Miller	Jan 31/16	122 McAllister Road
Murray Hyman Leff	Jan 30/16	
Harriet Pinkus	Feb 3/16	484 Steeles Ave. West
Betty Weinberg Geiger	Feb 2/16	4383 Bathurst Street
Joe Goodbaum	Feb 3/16	30 Bobwhite Crescent
Arthur Skolnik	Jan 27/16	57 Ingleside Drive
Sam Reznick	Feb 4/16	158 Palm Drive
Vera Sylvia Weinstein	Feb 3/16	3 Concorde Place
Jordana Stepak	Feb 5/16	562 Eglinton Ave. East

HEBREW DASIC

Morris Max Klegerman	Jan 30/16	445 Bathurst Street



Sara Blumenfeld

December 25, 1927– February 2, 2016

With profound sadness and heavy hearts we announce the passing of Sara Blumenfeld on February 2, 2016, following her courageous medical battle. Sara was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Sam, sister Hannah, and parents, Mandel & Rachel Mayer. She is survived by: children Dalia, Ray and Miriam, grandchildren Zachary, Jessica and Ben, great grandchildren Nathan, Benjamin, Sadie and Mackenzie; brother Rubin, sister-in-law Clara, their children Faye, Norman and Sam, and their families; as well as sister-in-law Bianca and the Blanaru families. Sara is also mourned by Gary, Jason, Julia, Carol, Sym, Kathleen, and numerous family and friends in Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, and Israel

Born in Romania in 1927, Sara and Sam immigrated to Canada in 1953, escaping the horrors of World War II and were part of the movement of refugees who took part in Israel's fight for independence in 1948. Their story is similar to many Jewish immigrants who arrived in Canada to start a new life and raise a family in a land of opportunity, free from religious persecution. They arrived in this country with very limited resources and had to learn to adapt to a new land, a new culture and a new language. Their drive and determination which had held them so well throughout their young lives translated into success in their new home land.

The quiet but strong matriarch of a large and extended family, Sara was the rock that held the family together through good times and bad and supported her husband Sam in all of his endeavours. Sara and Sam travelled extensively and she delighted in the memories they collected over the years from trips throughout Canada, the United States, Israel and Europe. Many happy hours were shared by the family looking at photos and reminiscing about long car trips, many great meals and wondrous sights.

Sara loved to entertain and her household was the site of countless family dinners and happy celebrations. Her ability in the kitchen was revered and though many tried to duplicate her delicious chicken soup or fabulous chocolate cake, few were able to meet the challenge. Sara's creativity and perseverance was shown in the large and extraordinary needlepoints she sewed which were proudly framed and hung on the walls of the family home. An intelligent, strong, kind, thoughtful, compassionate, and determined woman devoted to her family and her friends, Sara was well read, loved watching movies and was amazingly adaptable to whatever situation she found herself. Her legacy and her memory will be carried on by the growing family she deeply loved and the many friends she touched throughout her remarkable life.

The family wishes to thank and recognize Sara's daughter Miriam for the devotion, love, friendship and assistance she unselfishly provided her mother. Appreciation and gratitude are also extended to Dr. Claudia Petrescu, the entire Amica Thornhill community whose compassion and friendship undoubtedly enhanced and enriched Sara's life, and the staff of 8West and the ICU at North York General Hospital.

An intimate funeral service and gathering of respects was held. If desired, donations may be made to the charity of your choice in honour of this truly elegant and beloved lady.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

100 DAYS OF GIVING

This year give a breath of life

To make a donation visit:

www.hospitalwithaheart.ca

Delivering over 22,000 babies each year creates many challenges for **Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.**

The hospital opened a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in 2014 which is state-of-the-art, and the largest in Israel, to respond to a growing demand for lifesaving care in order to treat more than 60 babies at a time.
Of the 130 low birthweight babies born last year, 57 weighed less than a pound.
Low birthweight babies struggle to breathe and depend on a respirator to sustain life.

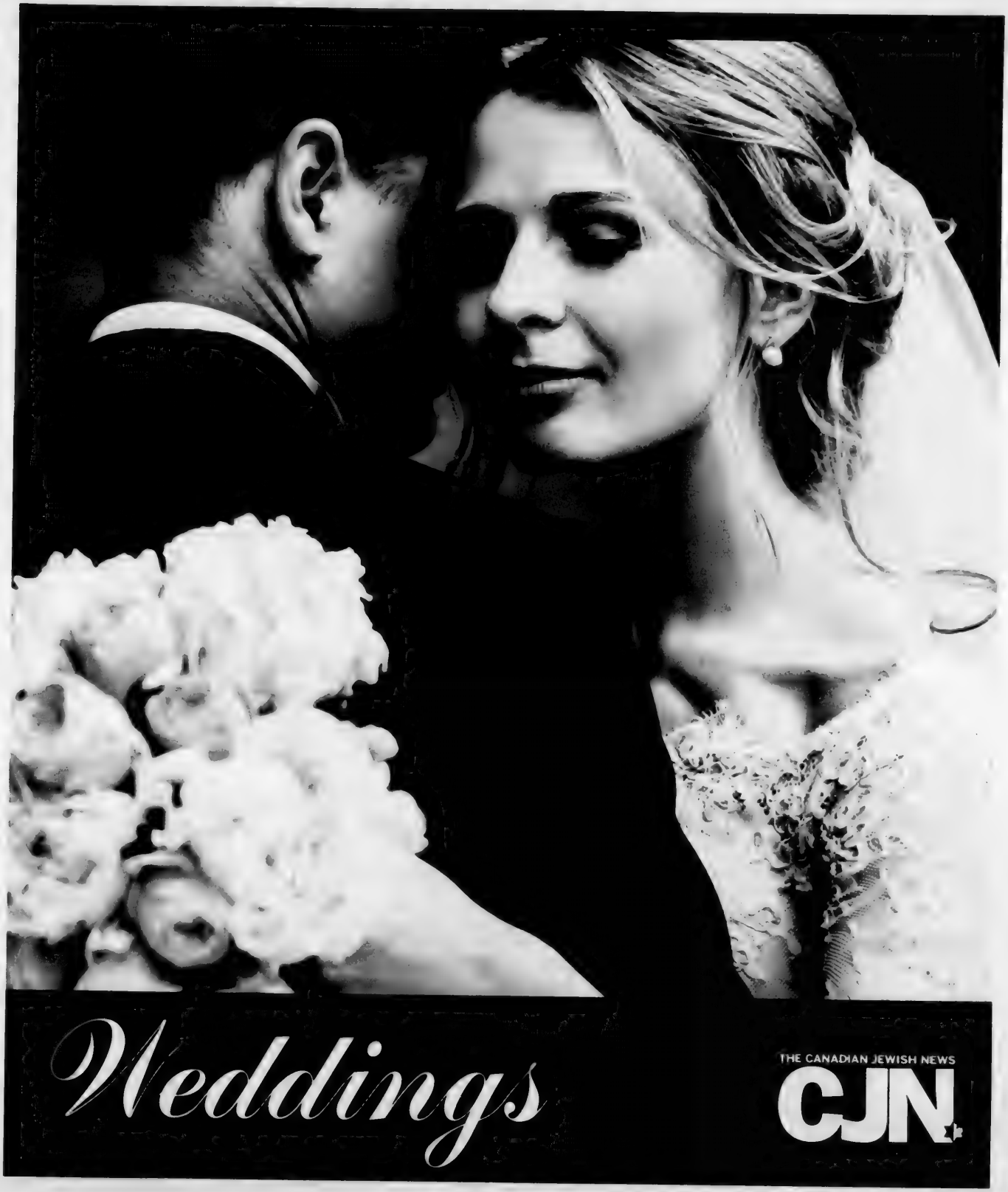
Donations to the *100 Days of Giving* Campaign were used to benefit the purchase of a respirator for our most fragile patients.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CAMPAIGN GIFT IN 2015

David Abramsky
Mark Altow
Alyson Arbus
Philip Barer
Barrday Inc.
Bridgeport Asset Mgmt
Elaine Chelin
Sam Cohen
Lisa Colt-Kotler
Brad Fox
Michael Garbe
Global Upholstery
Bernie Goldberger
Shawn Goldenberg
Michael Gordon
Helen Grad
Jessica Handelman
David Isenman
Connie Monson Kussner
Lagover Mutual Benefit Society
Rachel Lipsitz
Tadeusz Mejzner
Syd Moscoe
Susan Rainey
Kevin Rittenberg
Robins Appleby LLP
Sam Rosenzweig
Elaine Salkie
Alan Shiner
Rachelle Silver
David & Karen Smith
Harvey & Renee Solursh
Jonathan Solursh & Tamara Stieber
Roy & Loretta Tanenbaum
United Bakers
Robert & Cheryl Urback
David Usher
Elias Vandersluis
Peter Weinstein
Werber Investments
Davida Wolf
Aura Woznica

The Canadian
SHAARE ZEDEK Hospital Foundation
a hospital with a heart

3089 Bathurst Street, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A4
Tel: 416-781-3584 | Fax: 416-781-6439
Email: foundation@hospitalwithaheart.ca
www.hospitalwithaheart.ca


Weddings
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

SPONSOR CONTENT

Fontana Primavera a premier choice for any function

It's a gem of an event centre sitting in the heart of Vaughan.

Fontana Primavera specializes in kosher weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate conventions, seminars, fundraisers and other gatherings.

With four luxury banquet halls that can be separated or put together for a larger function, there are options for any sized event at Fontana Primavera.

Fontana Primavera can host anywhere from 20 to 1,100 guests, with dividable luxury ballrooms and large lavish bridal suites.

Bringing 45 years of experience, Fontana Primavera staff has mastered the art of banquet hospitality.

Phil Aiello says, "We have a fresh and modern architectural look. There is no facility that looks like this."

Elegantly landscaped lush gardens with gazebos and water features are perfect for wedding photos. The facility includes a large tent perfectly equipped for ceremonies and receptions.

What sets Fontana Primavera apart is its extravagant, lavish facilities including underground parking and exceptional white-glove service from its uniformed staff.

Elite, unique with a reputation for fine international cuisine, Fontana Primavera Event Centre prides itself on being a five star experience.

"We offer savoury tables, stations for sushi and lamb, and you can quench your thirst with your own signature martini from our flowing Prosecco display.

"We offer a variety of delicious desserts ranging from chocolate fountains to fresh fruit displays and sweet tables," Aiello said.

Fontana Primavera specializes in international cuisines including Italian, Portuguese, Greek and Russian.

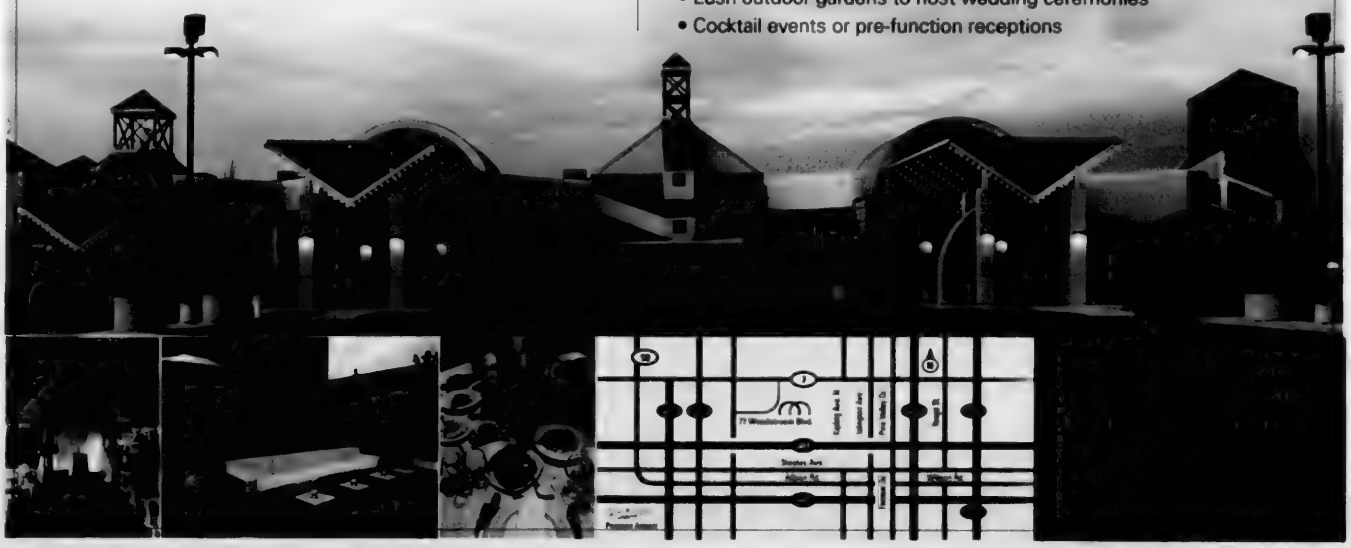
Come for a complimentary consultation with our knowledgeable creative staff, led by Frank Fuoco and Phil Aiello. ■

Visit our website at fontanaprimavera.com for more details. You can also email us at info@fontanaprimavera.com or call us at 905 -265-8100.

FONTANAPRIMAVERA
EVENT CENTRE

Fontana Primavera is the new standard for exquisite food and service fused with opulence. Our magnificent new facility includes:

- Kosher Kitchen
- Five luxurious banquet rooms
- Capacity to hold up to 1,000 guests
- Hotel-style bridal suites
- Lush outdoor gardens to host wedding ceremonies
- Cocktail events or pre-function receptions



SPONSOR CONTENT

Applause has set the bar in kosher catering

ELLA BURAKOWSKI
CJN STAFF

The collective gasp could be heard through the room as all our heads turned to see a row of professionally dressed, white-gloved servers entering the dining room carrying trays filled with white teapots, a cloud of thick steam escaping from each spout to create a magical mist floating above as they entered the room. The band played, as one by one, the teapots were placed in front of each guest. What an entrance for mango sorbet, which perfectly cleansed our palates in preparation for the next course. And all this after we had already been treated to one tantalizing course after the next.

From mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres, to the salad, which was presented like an exotic floral arrangement, to the succulent main course whose heavenly aroma could be sensed before it was placed artistically in front of each guest, this meal from start to finish was nothing short of a culinary experience.

Applause Catering has set the bar in kosher catering to a level that's unreachable for others. Every course engages all the senses as each plated masterpiece is set down in front of each guest. Every mouthful is a celebration and a burst of unexpected flavours that would please the most discerning palate. There were as many photos taken of the food as there were of the bride and groom.

What's the secret of this innovative, upscale kosher caterer?

Roshan Wanasingha, award-winning chef/partner of Applause Catering has never felt limited by what's available in the local market, and he doesn't let the restriction of being kosher limit his imagination when it comes to creating the perfect meal. His innovation and creativity have put Applause at the forefront of kosher catering.

Cary Silber, a partner in Applause Catering has many years of experience and understands the needs and desires of his clients. "We'll source products from around the world to make things different," he said. "We don't put ourselves into a box, we work outside of the box," he explained. "We'll use almond milk, soy milk, or other pareve ingredients that make it kosher. We can make a cream-based sauce pareve. We can do a pasta bar at a meat function where we give you good-tasting cheese and a creamy sauce."

David Silber, also a partner in Applause Catering and representing the next generation, brings his expert knowledge of the event industry to Applause Catering. He imparts his passion and attention to detail to ensure excellence. When it comes to evaluating what's popular in terms of food choices, you can trust David.

His brother Ryan Silber displays a zest for perfection and innovation with his research and knowledge of the most up-to-date trends, coupled with his fresh approach to what's new and possible.

"The experience that I have, I bring with me," Cary said, "and these guys are young and are foodies. We put those factors together and end up with a company of experienced foodies."

He enjoys being able to share this ride with his sons and has been able to fuse his 30 years of his experience with his sons' avant-guard contemporary visions.

"I'm able to impart a lot of my experience to them, so that when they're talking about catering or doing events, my experience comes into play," Silber said. "So even though they're young, their experience is rich. They started to work for me as dishwashers and worked their way up. They understand the business."

The beautiful wedding we attended is one I will not soon forget.

Applause Kosher Catering was the perfect complement to an enchanting evening at Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto. Its culinary vision and expert execution of each and every detail captured the essence of the evening and added to the perfection of the simchah, creating a special memory that stayed with every guest in attendance. The bride and groom had their dream wedding and Applause Catering played a big part in that magical evening. ■

To book a consultation with Applause Catering for any function, you can email Cary (cary@applausecatering.ca) or David (david@applausecatering.ca), or give them a call at 416-628-9198 or check out their website at http://www.applausecatering.ca

Can bridal fashionista turn Israel into the dress-up nation?

KAREN MCDONOUGH
JNS.ORG

It's already known as the "start-up nation." But can bridal fashionista Berta Balilti turn Israel into the dress-up nation?

Balilti, owner of Berta Bridal, presides over an internationally successful business, creating luxurious and glamorous wedding gowns sold worldwide. From her fashion house in the southern Israeli port city of Ashdod, she exports gorgeously detailed gowns to boutiques and stores in more than 20 countries.

This isn't your mother's wedding dress. Balilti is known for her shapely modern designs with signature daring bare backs, dramatic trains, and intricate lace and tulle.

She has certainly found her place in the multi-billion dollar wedding industry – $60 billion a year in the United States alone. And with the worldwide appeal of her designs, Balilti's spot as a high-end wedding gown designer has helped place Israel at the top of bridal haute couture fashion.

"There's nothing like Berta's dresses," said Renata Kukielka, the buyer for L'Fay Bridal in New York City. "She has brought something unique to this market, classic and sexy designs. Brides try her dresses on and most are in disbelief, they feel so gorgeous they don't want to take them off."

Balilti's success may have seemed unimaginable just a generation ago. Born in Cairo, Egypt, she emigrated at age three with her parents to Israel just prior to

1967's Six Day War, which had devastating consequences for Egyptian Jews. Years earlier, some of her family migrated to Paris with the help of the Jewish organization HIAS before coming to America.

Growing up in Israel, Balilti found her flair for fashion and dreamed of designing the ultimate dress for a woman's most important day. After graduating from Ramat Gan's Shenkar College of Engineering and Design, she worked during the day as a seamstress, and later, as a junior designer at a ready-to-wear company in Tel Aviv. At night, she sketched and sewed wedding gowns at home, determined to make her dream come true.

In 1995, she opened her first bridal salon, La Belle, a small shop where she was the sole designer and had a staff of about 25 people working for her. From the beginning, her business has been closely held, with family members helping out. Her daughter is one of her models.

Less than a decade later, in 2004, Balilti expanded – moving her operation into a larger space, turning her boutique into a full-fledged fashion house, and taking on the name Berta Bridal.

"We had reached a point in which I felt like the place became too small for my needs, in terms of production and the level of service I expect my team to grant my brides," Balilti told *JNS.org*. "Then we decided to move to our new place."

By 2005, the company had 15 retailers, and a year later more than 30 stores were carrying the Israeli-made gowns. A few years later in 2012, when her son-in-law Nir Moscovich joined the team, he took the company international, overseeing its global operations.

"Everything happened really fast in the international scene," she said. "We were constantly getting inquiries from brides and many retailers all over the world who wanted to carry my line."

Today, her gowns are sold at more than 60 retailers in close to two dozen countries, including in the U.S. department store giants Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom. Though she has made her dream come true, Balilti isn't complacent.

"I still chase my dreams," she said. "I'm grateful for all I have achieved so far, but there's much more ahead, and I have no plans of taking a break." ■

YOUR DREAM DAY

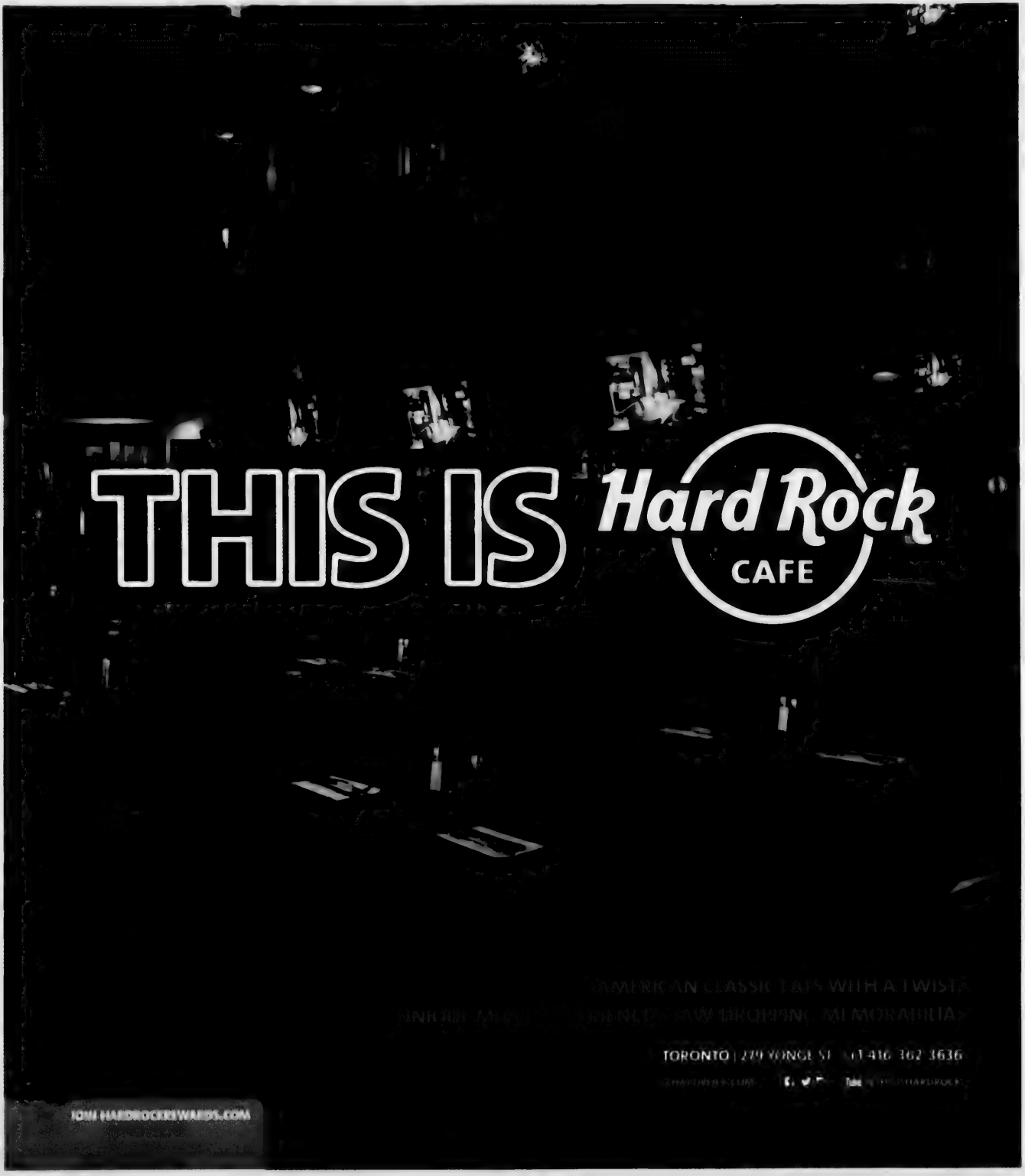
Westin ensures a flawless, unforgettable day. We are in the details, so you can be in the moment. Entrust us with your vision, and let us handle the rest. You will be free to focus on the vows you take and the memories you make.

Tucked away on 15 acres of serene parkland, our setting will inspire a magical day. All inclusive wedding packages are available.

For more information please visit us at:
WESTINPRINCETORONTO.COM/TORONTO-WEDDINGS
OR CALL 416 444 2511

THE WESTIN PRINCE TORONTO

spg. Starwood Preferred Guest
LE MERIDIEN aloft FOUR POINTS WESTIN THE LUXURY COLLECTION
W HOTELS ST REGIS element


THIS IS
Hard Rock
CAFE
TORONTO | 279 YONGE ST
10M HARDROCKBWARDS.COM

SPONSOR CONTENT

Hidden Thornhill treasure

Those looking to find items to enhance their upcoming weddings and simchahs, will find quite the treasure hidden in an industrial part of Thornhill, looking most unassuming.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary later this month, The Israeli Source shows no intention of resting on its laurels.

"Last year we reported a doubling in options available to customers looking to order kippot for their simchahs," says Chuck Elnekave, proprietor of The Israeli Source.

"Since then, we've almost doubled again."

With an absolutely jaw-dropping 500-million-plus kippah options, The Israeli Source's team of experts is well-versed in the various options available.

"Different fabrics, linings, shapes and sizes – so many options, there's just no reason why anybody can't have something unique," Elnekave elaborates. "One couple might be happy with the ubiquitous black suede kippah for their wedding. It's formal, reserved, and something that guests will likely use for years."

He remembers, however, a couple who came in wanting something different. "They showed me their wedding colour scheme, and they left with magnificent chocolate brown linen kippot with a minty green lining – it looked like someone had taken a bite out of a peppermint Aero bar! I absolutely love working with someone with an abundance of creative energy."

Kippot are not the store's only focus. Ketubahs and benchers are also a huge part of its repertoire.

"We work with most of the ketubah artists, big and small," says Elnekave, "and our commitment is to provide their works – the same pieces one can get from a fancy gallery – at the price for which The Israeli Source has become famous. With a large array of artists, The Israeli Source's roster of ketubah designers features some of the most sought-after, in-demand artists in the market today.

"And The Israeli Source is definitely the go-to spot for benchers," Elnekave says.

He proudly boasts of his work with the *Birkat Hamazon* booklets given out at many simchahs. "Not only are we competitive in pricing, and offer a great selection, we can offer turnaround times that would have been unheard of a few years ago.

Israeli Source has 500-million plus kippah options.

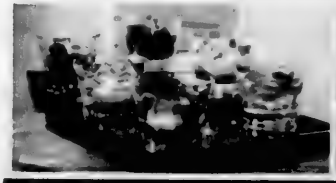
"But ultimately," says Elnekave, with a grin on his face, "what I'm most proud of, is what we can accomplish in terms of social and community benefits."

The vast majority of the kippot The Israeli Source offers are made in Israel. "With the situation the way it's been the past few months, we hear from studios in Israel how stores there suffer from a lack of tourists and that trickles down to a drop in production for them. So we're thrilled to be taking orders that give them work to do."

What advice would Elnekave give to those with upcoming simchahs? "As soon as you're ready, place your orders. We've seen, unfortunately, a rise in prices because of the weak Canadian dollar. Most articles from the foreign exchange experts seem to agree that the situation will get a bit worse before it gets better. Given that just about every kippah, bencher, and ketubah comes from suppliers who sell in U.S. dollars, it's best to place orders before prices jump again." ■

The Israeli Source is located at 60 Doncaster Avenue in Thornhill, and can be reached at 905-482-2025.

WILLIAM ASHLEY
SINCE 1947
Register for What you Love!
Discover the World's Largest Selection of Tableware, Kitchenware and Home Décor



REGISTER IN STYLE WITH A SPECIAL BREAKFAST!

55 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON • 416-964-2900 • Toll Free 800-268-1122
Shipping Available Across Canada. 2 Hours Free Parking in the Manulife Centre with Purchase

You have found your soul mate . . .

Say "I do" at Temple Sinai!

Host your upcoming simchah in our spacious, centrally located venue. Choose from five caterers who offer extensive menu options.

Start your Jewish life together at Temple Sinai.

We offer an affordable contribution structure and programs and activities designed with you in mind:

Age 26—$36
Age 27—$54
Age 28—$72
Age 29—$180
Age 31—$360
Age 30—$270
Ages 32 to 36—$540

Call us at 416.487.4161 to find out more about planning your memorable celebration and joining our Temple family!

TEMPLE SINAI
CONGREGATION OF TORONTO

210 Wilson Avenue, Toronto ON
416.487.4161 • info@templesinai.net
www.templesinai.net

Thank guests personally for their gifts

ELAINE COHEN
SUPPLEMENTS CO-ORDINATOR

With so many things to do between planning a wedding and settling down after the honeymoon, couples may be tempted to put off sending out thank-you cards. Opinions vary on the content of the messages or the means of communication, however, everyone agrees it is courteous to express gratitude without undue delay.

In the digital age, couples tend to set up wedding websites soon after they announce their engagement. These sites invariably include photo galleries, blogs, videos, links to bridal registries and other news. The celebrants may opt to email invitations to prenuptials and organize web posts to make announcements and acknowledge good wishes.

Although some people use online communication for everything connected to the occasion, many continue to order personal wedding stationery and send out stamped, addressed formal invitations and RSVP cards. In addition, they complement the order with thank-you cards to have on hand.

Author Peggy Post, an institute spokesperson for The Emily Post Institute, renowned for setting standards for etiquette practices in North America, sets three months as the maximum grace period before sending out thank you cards. She lauds personalized thank-you notes. She does not advocate shortcuts such as phoning and emailing. Moreover, purists lack enthusiasm for thank- you cards conveying the same message to everyone on the list.

Retired social worker Ann Gold, 68, moved to Montreal from New York in the '60s. "Between my children, grandchildren, former colleagues and friends, I'm invited to lots of simchahs. I send lots of gifts and I don't complain if recipients thank me by email or phone. Of, course, I prefer a handwritten personal card but even if it's an impersonal printed one, as long as I'm alerted that they received the gift, I'm satisfied."

Graduate student, Avery Levy, 26, advocates scrapping printed invitations, thank you cards and sending anything by regular mail. "It's the 21st century, online access is simple, free and quick."

Gold and Levy wish more celebrants would express thanks within a month after they received gifts. "In one instance, I couldn't place the name of the bride and groom on the thank you card because so many months had elapsed since the wedding," Gold said. "Fortunately, I made the connection a few weeks later when I was seated near them at a relative's bar mitzvah."

Levy and Gold have learned not to assume that gifts sent out automatically arrive in the right hands. "I was in a rush and parking was tough, so I left the gift, which was clearly addressed, with the doorman in the condo lobby," Gold said. "The next day, I saw the couple at the supermarket and asked if they received the gift. Evidently, the doorman had neglected to inform them it had arrived. Luckily, it had been safely locked away and they were able to retrieve it. Now, I make sure to check right away."

Experts offer the following tips on how to effectively acknowledge wedding gifts.

For starters, make a list of everyone invited to prenuptials and the wedding. Leave plenty of space to add names when unexpected gifts arrive from social or business acquaintances who were not on the invitation list. Note full personal and, if relevant, business names and co-ordinates. Describe the item, the source and date it arrived. Include a column to check off when thank you cards have been sent out.

Recipients of handwritten messages appreciate the personal spin on each acknowledgement. "It makes me feel special," Gold observes, "especially when people write something complimentary about the particular gift I sent them. If it's monetary, some even indicate what it is going toward." ■

Here comes the groom
Elegantly attired by Tom's Place
ENTER TO WIN
Wonderful Wedding Contest
Enter on our web site for a chance to WIN a $500 male wedding clothing credit for your wedding party compliments of Tom's Place. Draw April 1, 2016.
www.toms-place.com
NERVOUS BRIDES CAN RELAX
knowing that Tom is a Friend of the Groom and the Best Man to dress your wedding party!
Tom's Place will dress you perfectly for your wonderful wedding—whether it's formal or informal, destination wedding, traditional or contemporary, tailored suits, or classic tuxedoes—with all the accessories.
At Tom's Place, we help you achieve a look that's suited to your personal style, providing great value and amazing savings that will help you avoid the Wedding Bill Blues!
Call and ask for our wedding specialists and make an appointment to discuss your special day.
Established 1958
Tom's Place
We'll suit you.
Tom's Place | Kensington Market
190 Baldwin Street (just west of Spadina)
M-W 10-6 · Th-F 10-7 · Sat 9:30-6 · Sun 12-5
416-596-0297 | www.toms-place.com
facebook.com/TomsPlaceTO

Honeymoon in Québec City

ANITA SZABADI-GOTTESMAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Honeymoon choices can take newlyweds to far flung destinations from Bali to Barcelona, but for couples looking to stay a little closer to home while experiencing history, charm and time for relaxation, Québec City fits the bill.

Referred to as the crown jewel of French Canada by the travel experts at Lonely Planet, Québec City is a short car, train or plane ride from many Canadian cities. The drive from Montreal, at a distance of 255 kilometers, will get you there in just under three hours on highways 40 or 20.

As the capital of the province of Québec, Québec City's roots trace back to the extensive travels of French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1535 and the establishment of an official colony in New France by Samuel de Champlain in 1608. With its origins in the fur trade along with the logging industry, Québec City saw many battles between the English and French within its walls particularly on the Plains of Abraham, now a beautiful park enjoyed all year long by locals and tourists alike.

Québec City's Vieux Québec, (Old Town) is the only remaining fortified city in North America outside of Mexico. In 1985, it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Today's Québec City successfully blends old architecture from the 16th and 17th centuries with modern office and government buildings, which straddle the majestic north shore of the St. Lawrence River as it intersects with the St. Charles River heading towards the Atlantic.

As a major centre for French culture, the city is brimming with many museums including the Musée de la civilisation, and the Centre d'Interpretation Place-Royale, a historic museum featuring a dress-up costume room. The Fine Arts Museum showcases the largest collection of Québec art in Canada.

The Québec Winter Carnival has taken place every February since 1954 with a full roster of activities for young and old. For a ski honeymoon, Mont Sainte Anne and Stoneham ski centres are a short drive away. Romantic, fully appointed accommodations are plentiful, from the famed Chateau Frontenac with a view over the river basin, to familiar chain hotels and unique bed-and-breakfast choices.

The uniqueness of Québec City with its walled fortifications has earned its name as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. ANITA SZABADI-GOTTESMAN PHOTO

Dining is an art featuring exceptionally well prepared French cuisine along with more and more ethnic choices and locally sourced wines and cheeses. Famed French joie de vivre is evident everywhere along the walkable cobblestone streets of Vieux Québec through to the modern shopping centres located not far from the city centre.

A side trip to the famed Montmorency Falls is a must in the warmer months where the cable car takes you close up to the falls allowing for jaw dropping views of the St. Lawrence River and surrounding mountains. Hop up on a restored cannon, or ride the funicular from lower town to upper town for special honeymoon photo memories. Take a romantic caleche ride to learn more about this historical city.

Shabbat services are held at the city's Beth Israel Oheve Sholom Orthodox Synagogue. Chabad house is situated on the city's Université de Laval campus. Kosher catering services are available through the synagogue with delivery to many of the city's premium hotels. ■

Heidi Gruenspan
& Associates
Wedding & Party Planner
Specializing in Weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
20 years of experience / Very competitive rates
Full Service & Day of Event packages available. For a Free consultation please call
905-738-5030 ★★★ www.heidig.ca

SELLING OUT SALE
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $150-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Retail $150-$250. Now 5 shirts for $150. HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

SHARE YOUR HAPPY MOMENTS
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO TO
WWW.CJNEWS.COM/MAZELTOV

From Weddings & Holidays,
to Bar/Bat Mitzvahs,
You'll find what you need at
MATANA Judaica
Come Visit us at our newest location
855 Abness Street, Unit 1
North York, Ontario M3J 2X3
(South of Steeles Ave. W. between Sapertest Rd. & Dolomite Dr.)
905-731-6543
For the Finest Judaica in the GTA
Registration for Weddings & Bar/Bat Mitzvah available
Store Hours: Monday through Thursday 10:00 - 3:00
Friday & Sunday 10:00 - 2:00
Email: gifts@matanajudaica.ca
Bring this ad in to receive a gift with a minimum purchase of $50 or more before tax

Tiara Culinary Creations
'Glatt kosher events to remember...'
COR
The Venetian
PARTY PACKAGE
$118 per person all inclusive.
Shir Chadash Band
Includes venue, food, staff, photography, videography, orchestra and DJ
Other exclusive banquet halls available
Call 416-733-7773 ask for Joe or Perla
Email: party@tiara247.ca
Web: www.tiara247.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Tiara247

Vivah
2016 Bridal Collection
www.vivahjewellery.com
Visit our website for your nearest location
Sterling Silver Diamonelle Studs $8.99
When you spend $60
Sterling Silver Diamond Cut Bangle Orig. $109.99
Now $38 when you spend $150
Free Jewellery Roll When you spend $75

SPONSOR CONTENT

Choosing the perfect Ketubah

Authorized reproductions of historical ketubahs from The Jewish Museum.
COURTESY OF KETUBAH.COM

MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Finding the right Ketubah for your wedding can feel overwhelming. If you type "Ketubah" into Google, you get about 391,000 results! With so many artists, vendors, styles and texts, where do you begin?

These days, most couples choose a fine art Ketubah print with a design they love and a text that suits their ceremony. By following a few easy steps, you are well on your way to finding the Ketubah of your dreams.

What is your style?
Contemporary or traditional? Vibrantly colourful or quietly subdued? With lots of Jewish symbolism or none at all? If you like the idea of owning a true classic, consider an authentic historical reproduction of a centuries-old Ketubah from New York's Jewish Museum – updated with your names and preferred text. You can find your style from a wide range of Ketubahs on the market today, including papercut, gold leaf, 3-D and Japanese washi paper.

What size fits?
A Ketubah is most often displayed in the living room, dining room or bedroom. Ketubah prints are available in a variety of sizes. Do you envision a Ketubah that's big and bold, classic-sized (about 18 in. x 24 in.) or small and understated?

Which text is right?
To ensure smooth sailing at your wedding, you really do need to consult your rabbi or officiant about any text requirements they may have. Your Ketubah provider should offer a variety of possible texts for every wedding type – or you can write your own!

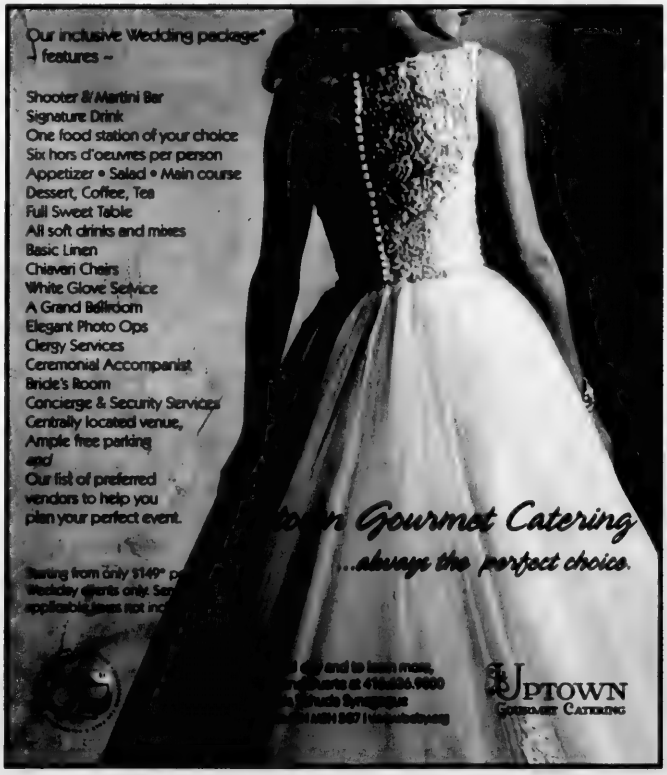
What's your budget?
It's common to spend one per cent to two per cent of the cost of the wedding. In most cases, an heirloom-quality, limited edition print or lasercut Ketubah should cost $300-$500 (Cdn) all in. If you have a larger budget, enhanced options such as stretched canvas or gold leaf are worth considering. With less to spend, a budget ketubah may be just the thing.

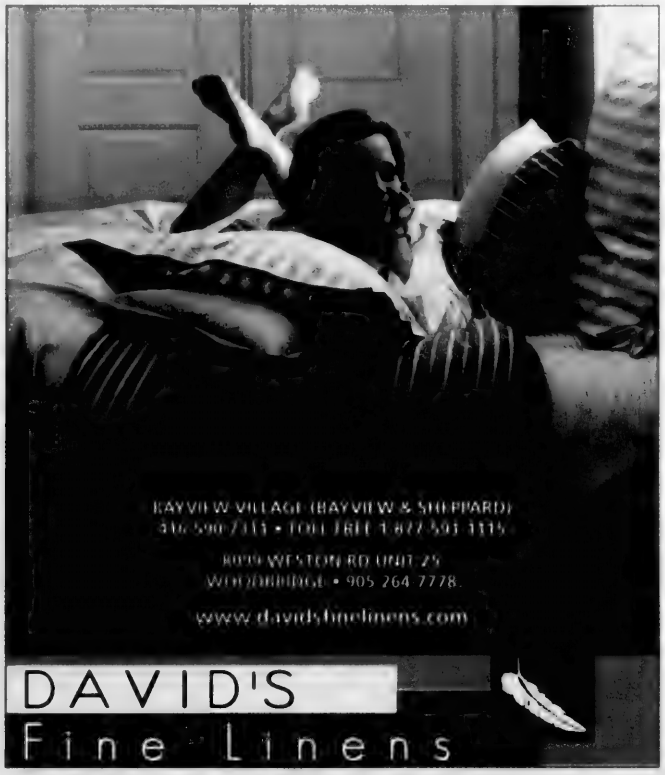
Planning tip:
If considering ordering from the United States, beware of the hidden costs. The prices tend to be similar – before you take into account the exchange rate – and you may be surprised with a big extra charge upon receipt for taxes and customs clearance. (And happily, the largest selection of Ketubahs is right here in Canada).

What's your timeline?
Ideally, your Ketubah should be ordered two to three months before your wedding. If your timeline is a bit shorter, no problem, although your options may be more limited. In a pinch, a reputable artist or ketubah company should be able to provide a Ketubah in as little as a week. When shopping online, look for a "Time to Door" calculator that specifies the timing for each Ketubah. If your wedding is this weekend, phone a local company that has in-house printing and discuss your options with a live person.

Bio:
Michael Shapiro is the founder and CEO of Ketubah.com, a Toronto-based company, celebrating 20 years online and outstanding "real person" customer service. ■

For more help finding your perfect ketubah, visit ketubah.com online or call 416-963-9191.





Make the broken glass moment last a lifetime

MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN
JNS.ORG

"Im eshkachech Yerushalayim, tishkach yemini." If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

Boom. Crush. Crackle. The final step of a Jewish wedding's chupah ceremony is the moment that the groom steps on the glass to shouts of "mazal tov!"

There are countless interpretations for the tradition of breaking a glass. Some see it as a reminder of the destruction of the First Temple of Jerusalem. Others say it is meant to remind us that marriage is as fragile as glass. It also has been interpreted to demonstrate how life is so fragile that the couple should enjoy every day as if it were their last together.

"Can you imagine – you can take a perfectly formed object and smash it....We are so perfectly formed as we stand under the chupah. It is true that life is fragile and sometimes fragmented, but HaShem [God] responds to a broken heart," says Chana Perelman, director of Judaica.com.

Whether progressive or traditional, religious or secular, Jewish weddings almost always include the breaking of a glass.

At some weddings, and certainly historically, people used light bulbs or wine goblets wrapped in cloth napkins. Today, however, there are many artists designing vibrant, trendy, and often hand-blown Jewish wedding-breaking glasses, and ultimately imaginative keepsakes in which to keep their shards.

Perelman says it was artist Gary Rosenthal who popularized selling beautiful breaking glasses. She highlights the breaking glasses of artist Sara Beames, who produces two different lines of glasses to smash – eight colours in hand-blown glass and five that come in an embroidered "*Ani l'dodi v'dodi li*" (Hebrew for "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine") silk organza bag.

Yet Perelman says the real joy comes not necessarily during the moment of the breaking, but when the couple decides to keep the glass.

"Assign a reliable person – family member or friend – to take care of getting the glass from under the chupah. The last thing you want is for it to get swept away by the hall," says Perelman.

What can you do with those shards? Here are seven ideas:

BOX IT UP

If you choose a dynamic breaking glass in a vibrant colour, simply boxing the shards in a Lucite or glass box can be a real attraction. The box can sit on a bookshelf or be displayed on a countertop. The box can be purchased at a craft or jewelry store. Keeping such a box around, says Perelman, reminds the couple of that happy "mazal tov moment."

BAG IT

Shari Klein created a keepsake to help engage her to-be step-children in the wedding ceremony. Today, it beautifies her new home. It was a do-it-yourself project. She purchased an off-white muslin bag with a drawstring and fabric crayons. The children – two boys, ages six and eight – were asked to draw what they felt depicted the special day on which their dad would marry his new wife.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Artist Gary Rosenthal's "Ahava" broken wedding glass keepsake photo frame.
GARY ROSENTHAL PHOTO

Wedding and
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Videos
Extensive experience with all Jewish events
Cleaner set-up, best coverage & workmanship
Better equipped, using a real TV camera
Hi-Def/Blu ray/USB, incredible visual quality
Smaller simpler events start at only $600
Details, Q&As, short samples at our website
Video by Josh Israel
www.videobyjosh.com
905-709-9277

A Wedding Gift from
Enrico
BEAUTY SALON
Let the expert team at Enrico Beauty Salon pamper you before your special day with customized up-dos, bridal party styling and relaxing spa treatments.
As a Forest Hill landmark, our award-winning salon will go above and beyond to make Brides look and feel their best for the big day. Enrico's is now also offering a complimentary Refresh Facial for Brides when booking their hair consultation. Just say, I Do!
Call 416 482 8055 to book your wedding consultation today.
68 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto, ON M5N 1A5
Offer ends June 30, 2016

YOU CAN READ
OUR SPECIAL ISSUES ONLINE
www.cjnews.com/supplements
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN

Creations of artist Sara Beames, who produces hand-blown glass, to break at Jewish weddings, and tzedakah boxes. SARA BEAMES PHOTOS

"When we brought it to the chupah, the rabbi was able to acknowledge it, and it made the boys feel good and included," says Klein, explaining that now they are planning to frame the drawing with the glass and put it up in their house.

USE IT FOR A MITZVAH

Artist Faye Miller tells *JNS.org* that among her most popular keepsakes are mezuzahs and kiddush cups. Beames says tzedakah boxes are among her hottest buys. Broken glass from a wedding can be incorporated into any of these items.

"My personal favourites are keepsakes that help you perform a mitzvah," notes Perelman, who says these types of wedding keepsakes sell well on Judaica.com. She says a couple can place the tzedakah box by their candlesticks and give tzedakah as a family every Friday evening, collecting from their children as the family grows.

DESIGN A PIECE OF JEWELRY

The bride can take a piece of glass and commission a keepsake piece of jewelry. A search on Etsy.com reveals a lampwork necklace from the broken glass of a Jewish wedding, created by Sari Glassman, who explains on the product page that she melted the pieces from the broken glass in the flame and added to them a 22-karat gold leaf.

"Do you know a woman who wants to get married? This necklace will bring her luck," writes Glassman though it will also be a piece to cherish for a woman who has already married her soulmate.

CREATE POTTERY

Perelman recommends embedding wedding glass shards in a piece of pottery. One can visit a paint-and-glaze store and ask to use the glass as part of a mosaic pottery project, or commission an artist to create their ideal piece.

Search for another craft idea, or come up with your own!

Pinterest is an excellent platform for finding creative ideas for what to do with your broken wedding glass shards. Put "broken glass art" in the search bar and you'll find everything from mirrors, to mosaics, to glass bottle collectibles, to garden stepping stones.

Faye Miller says it's a joy to work on breaking glass keepsakes.

"I think the glass shards themselves are beautiful, and the fact that they harken back to the earliest days of the Jewish people is very meaningful," says Miller. "How wonderful to have a piece in your home that evokes memories of our people as well as the special moment when you became husband and wife. I love my job and consider it an honour when brides and grooms select my art for their wedding glass." ■

YOU'VE MADE THE PERFECT MATCH AND NOW YOU WANT THE PERFECT WEDDING

Whatever your traditions, values, rituals or customs we will work together to create the exact ceremony that reflects your unique union. As an interfaith officiant I am versed in many cultures and languages to meet your needs for this very special day.

CUSTOM WEDDING CEREMONIES
Catherine Kentridge
LICENSED WEDDING CELEBRANT
www.customweddingceremonies.ca
416-530-2942 · info@customweddingceremonies.ca

"Thank you for making our wedding so special. You weaved together our Jewish and Scottish traditions to create a truly unique and memorable ceremony." Kim and Paul

BEING JEWISH DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE EXPENSIVE!®

THE ISRAELI SOURCE

WHERE YOU CAN EXPECT TO FIND CANADA'S BEST DEALS ON ALL YOUR JUDAICA NEEDS!

GREAT DEALS ON JEWISH SIMCHA FAVOURS!

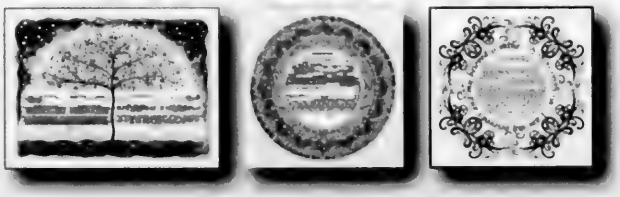
PERSONALIZED KIPPOT

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

- CANADA'S BEST PRICES ON ALL YOUR FAVOURITE STYLES OF KIPPOT - SUEDE, LINEN, SATIN, SPORTS MESH, CROCHETED, AND MANY OTHERS!
- A REVOLUTIONARY SYSTEM OF KIPPAH CUSTOMIZATION THAT ALLOWS FOR OVER 400 MILLION DIFFERENT KIPPAH STYLES, SO YOU CAN HAVE A STYLE ALL YOUR OWN!
- MOST KIPPAH STYLES MADE IN ISRAEL, SO YOU CAN ENHANCE YOUR SIMCHA WHILE DOING A MITZVAH SUPPORTING ISRAELI BUSINESSES!

STUNNING KETUBAHS

TO LAST A LIFETIME!



- CANADA'S BEST PRICES ON KETUBAHS FROM ALL THE HOT AND UP-AND-COMING ARTISTS, INCLUDING MICKIE CASPI, DANNY AZOULAY, MELANIE DANKOWICZ, AND EMANUEL BENSOLOMON!
- FOUND A DESIGN YOU LIKE ELSEWHERE? CONTACT US BEFORE YOU ORDER - WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU SOME CASH!

PERSONALIZED BENCHERS

THAT YOUR GUESTS WILL WANT TO KEEP!

- CANADA'S BEST PRICES ON ALL YOUR FAVOURITE BENCHERS, FROM SIMPLE, BUDGET-FRIENDLY TO EYE-POPPING MASTERPIECES!
- BEAUTIFUL AND CUSTOMIZABLE PERSONALIZATION AVAILABLE - WE WORK WITH YOU TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!
- SAME-DAY RUSH SERVICE AVAILABLE ON SOME STYLES!

LET OUR SIMCHA EXPERTS HELP YOU ENHANCE YOUR EVENT! RUSH ORDERS AVAILABLE!

60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill · info@israelisource.com · (905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18
SUNDAY 10-5 / MONDAY-THURSDAY 10-6 / FRIDAY 10-2
www.israelisource.com - 24 HOURS A DAY

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

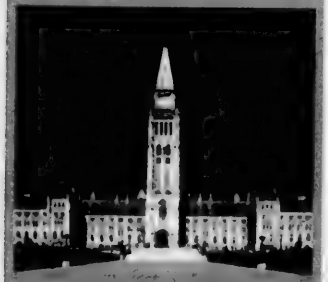
CJN

FEBRUARY 25, 2016 • 16 ADAR I, 5776

$2.00 • 60 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

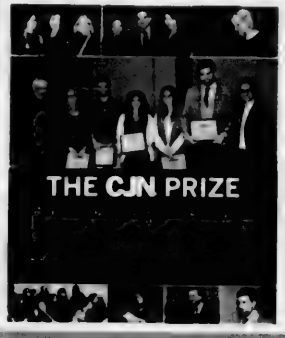
Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan

Inside



Taking on BDS in the House of Commons

Liberals back Conservative resolution that rejects boycotts against Israel. **PAGE 13**



The inaugural CJN Prize

Read the winning essays, and relive the awards ceremony.
SPECIAL SECTION

KI TISA

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:39 p.m.	6:43 p.m.
Montreal	5:18 p.m.	6:23 p.m.
Ottawa	5:26 p.m.	6:31 p.m.
Toronto	5:43 p.m.	6:46 p.m.
Winnipeg	5:47 p.m.	6:56 p.m.
Calgary	5:53 p.m.	7:03 p.m.
Vancouver	5:12 p.m.	6:40 p.m.

Victor Goldbloom's lasting legacy

Looking back at the life of a Canadian Jewish icon. **PAGES 8, 25-26**

Vancouver has a concert controversy

Co-sponsor withdraws from Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration over Noa performance. **PAGE 15**

Adoption isn't just about newborns

Supporting older kids in foster care has its own unique rewards. **Second of a three-part series PAGE 20**

Remembering a legal pioneer

Constance Glube, Canada's first female provincial chief justice, was a trailblazer. **PAGE 12**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 @irvish.com

6 27843 39403 7

Rocker joins Jewish gun rights group, and Texas inmate lays tfillin

Ted Nugent sorry for 'offensive meme'

Ted Nugent joined a Jewish gun rights group after apologizing for posting an image on Facebook that blamed prominent U.S. Jews for gun control. Nicki Kenyon of the Zelman Partisans said last week that Nugent, 67, accepted the group's honorary membership offer. The right-wing 1970s rocker was rapped by Jewish groups for posing a graphic Feb. 8 that included Jews such as former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel and New York Sen. Chuck Schumer branded with Israeli flags. Kenyon said Nugent isn't an anti-Semite and that he apologized to him for posting "a nasty and offensive meme."

A bar mitzvah on death row

A Jewish inmate in Livingston, Texas, who's been on death row for 15 years, put on tfillin for the first time earlier this month with the help of a Jewish chaplain. Rabbi Dovid Goldstein, director of Chabad-Lubavitch of West Houston, met Jedidiah Murphy a few months ago while visiting another inmate and spent three months getting permission for him to lay tfillin. Death-row inmates can't have direct contact with visitors, so Murphy put on the phylacteries behind glass under the rabbi's direction. Murphy was raised by Jewish grandparents, but entered foster care before age 13 and never had a bar mitzvah. The pair marked the milestone with chips and soft drinks. Murphy shot and killed a 79-year-old woman when he was 25 and used her credit cards to buy alcohol and cigarettes while high on cocaine.

Some of his best friends are Jews (with guns).

Serbia adopts Shoah restitution law

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and the Canadian Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants (CJHSD) joined the World Jewish Restitution Organization this month in welcoming a new Serbian law that will address heirless and unclaimed Jewish property expropriated during the Shoah. Its the first such law passed since Serbia and 46 other countries endorsed the 2009 Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and Related Issues, which called for restitution of heirless Jewish property. The CJHSD called it "a vital first step" in getting signatories to fulfil their restitution pledge. ■

Gematria

7,000

Archeologists unearthed a 7,000-year-old settlement in northeast Jerusalem, the oldest evidence of settlement in the area.

93

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN secretary general and an Egyptian cabinet minister who played a key role in the Camp David accords, died Feb. 16 at age 93.

Quotable

66

We have lost a man admired by one and all, and a politician committed to bringing communities closer together.

— Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard speaking about the late Victor Goldbloom. See p. 8.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz explores summer programs in Israel.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 31	Parshah 43
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 40	Q&A 46
Cover Story 8	International 27	Social Scene 42	Backstory 47

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOLDBLOOM FAMILY

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

מצבת הנצח

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
UNIT 21

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Keeping Jews Jewish

In "Keeping the next generation Jewish," (Feb. 11) rabbis Lisa Grushcow and Daniel Korobkin overlook one demographic fact. The main supplier of people to the non-Orthodox movements are the formerly Orthodox. The larger Orthodox birth rate have always supplied more Jews to the non-Orthodox movements than those lost to assimilation.

All Jewish denominations have their roles within the Jewish People in preventing assimilation loss. Without non-Orthodox movements, there would be a far greater loss.

Eric Mendelsohn
Toronto

I feel compelled to respond to Rabbi Lisa Grushcow who opines "It is possible to take Judaism seriously without being within the context of Halachah."

Judaism exists because the Hebrews were taken from Egyptian servitude to Mount Sinai and given the gift of Torah, a system of laws, morals and beliefs, and thereby became Jewish. The early fervour with which they embraced their new lives threatened to burn out Moses and led to the establishment of the Sanhedrin.

The totality of Torah and rabbinic law is Halachah, and adherence to these precepts defines us as Jews. Not all of us are observant, it's true, but I do not understand how we can abandon the primary tenets of our religion and still be Jewish. Those who believe that it is possible are merely Jew-ish, and their grandchildren will be secular.

Jerry Paskowitz
Toronto

'No one need suffer alone'

As a member of the Jewish community and a mental health advocate, I was pleased to be present at this important event, but also simultaneously dismayed ("Panel on depression and suicide 'strikes a chord,'" Feb. 11).

While society is working hard to address stigma associated with mental illness, it saddens me that the catalyst for this event was suicides in the Jewish community. Given that one in five Canadians are affected by mental illness, chances are that we, or someone close to us, are suffering. However, no one need suffer alone and in silence.

I hope that this event will open up a plethora of conversations, formal and informal, large and small, with the hopes that we can build a community of awareness, understanding and hope.

Rachel Cooper
Toronto

Equity issues are on the table

I read the letter from people concerned with Jewish social justice ("Rekindling the light of Jewish social justice," Feb. 4), many of whom I know and admire, with some consternation.

They were implying that the organized Jewish community is not adequately involved in social justice issues. They failed to recognize the vital work undertaken by our federations, which raise funds for social justice work undertaken by professional agencies within the community. The writers also omitted the important work of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the advocacy arm of the federations. CIJA advocates to government at all levels on issues such as affordable housing, food security, services for people marginalized by their emotional, intellectual or physical challenges, protections for those targeted for hate (including the transgendered community), and poverty reduction policies.

While social justice work is usually not highly visible, it is vital for the general well-being of the community. I think that the federations and CIJA would welcome the volunteer participation of these thoughtful social justice advocates.

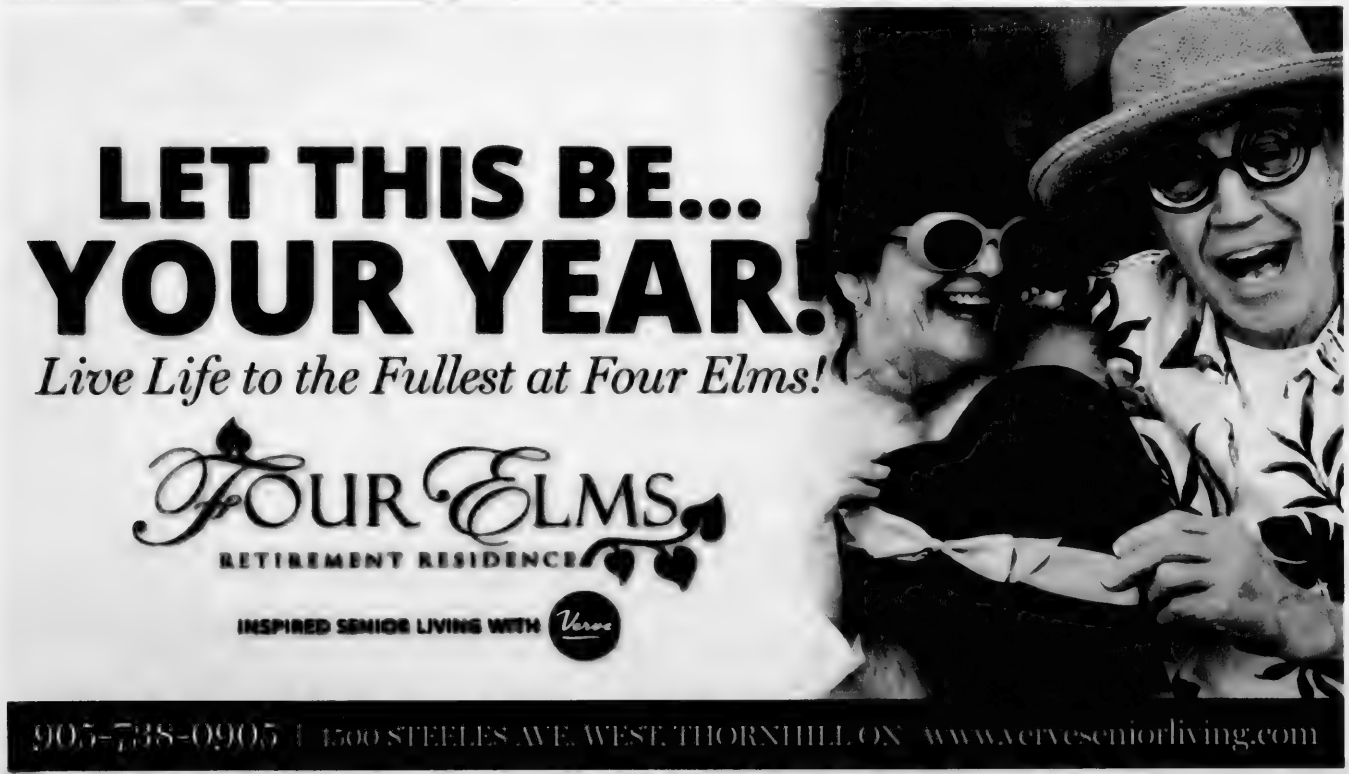
Fredelle Brief
Toronto

Question of the week

With the low Canadian dollar, have you noticed that your kosher food bill has gone up?

Let us know in 150 words or less at cjninfo@gmail.com

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.


LET THIS BE...
YOUR YEAR!
Live Life to the Fullest at Four Elms!
FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve
905-738-0905 | 1500 STEELES AVE. WEST, THORNHILL, ON | www.vervesenioriving.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to respect her values."

We needed a funeral that was economical. However, we didn't want to lose the Jewish traditions that were so important in our mother's life. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged a service that was fully observant. She would be proud knowing how we honoured her wishes.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Inspirational books for the beach

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only take 10 Jewish texts with you, which ones would you choose?

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO

RABBI MARK FISHMAN
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH, MONTREAL

Rabbi Fishman: There is a popular British radio program called *Desert Island Discs*, which asks famous politicians and well-known members of society to discuss their favourite songs. I would like to introduce a spinoff: *Desert Island Texts*.

Rabbi Splansky, If you were stranded on a desert island and could only take 10 texts with you, which would you choose, and why?

Rabbi Splansky: I've heard it said that rabbis really only have one sermon in them. We each have one core text and "riff" on it over and over again. I don't believe it. But maybe 10 core texts each.

If I were forced to choose, I might include Hillel's great balancing act: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot 1:14) Every lifetime is spent in search of fulfillment. Everyone wants to be good. Hillel's simple questions help to clarify the choices we make day by day.

If I were stranded alone on a desert island, I'd be better off asking these questions and doing my best to answer them.

Rabbi Fishman: I would like to introduce the possibility of taking an entire genre – that of the midrash – with me to the island. We have just come off the reading of Parshat Mishpatim, and in a fabulously important comment (21:2), Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch writes that the written Torah without the commentary of the oral Torah is practically a closed book. Each needs the other in order to fully understand what the text means.

I personally take this approach with midrashim on the narrative sections of the Torah, too. The legends, interpretations and the sometimes fanciful other aspects beneath the surface are Torah as well. When I teach my classes, I heavily rely on the interplay between both worlds – the text and the interpretation – to better understand Torah.

Rabbi Splansky: I never heard the radio program, so I don't know the rules of the game. Are you cheating when you take an entire genre of Jewish literature with you, rabbi?

I also delight in the rabbinic imagination and find midrashim are our finest teaching tools. Perhaps we should pack the phrase that says Torah "is not in Heaven nor is it beyond the sea… It is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it" (Deuteronomy 30:12-14).

This would be encouraging on a desert island. Creativity, interpretation and even improvisation have allowed Jewish life to flourish (or at least endure) in every time and place. Remember when Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon inquired about the proper time to make *Kiddush* in outer space?

On an uninhabited island we might ask "How do we study Torah?" The answer might be by pivoting the text at every angle until all 70 facets are gleaming in the sun.

Rabbi Fishman: If I had to choose one narrative, it would be the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. I never tire of teaching the story, and each time, I find greater levels of depth contained between the lines.

For me, this is a story of birth, maturation, temptation and failure. Yet, the story concludes with the optimistic stance that expulsion from the garden is our challenge to find our way back. With this backdrop, the Garden of Eden is not so much something humanity is given on a silver platter, but rather something that we earn through our own efforts, and ultimately something we can make for ourselves here on Earth.

Rabbi Splansky: The Garden of Eden narrative is hopeful, but it isn't joyful. One thing I know I'd need on a desert island is a joyful text to lift my spirits.

I may even pack up the chassidic rule of thumb: when in doubt, hum a niggun and think it through again. When fearful, hum a niggun – one beat for every step forward. When uplifted, raise your voice until, like Jacob, you "pick up your feet" (Genesis 29:1).

This was a fun start. I look forward to welcoming you to Toronto for our first Rabbi2Rabbi Live event. All are welcome to join us and *CJN* editor Yoni Goldstein for discussion and debate of Desert Island Texts on March 10. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 8 (2,234)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage | Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

FABRICLAND

Sensational Savings!

save up to 50% off our reg. prices on selected merchandise

Manufacturer's Clearout of
DRAPERY PANELS

Assorted designs & lengths. Individually priced.
50% off our reg. price

Fun
COTTON PRINTS
115cm Our Reg. $16 m,
Now $8 m

Sale in effect February 24-March 29, 2016, on selected in-stock merchandise. See our flyer for details.

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus)
NOW OPEN! Fabricland in RioCan Marketplace - 2181 Steeles W. (W. of Dufferin, E. of Alness)
OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU. www.fabricland.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

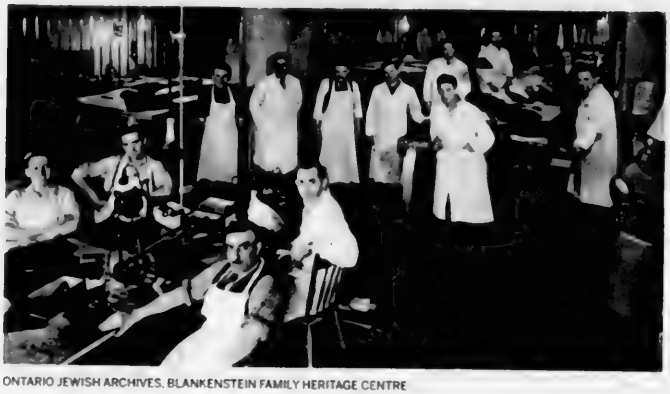
Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Michael Goldbloom, Ira Gluskin, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Meduck Steen, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

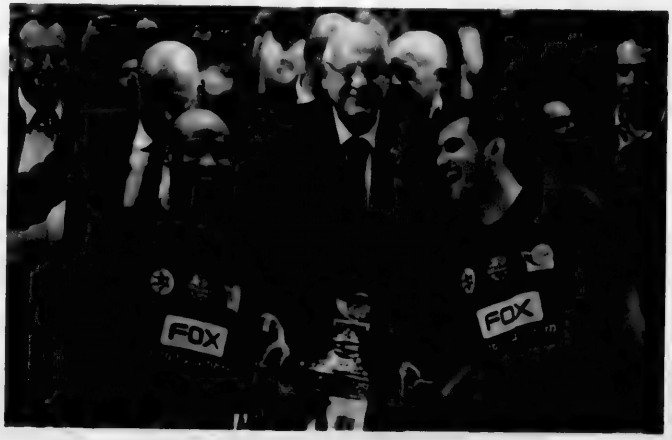
From the Archives | Furriers



ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Workers pose in one of the workrooms at the Kelman Furs Company on Spadina Avenue in Toronto sometime between 1935 and 1940.

SeeJN | Maccabi Tel Aviv wins title



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin presents the championship trophy to players Devin Smith, left, and Guy Pnini after Maccabi Tel Aviv won its seventh straight Israeli league basketball title Feb. 18 in Tel Aviv, beating Maccabi Ashdod 83-75. The win came after the team was eliminated earlier this month from the Eurocup tournament.

From Yoni's Desk

Looking back at the Liberals' first 100 days in power

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal party marked 100 days in power. It has been a busy time for the new government, filled with major policy decisions and more than a few reminders that the Trudeau Liberals do not intend to conduct business like the Harper Conservatives who preceded them. That reality is being felt acutely in the Jewish community, where reaction to the new government has been decidedly mixed. Consider some of the early Liberal decisions that have been particularly felt among Canadian Jewry:

• **Syrian refugees:** The Jewish community has been at the forefront of the effort to bring refugees from war-torn Syria. At the same time, many Jewish Canadians are concerned about potential security threats posed by refugees and have argued that Canada would be better off welcoming non-Muslim refugees, like the Yazidis, instead. With nearly 10,000 refugees still to arrive in Canada under the Liberal plan, it will be some time before we can determine which side is right.

• **The United Nations:** Early in its mandate, the Liberal government voted against a set of anti-Israel resolutions at the UN. More recently, there have been indications that Canada is vying for a seat on the Security Council, which routinely bashes Israel while ignoring serial human rights abusers and warmongers. If its early voting pattern is any indication, the Liberals might be able to act as a voice of reason at the UN. But if this government reverts to the earlier Liberal practice of abstaining at the Security Council, it will only embolden the Israel haters.

• **Palestinian aid:** In 2013, the Harper Conservatives cancelled Canada's aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). Now, the Liberals are considering restoring that funding. UNRWA's tainted history – including harbouring terrorist infrastructure and employing people with a decidedly, and public, anti-Israel bias – should cause the government to seriously consider whether re-funding UNRWA is the best way to help the Palestinians, and the prospects for peace.

• **BDS:** As reported in this week's *CJN*, the Liberals are supporting a Conservative resolution denouncing the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. The resolution calls on the government "to condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups or individuals to promote the BDS movement." Trudeau has been firm in his anti-BDS stance for some time, so whether or not the Conservatives backed the Liberals into a corner on this resolution, as some have suggested, this is clearly a win for Canadian Jews, and the State of Israel.

During the election campaign, Trudeau was adamant that Canada's policy vis-a-vis Israel would remain unchanged under a Liberal government. Since the election, though, others in his government, including Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion, have proven that there has nonetheless been a shift in tone. Within the Jewish community, some have argued that these two realities are not mutually exclusive – that friends can be critical of each other from time to time – while others pine for the days when Canadian Jews and Israel could count on Canada to have its back at all times. After 100 days, it's clear things have changed. What remains unclear is to what extent. ■ — YONI

OPINION

The folly of Ottawa's 'Hijab Day'

Sima Goel

Sima Goel

Muslim women who wear a hijab, do so because they believe it is a religious obligation.

An organization in Ottawa called the City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) is asking Canadian women in the nation's capital to offer support for the hijab, the head covering worn by many Muslim women. On Feb. 25, the group is holding an event titled, "Ottawa Hijab Solidarity Day" and is asking non–Muslim women to wear the hijab at Ottawa's city hall that day in a show of solidarity with their Muslim sisters.

As a non-Muslim woman who was forced to wear a hijab, this event brings back terrible memories for me. I was born and raised in Shiraz, Iran, and after the rise of the Islamic government, I was forced to wear a hijab. I was neither a supporter of the new regime nor a Muslim, and I bitterly resented having to hide my hair and comply with the new restrictive policies. But disobeying the rules was not an option for me. All women had to adhere to the same policy, without debate, and disobedience was met with severe consequences, such as arrest and the fear of being assaulted by acid-tossing vigilantes.

Although not all Muslim women wear the hijab, those who do, wear it because they believe it is a religious obligation. I have yet to meet a non-Muslim woman who wears the hijab as a form of cultural expression in Canada. However, I have met many devout followers of Islam who say that the hijab is not a required tenet of their faith.

Canada is a diverse, multicultural society, where many religious and cultural groups live together peacefully with mutual respect for each other's customs. Indeed, when Quebec's provincial government first proposed its controversial charter of values, I spoke out against the clause that limited the right of individuals, in specified circumstances, to wear symbols of their religion. Even so, I cannot abide the idea that non-Muslim Canadian women should demonstrate support for our Muslim sisters by wearing a hijab. The hijab is a reflection of religious beliefs – it is not a fashion statement.

Jews do not have a "Wear a Kippah Day" to support Jewish men. Sikhs never demanded a "Turban Day" to support Sikh males. So why have a "Hijab Day"?

Any Canadian woman can wear the hijab if she sees fit, just as any Sikh male can wear a turban. Canada is a free country, and Canadians have the right to live according to their own dictates, religious beliefs and social customs. Our laws have clearly established this. In this context, I cannot understand why we should gather and demonstrate our solidarity for a garment that is guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I have many Muslim friends and I am eager to know their customs but they never asked me to cover myself in solidarity for them.

New immigrants and refugees come to Canada for many reasons. Many find themselves caught between the traditions and culture of their homeland, and liberal Canadian attitudes. There is no question that coming to a new country can be difficult. I know. I have stood on both sides of the immigration line myself.

As Canadians, it is crucial that we remain faithful to the rights that are entrenched within our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. All forms of religious expressions are equal and none require special treatment. I am grateful that in Canada we have the freedom to express ourselves as we please, in contrast to the countries that make it mandatory for women to wear religious symbols, regardless of their belief.

My personal history with the hijab makes it impossible for me to accept covering my hair. I will forever identify the hijab with the repressive tradition of the Iranian Islamic government, which used its dominance of religion to control its people. I encourage Muslim women all over the world to promote their culture and identity – and I will gladly eat at their table, sing a song of celebration, and rejoice at their success. Nonetheless, to suggest we endorse their religious beliefs by wearing a hijab is unreasonable in this country, which has so clearly promoted the rights of minority members to live as they please.

I welcome my hijab-wearing Muslim sisters. But I refuse to wear the hijab as a prerequisite for their solidarity. And for the same reason, I would never dare ask them to remove their hijab in solidarity with non-Muslim Canadian women. In the end, my values are no more important than theirs. And after all, isn't that the Canadian way? ■

Sima Goel has been a practising chiropractor in Montreal since 1994. She is the author of Fleeing The Hijab, A Jewish Woman's Escape From Iran. *info@fleeingthehijab.com*

Victor Goldbloom proved the value of interfaith dialogue

Montreal Renaissance man spent his life building bridges between communities without ever trying to impose his views on others

NORMA BAUMEL JOSEPH
MONTREAL

A man for all seasons. Renaissance man. A mensch. All of these expressions are appropriate descriptions of Victor Goldbloom, who passed away Feb. 15 at the age of 92.

He was without doubt a great man. In all of his pursuits, as a professional or volunteer, he was exceptionally accomplished and successful. With deference and dignity, he took on diverse responsibilities that often put him in roles outside of his comfort zone, even outside of his various communities' accepted norms or public values. But he had a vision of the virtuous and the just. He had a dream of a good world, and he pursued that to our benefit. Without fear or posturing, without trying to impose his views on others, he quietly and steadfastly proceeded to engage in good acts and establish relationships with others in the world at large.

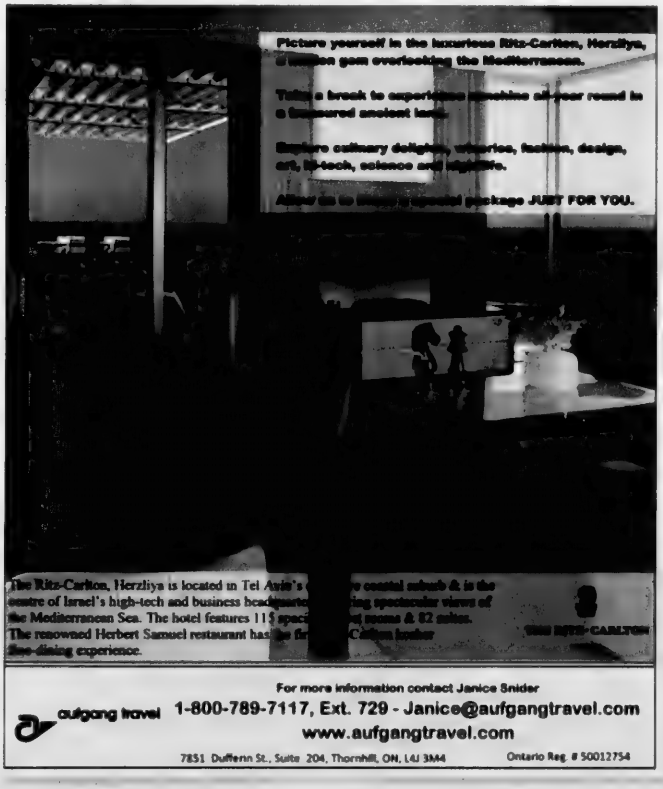
The biographical details are fascinating. Like his father, Anton Goldbloom, Victor was a pediatrician, a caring doctor who made house calls. He took care of children by learning to listen to the young ones, by discarding the surface appearance and delving deeply into signs, symptoms and history that the child could not express. Letters indicate repeatedly just how gentle he was with children.

Victor was talented in his vocation and in applying these professional skills to his other concerns. He transferred that gentleness to adults, even to his opponents. These gifts of his worked well in the world of politics, which he entered in 1966. He worked on the environment, the 1976 Montreal Olympics, conservation and in other communal, social and political venues.

But his most outstanding contributions may have been in the field of inter-communal connections. He titled his autobiography *Building Bridges*, for that is what he did. He worked with the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews to foster dialogue, and he worked to protect and foster the French language. Both of these activities were not easily undertaken.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Victor Goldbloom, who passed away Feb. 15, had a vision of the virtuous and the just.


Picture yourself in the luxurious Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya,
a hidden gem overlooking the Mediterranean.
Take a break to experience something all your own in
a treasured ancient land.
Explore culinary delights, wineries, fashion, design,
art, hi-tech, science and nightlife.
Allow us to create a special package JUST FOR YOU.
The Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya is located in Tel Aviv's
centre of Israel's high-tech and business
the Mediterranean Sea. The hotel features 115
The renowned Herbert Samuel restaurant
fine-dining experience.
THE RITZ-CARLTON
For more information contact Janice Snider
aufgang travel
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729 - Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON, L4J 3M4
Ontario Reg. # 50012754

A dedicated public servant, a loyal community leader

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Dr. Victor Goldbloom, the first Jewish Quebec cabinet minister, public servant, interfaith dialogue pioneer and eloquent Jewish community leader, died of a heart attack on Feb. 15 at age 92.

A physician by profession, Goldbloom was active and in good health until his sudden passing, his family said. Indeed, he intervened vigorously at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada conference a week before his death.

"The Jewish community of Canada has lost a beacon and one of the most outstanding leaders of our time. It was a privilege and honour to know Victor and to work with him in my role as chair of CIJA. His contribution to the Jewish community both in Quebec and Canada will continue to be remembered well beyond his passing," said David Cape, national chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

Premier Philippe Couillard called Goldbloom "a great politician."

"We have lost a man admired by one and all, and a politician committed to bringing communities closer together," he stated. "Dr. Goldbloom's inspiring career greatly influenced Quebec, in particular when he became the first environment minister. I would also like to stress the influence that he exercised, and will continue to exercise, on an entire generation of politicians and committed leaders."

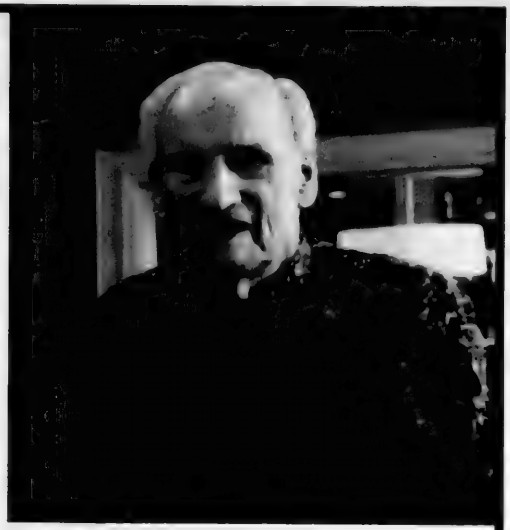
Born in Montreal on July 31, 1923, Goldbloom was the son of Dr. Alton Goldbloom and Annie Ballon and grew up in the downtown Golden Square Mile. He studied medicine at McGill University and followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a pediatrician.

In addition to his choice of career, Goldbloom said he learned from his father that the best way to combat anti-Semitism was to be fully engaged in society.

After practising medicine for some years, he entered provincial politics in 1966 as the MNA for the newly created riding of D'Arcy McGee in West End Montreal. He was re-elected three times.

When Robert Bourassa's Liberals took power in 1970, Goldbloom was named Quebec's first minister of the environment and was responsible for the province's first environmental protection act.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Thornhill's finest retirement community. Home to Thornhill's finest.

Like Jack Cooper, who has called the GTA home for decades. Jack raised his family here, ran a successful business here with his brother, and volunteered throughout the community, including a stint as President of his B'nai Brith lodge. Thornhill is lucky to have Jack, and so are we.

It's folks like Jack who inspire us at VIVA to fulfil our simple purpose: *Making Today Great!* With our warm and caring Team, delicious and healthy dining, breathtaking design, modern amenities, spacious suites, inspiring activities and so much more, we look forward to becoming home to more of Thornhill's finest.

ALL-INCLUSIVE | JEWISH CUISINE | INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING

DAILY TOURS AVAILABLE!

Second Person Free!*

Plus, ask about our

Winter Warm-up Savings

Traditions with a Twist Luncheon

Thursday, March 3rd at 12:00pm

Enjoy modern takes on classic Jewish cuisine by Executive Chef Mitchell Lash.

Call Wendy at 905-417-8585 to RSVP.

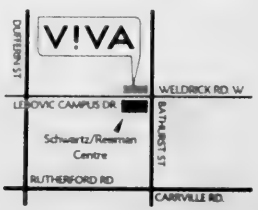
VIVA Retirement Communities

THORNHILL WOODS

Making Today Great!

9700 Bathurst Street
at Lebovic Campus Drive

Call 905.417.8585 or visit vivalife.ca



*Conditions Apply

Bilingual education key to understanding each other

Mira Sucharov

Critics of Zionism point to Israel's Jewish and democratic identity as an oxymoron. There's the adage, attributed to member of Knesset Ahmed Tibi, that Israel is "democratic toward Jews, and Jewish toward Arabs." Avrum Burg, long part of the Zionist establishment, now speaks (most recently in a Partners for Progressive Israel podcast) of the need to end "Jewish privilege."

And in reporting on the Israeli Labor party's recent convention, *Ha'aretz* columnist Gideon Levy wrote, "One says Jewish and another says democratic, and all together they fail to understand that the two concepts massively contradict the other."

While the occupation arguably impugns Israel's democratic character, and, despite the pessimism that imbues more and more expert analysis each day, Israel could still withdraw from the West Bank and remain intact in its national project. But the criticisms issued by Tibi, Burg, Levy and others cut to the heart of Israel's national identity.

One of the main ways democracies transmit their values is through education. Unlike a melting-pot model where minorities are expected to acculturate to the hegemonic majority, Israel *does* encourage its Palestinian minority (now numbering roughly 20 per cent of the population) to educate its children in Arabic. There is an Arabic school stream alongside three Hebrew ones: state, state-religious and independent (haredi).

But there is a soft underbelly to this hyper-multiculturalism. While Arabic-speaking parents are in no danger of having their children lose academic and cultural affinity with their own language, there is a troubling lack of cross-contact between children across the Arab-Jewish divide. This also means that while Palestinian citizens of Israel naturally become fluent in Hebrew (since it is the working language of the country), the reverse is not the case. Few Israeli Jews speak Arabic. (An added issue is the frequent complaint from Palestinian lawmakers that they are not sufficiently included in shaping their own Arabic schools' curriculum, including around contentious issues of Palestinian history.)

As reported in +972 magazine, on Feb. 12 a group of parents from Jaffa – a historically mixed Arab-Jewish section of Tel Aviv – protested at Tel Aviv's City Hall to demand bilingual education through Grade 2. These parents chanted, "The Other is Me!" Signs were held aloft in Hebrew and Arabic. One sign said: "Want to find an end to the conflict? The solution lies in education." (In Hebrew, it rhymes.) Like the Hand in Hand community – an independent network of schools representing 1,000 students and for which parents pay nominal annual tuition, these parents want a school that honours all three religions and both languages equally.

Ha'aretz columnist Akiva Eldar, has written about Hand in Hand, where his grandchildren attend. The school is also featured in Dane Elon's powerful documentary film *P.S. Jerusalem*.

Hand in Hand attracts a particular group of idealistic parents who value bilingualism and multiculturalism. But the powerful thing about public education is that it shapes attitudes in democratic directions, even among citizens who are reluctant to embrace the Other in their midst.

Those Jaffa parents are probably wise to start small: demanding bilingual education for the early years only. But what if a groundswell of support was encouraged for Israelis to consider their children's education as a portal into deeper cultural understanding across the cultural, linguistic and political divide? What if every Israeli was guaranteed to be raised bilingually, with a sensitivity toward the Other that can only come from cross-cultural immersion?

Rather than see a country with a frustrated linguistic and cultural minority, we might see a country where Hebrew and Arabic – and the historical experience of both Israelis and Palestinians, one alongside the other – are elevated to represent a new model of Israeli identity. Girded by internal Israeli-Palestinian understanding, this new Israel would be better poised to seek peace and coexistence with whatever form a post-occupation West Bank one day takes. ■

Affordable Jewish education counters poisonous anti-Zionism

Mordechai Ben-Dat

Some 25 years ago, the word "continuity" entered the Jewish lexicon of buzzwords, becoming a term of great communal significance and concern. This followed the 1990 American Jewish population survey, which painted a disheartening demographic, cultural and religious portrait of the Jewish community. In a North America flowing with the milk and honey of affluence, freedom and abundant personal choice, increasing numbers of college-age Jews were drifting to the margins of their people.

Alarmed at the breaks in the ethereally forged chain of inter-generational continuity, community leaders throughout North America mobilized. There was a great deal of work to do to stem and perhaps even repair the fractures in the precious connective links that bound past to present and future. And indeed much effort has been undertaken to try to bring young Jews back to where they once stood: in the midst of a gratifying sense of belonging to our wonderful, if sometime maddening, people.

Some 40 years ago, in November 1975, the UN General Assembly declared Zionism to be a form of racism. Despite the subsequent rescission of the declaration, that vile calumny has been continually repeated. Israel's very existence has been constantly brought into question. In effect, the UN became the incubator for the seeds of enmity and hatred toward the Jewish state that have ripened today into full-blown forests of poisoned fruit.

At the same time that our young people were entering universities and colleges, campuses were roiling with all manner of morally muddled ideologies, "politically correct" attitudes, and, indeed, revolutionary zeal that lionized individuals like the stubble-bearded leader of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, as an exemplar of noble higher purpose.

No discussion about the manner in which Israel and its supporters are treated on campus can be conducted without the unhappy acknowledgment that ugly anti-Semitism and anti-Israel invective have encroached everywhere. And no community in North America – including in Canada – has escaped the effects of the poison inhaled by our Jewish youth, mostly without antidote, for 40 years.

Many of our children on the margins of Jewish literacy and Jewish identity, wanting simply to find a comfortable place for themselves among their peers on campus, have internalized and even accepted some of the lies, false images and distortions about Israel and the Jewish People that are now standard discourse in certain quarters.

We understand that Jewish students might wish simply to avoid the anti-Israel flags waving constantly in their faces. But that Jews themselves would be the ones in the forefront waving those flags is as distressing as it is painful. Recently, for example, we read of an alumna from Oberlin College, an acclaimed liberal arts school in Ohio, who lamented "the multiple times the Holocaust was referred to as 'white on white crime' by my hip white Jewish peers." Imagine: the Shoah being dismissed as mere "white on white" crime and thus diminished in its impact and historical importance!

The antidote to the poison our children are being exposed to, of course, is the reliable anti-toxin of Jewish history: education. Enabling our youth to know who they are – through access to sustained, formal and informal education about Judaism, Israel, Jewish culture and our shared history – will fortify them and enable them to reject and refute the distortions and hatred that inundate them.

The independent Jerusalem-based think tank, Jewish People Policy Institute made this very same point in a recent essay. "The clear policy implication of newly mined data on Jewish education, consistent with a long research literature, is that Jewish schooling matters. The creation, expansion, and effective marketing of excellent, attractive, and affordable Jewish educational non-Orthodox day school programs and supplementary school programs for teenagers, is an area where communal intervention can make a measurable difference in the quality of American Jewish identity and the transmission of Jewish identity to the next generation of American Jews."

The point bears repeating: affordable Jewish education matters. ■

We need to think beyond the short term

Rabbi Jay Kelman, CA, CPA

Planning for the future is something most of us have difficulty doing. We are psychologically wired to value the present over what may occur in the future. This helps explain many of the bad habits that afflict us such as smoking, overeating or lack of exercise. It also helps explain why so many neglect saving for tomorrow as they overspend today. We tend to ignore the implications of today's decisions for tomorrow.

David Chilton in his best-selling book, *The Wealthy Barber*, has as its core theme the notion that you must "pay yourself first." When we wait until the end of the month to invest our savings, we generally find there is little or nothing left to save. But if money is taken off the top and directly invested, we "miraculously" discover there is money left for savings.

This reality is the basis of the forced government saving plan known as the Canada Pension Plan, which theoretically ensures that we put away some of our earnings for those years when we will no longer be working. Yet, for many, what they may receive from the government is not enough and the expectation is that these payments will be augmented by personal savings, especially for the 50 per cent of Canadians who do not have an employer pension plan.

Unfortunately, far too many Canadians face a retirement at poverty levels. In a report released on Feb. 16, the Broadbent Institute noted that fewer than 20 per cent of those between 55 and 64 without a private pension plan have saved enough for retirement, and 32 per cent of those have less than $1,000 in total retirement saving! An additional 23 per cent have less than one year's worth of financial resources needed to supplement government pensions.

Whatever the reason and whoever is responsible, this is an astonishing and frightening number. Millions of Canadians are facing a future of great economic hardship, one that will impact on all of us. It is this failure to save that lay behind the government of Ontario's plan to introduce a provincial pension plan.

This is not a problem that affects only individuals. One of our new prime minister's primary election promises was to run an annual deficit of some $10 billion, with the notion of balancing the books pushed off to the end of his mandate. I will let economists debate as to whether our economy can afford this, or even if the deficit should be raised further to help stimulate the economy, something the government has confirmed will be the case. However economic feasibility does not mean this is prudent.

"Who is wise?" our sages ask. "One who envisions the consequences of today's actions, tomorrow." Imagine if the federal government had not racked up an accumulated deficit of some $600 billion. And that's before the hundreds of billions of provincial debt are added. While some of that may have been justified economically during times of recession, most of that debt resulted from calculated political decisions devoid of economic rationale and moral leadership.

What I find sad is the notion that government spending must always increase, with politicians debating only the extent of the increase. The idea of cutting back on spending no longer enters the political discourse. The only finance minister to do this in memory is Paul Martin, who courageously slayed an annual deficit of some $50 billion. In doing so, he set Canada on a course of great financial stability – one that allowed Canada to weather the financial crisis better than any other.

It takes a great political leader to think beyond the short term. It is the inability to think long term on both an individual and a collective level that risks creating years, perhaps generations, of financial pain for millions of people. That such should be the case in a country as rich as Canada is inexcusable. ■

Comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org

Sharing space at Judaism's holiest spot

Norma Baumel Joseph

This month Reform and Conservative communities rejoiced at the announced Israeli decision to transform conditions at the Western Wall (Kotel).

Israeli and Diaspora Jews have been seeking accommodations from entrenched rabbinic authorities for their so-called divergent forms of liturgical and ritual activities. The new plans for pluralist prayer locations seem to allow for something other than the strict interpretation of Judaism that has been practised by the Orthodox rabbinate of Israel until now. Or that is the presumed claim.

As many of you know, I, and the group Original Women of the Wall, which I am part of, are opposed to this compromise. But while previously I stated in this column my reasons for opposing Anat Hoffman's sell out of WOW, and her conflict of interest as a paid employee of the Reform movement, I want to address the issue of the Kotel itself.

The Kotel is a national shrine in Israel. It belongs to the entire Israeli nation. It does not belong to any one sector or denomination. In the past, before 1967, it was a place individual Jews came to pray, to present themselves and their needs before God in a place they considered holy, a place sanctified by tradition and history. They stood side by side, men and women. It was never a synagogue, never a place of communal prayer.

After the Six Day War, that changed. Israel declared it a national heritage site. It was placed under the directorship of a man who was appointed as an administrator, not a rabbi of a synagogue. Regrettably, this new compromise reduces it to just another haredi synagogue. The administrator now becomes an Orthodox rabbi in charge, able to restrict all who appear, even to deny Jews such as myself from lighting Chanukah candles there.

By accepting this plan, they are not increasing pluralism, just decreasing shared spaces. The Benjamin Netanyahu government is in fact legitimating the rabbinate's overextension of authority. When did that become a victory for pluralism?

> *The Kotel does not belong to any one sector or denomination.*

Along with many others, in kindergarten, I learned the lessons of sharing. We entered a space such as the sandbox and were taught that we could not take all the toys or build all the sandcastles. We had to let others have some of the pails and shovels. Other children needed to build castles. Sharing was fair and might even be fun. We could learn from others. But most importantly, it was right, just, and the only way to live in a joint space.

How then, we do not impose that lesson on this "compromise"? How can the ultra-Orthodox community escape the aspiration of shared space or fairness because of its claim of traditionalism? Do they hold all the cards?

I think not. It is time we recall that they are not the only ones in the sandbox. It is time we acknowledge they are not the only inheritors of our tradition. In fact, we can argue within Halachah that there are divergent interpretations of Torah. Israel is a democracy and its sacred spaces belong to all Jews. Many, including Orthodox rabbis, have opposed the compromise, have opposed changing the status of the Kotel and its heritage status.

Significantly, Robinson's Arch is not a Kotel. Should a space be used that will destroy an archeological garden? Or possibly upset a political balance with Jordan or the Waqf (Muslim religious authority)? What is this decision going to accomplish? Who is benefiting? And how much money will it cost? The haredim will be happy to see the "others" gone. But why shouldn't they accept sharing the space, the Kotel that is really sacred itself.

It is incumbent on the government to stand with its legal tradition and not allow the heritage site of the Kotel to be dismantled. It is incumbent on the government of Israel to promote its own legislative and democratic principles. ■

News

FSWC cautions students about York over divestment issue

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) is cautioning Jewish students against enrolling at York University if the school's faculty association becomes the latest group to join the YUDivest campaign, which calls on York's board of governors to divest from investing in arms manufacturers.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) issued a statement Feb. 18 following news that the executive of the 1,500-member York University Faculty Association (YUFA) voted Feb. 12 to endorse the YUDivest Coalition, made up of groups including Amnesty International at York and Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), to urge York to divest from arms manufacturers, such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, FLIR Systems, and Textron.

Jewish community groups and some York faculty believe that although this campaign doesn't openly single out Israel, it is part of a "backdoor" boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel.

"The motions and calls to support divestment are couched in the language of human rights and peaceful protest – language that is in no way reflective of the hostile and intimidating atmosphere faced by Jewish students on the York campus every day," said FSWC president and CEO Avi Benlolo.

When asked if he feels Jews are truly unsafe at York, Benolo said, "That's like asking if someone who is verbally abused if they should stay in a relationship. In terms of emotional or social support, York is certainly not a safe space for the majority of Jewish students, whose complaints of threats and intimidation have been neglected for years by the York administration and the student union that should represent them and their interests."

Carl Ehrlich, the director of York's Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, who serves on the YUFA executive as a stewards' council representative, feels that "there is a lot of wool being pulled over people's eyes.

"I do think many people who have signed on [to the YUDivest campaign] were completely innocent of any knowledge of the background and what the purpose behind this is."

Ehrlich explained that he delivered a speech at a stewards' council meeting on Feb. 5 to draw attention to the YUDivest Coalition's roots in the BDS movement.

In 2011, *Excalibur*, York's campus paper, reported that the YUDivest campaign was founded by SAIA to urge York to withdraw its endowment and pension fund investments from companies that manufacture components for Israel's F-16 Falcon fighter jets or supply Israel's military with computers.

"In the report, SAIA says that by investing in companies that manufacture weapons 'used to kill and maim Palestinian civilians,' York may be complicit 'in the commission of crimes under international law,'" *Excalibur* reported.

Despite Ehrlich's efforts, YUFA's executive voted 11 to 1 in favour of the YUDivest endorsement motion.

Carl Ehrlich

It will now return to the YUFA stewards' council on March 4, and if it is endorsed there again, YUFA will become one of the more than 70 signatories to the YUDivest campaign, Ehrlich said.

"That is something that I and a number of colleagues, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are trying to avoid, because we don't believe that our faculty union should be taking a divisive political stance on behalf of our diverse faculty," Ehrlich said.

YUFA president Richard Wellen said the association concluded that the campaign was about a "broad-based general issue not associated with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Wellen said he understands that people are uncomfortable with SAIA's involvement with the coalition, but insisted that YUFA does not support the BDS campaign.

"I'm Jewish, so I'm in the middle of this, really. I don't support BDS. A lot of my Jewish colleagues don't, but some do, so it has actually created a debate within the Jewish faculty around this. People are not that happy with the equation of questioning Israel means you're anti-Semitic," Wellen said.

Hillel York president Natalie Slavat and Ariella Daniels, president of Hasbara at York, issued a joint statement to YUFA that said the BDS movement is "a form of discrimination and is the only campaign which actively promotes the destruction of an existing state." They added that the YUDivest campaign is "academically dishonest, as it does not disclose its ties to the larger BDS movement."

Berl Nadler, co-chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Toronto, said in a statement that he has been "assured by senior members of York's administration that they already have a robust mechanism in place to ensure socially responsible investment. We expect that York will once again reiterate its best practices policy as it pertains to investing."

In a statement to *The CJN*, a York spokesperson said the university "has not changed its investment approach, which is considered best practice by the Social Investment Organization and the Coalition of Universities for Responsible Investing. It does not recommend the use of negative screening or divesting from particular companies." ■

Has your school's application for a City of Toronto Student Nutrition Program grant been turned down?

Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak would like to know. Please contact his office at **416-392-1371** or **councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca**

The Partners of
Hennick Herman, LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants
Chartered Accountants

are pleased to announce that
Tom Gringler and Larry Iskov
(formerly Gringler Iskov Lerner, LLP)

have joined the firm as partners effective January 1, 2016 and will continue their respective accounting practices in the areas of small business advisory and taxation.
We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new partners and look forward to working with them.

100 York Boulevard, Suite 600
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 1J8
Phone: 905-707-8816 or 416-494-2606
general@hh-llp.ca

Anti-BDS motion supported by Liberal, Tory MPs

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Whether the Trudeau government was baited into supporting what Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion called a "divisive" opposition resolution, the Liberals in the end backed a Tory motion that condemns the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

The Feb. 18 motion, introduced by Conservative MPs Tony Clement and Michelle Rempel, states, "That, given Canada and Israel share a long history of friendship as well as economic and diplomatic relations, the House reject the BDS movement, which promotes the demonization and delegitimization of the State of Israel, and call upon the government to condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups or individuals to promote the BDS movement, both here at home and abroad."

Jewish groups applauded the motion, which was expected to pass this week with the support of the Liberals and Tories, but not the NDP and Green party.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), stated: "A clear, all-party consensus rejecting the divisive BDS movement was reaffirmed in the House of Commons. One after the other, members of Parliament spoke up in support of Canada's friendship with Israel and spoke out against efforts to delegitimize, isolate and discriminate against Israel by advancing the false idea that Palestinians bear no responsibility for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The boycott movement does not contribute to peace and is not pro-Palestinian. It is discrimination based on nationality, and it harms both Israelis and Palestinians alike by driving the two sides further apart."

JSpace Canada spokesperson Karen Mock said her organization "opposes all forms of BDS of Israel and all forms of vilification, demonization or delegitimizing of Israel as a state. JSpace supports the motion in Parliament. Although BDS is a non-violent form of protest, it has been found not to be effective and divisive in Israel and Canada."

B'nai Brith Canada's CEO Michael Mostyn stated, "We are very pleased to see that Parliament is recognizing the anti-Israel boycott and sanctions movement for what it is: a discriminatory global propaganda campaign to demonize Israel and the Jewish People."

Stéphane Dion

Avi Benlolo, CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the parliamentary debate reflects "a general consensus that needs to be heard. There is a sense that everybody is pushing back against BDS... It will send a signal to the community, campuses and other groups that they don't have government support," he said.

The motion comes as a number of jurisdictions in North America and Europe have moved to oppose BDS. In the United States, legislatures in New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Indiana passed anti-BDS motions, while the British Parliament also plans to enact a law outlawing BDS. France passed such laws in 2003.

Canada's parliamentary motion also comes a little more than a year after former foreign affairs minister John Baird signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel that pledged the two countries will "work together to oppose efforts to single out or isolate Israel by developing a co-ordinated public diplomacy initiative to oppose boycotts of Israel, to oppose those who call into question the Jewish state's right to exist and to work to counter the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement."

Despite voicing support, statements by Dion suggested he backed the motion reluctantly. Responding to NDP MP Helene Laverdiere, who asked whether he was condemning the Ontario arm of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which endorsed BDS, Dion stated: "The government that I represent here chose to vote in favour of it, even though we would have written it differently. I agree with the member that most of the people in the movement are acting in good faith, including many of the organizations, but they are misguided. We therefore support this motion, but we wish to make it clear that we are in no way seeking to limit freedom of expression in Canada or to encourage any kind of bullying one way or the other." ■

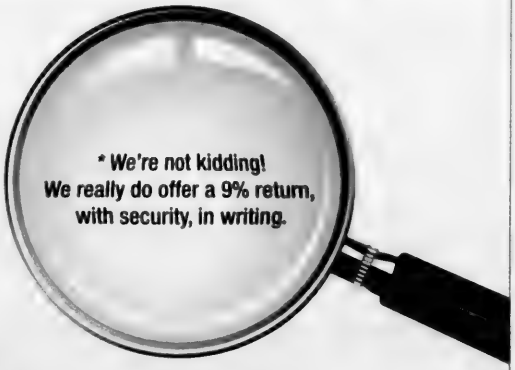
DOWNSIZING?
Find Out What Your Things Are Worth

AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.
Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.
Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

If an Investment Advisor offers you a 9% Annual Return, it makes sense to read the fine print*



PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

"Feel good about your investments"
To find out more visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000423), not an investment dealer.
Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

Don't sell out Israel for UN Security Council seat, MP says

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Tony Clement

Canada should not seek a seat on the United Nations Security Council if it means compromising its support for Israel, said Conservative foreign affairs critic Tony Clement.

"If turning our back on Israel is the price of admission, I don't think it is worth it," Clement told the annual conference of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada on Feb. 11.

On that day, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his government's intention to make a bid for a council seat, during UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's visit to Ottawa, part of his government's broader goal of "re-engaging robustly" with the UN and the international community.

In 2010, Canada, under Stephen Harper's government, failed to win a seat, finishing third during first-round voting in the General Assembly. Canada had held a seat on the council on and off for some 60 years.

Clement said given that rejection, the chances are very good Canada will get a seat in its next foray. "I can't imagine we would not get it, if we don't do something really wrong... This is an easy one for Mr. Trudeau to promise," he said.

Asked what went wrong when his government, in which he was a cabinet minister, tried for a seat, Clement responded: "In the 2010 bid, a lot went wrong, but to make it right would have cost too much."

Part of that price, he indicated, was toning down Canada's support for Israel. "Clearly, we were on the wrong side of many states."

But he does believe Canada must be present on the world stage. "I'm going to say something radical for a Conservative: I think we have to engage in international fora, including the UN. However, it is important that we stand for certain principles." The UN needs reform, he added, and to see that happen, Canada must be at the table.

On the issue of Iran, Clement ranked the Islamic regime as more dangerous to the world than North Korea or Russia.

He believes sanctions against Iran are being lifted too hastily, and a slower timetable would serve to "build confidence" in Iran's intentions. He is opposed to Canada's resumption of diplomatic ties with Iran, as long as it sponsors terrorist groups abroad and has a policy of eradicating Israel.

While it appears to be abiding by the terms of the nuclear deal, Clement said Iran is simultaneously building up its ballistic missile technology in violation of UN resolutions. "This hardly shows good faith... There are a lot of reasons to be skeptical of Iran's intentions."

Clement termed the ending of Canada's air mission in the U.S.-led coalition's fight against the Islamic State "very unfortunate... at a time when Britain, France, the United States and our other allies are seeking to increase pressure... This is not the tradition of the Canadian military. It is not in our security or political interest."

The Canadians were doing an extraordinary job targeting ISIS ordinances while minimizing civilian casualties, he said, in providing air cover for ground troops.

"Increasing training on the ground, near the front, increases the risk – it will attract the fire of [the Islamic State]."

However, Clement is optimistic that in the near future there will be a coalescing of the major players fighting ISIS – as diverse as Russia, the Saudis, the United States and Iran – who will put aside secondary political objectives in the region and work together.

In contrast, NDP foreign affairs critic Hélène Laverdière was ecstatic about the Liberal government's direction in foreign policy, hoping it will be a step toward "repairing the damage made in the last 10 years. Canada's reputation really declined under Harper. We had been and should be actively engaged in the world," she said at the conference, whose theme was "Canada on the Global Stage."

"It seemed the Conservatives did not care about the rest of the world. The result was we lost influence... Today, we need to recover that lost influence. But it won't be quick or easy to rebuild."

Laverdière, a foreign affairs service officer for 15 years before being elected in 2011, said Canada must return to the "honest broker role which enabled us to punch above our weight" in global affairs.

That is especially true in the Middle East, she said, rejecting the Tories' "good guys versus bad guys" approach, particularly to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "It was so short-sighted," she said.

She urged Canada to fully restore funding to UNRWA, which was cut by the Tories and has meant the closure of schools for Palestinian refugees, and said the best way to fight terror is to increase humanitarian aid. ■

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital
we work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000270
416.543.1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

Netivot HaTorah is an Orthodox Zionist Jewish Day School with 2 locations in the GTA, committed to delivering an outstanding Jewish and General studies education from Nursery to Grade 8. We are looking to fill the position of an **Assistant Principal**. Our Assistant Principal will be an educational leader who will assist the school principal in educational leadership, managing the daily functioning of the school and coordinating and supervising the educational welfare of our students

Our ideal candidate will have the following qualifications

- Master's degree in education or related field
- Classroom teaching experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Knowledge of current best practices in education
- Experience in school administration
- Experience in staff supervision and curriculum development
- The ability to lead in our school environment committed to Torah, Israel and Derech Eretz

Please email cover letter and CV to Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Rothman, Head of School at jrothman@netivot.com

NETIVOT HATORAH
נתיבות התורה
Netivot HaTorah Day School
The Jack & Anne Weinbaum Education Centre
North Campus
South Campus

JNF Canada pulls event support over Noa performance

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT, VANCOUVER

The Jewish National Fund of Canada has withdrawn its support for an upcoming Yom Ha'atzmaut performance in Vancouver by left-wing Israeli singer Achinoam Nini, who is being accused of supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against the Jewish state.

In a statement, JNF Canada CEO Josh Cooper said his organization is taking a one-year hiatus from its tradition of co-sponsoring the Yom Ha'atzmaut event with the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (JFGV), "due to the views of the entertainment booked for this year's celebration. The entertainer that has been hired does not reflect nor correspond to the mandate and values of the Jewish National Fund of Canada."

Last June, the JNF's U.S. branch co-sponsored a concert with the local Jewish federation in Cincinnati featuring Nini and Israeli-Arab singer Mira Awad.

When asked where specifically Nini – known as Noa – diverged from JNF Canada's mandate, Cooper said: "JNF/KKL has offices in 48 countries. While we all work together in Israel, we operate independent

Achinoam Nini

of each other in our respective countries."

Nini – who has voiced support in the past for B'Tselem, a group that monitors human rights in the West Bank, and Breaking the Silence, which is critical of IDF actions in the territory – steadfastly denies supporting the BDS movement.

Her upcoming Vancouver appearance is drawing some strong reactions.

An online petition titled "Stop Achinoam Nini from performing at our Yom Haatzmaut celebration" had 231 signatures as of last week.

And on Feb. 18, Richmond, B.C., realtor Arnold Shuchat expressed his "complete opposition to the decision to engage the controversial artist" in an open letter to the federation's board of directors and its CEO Ezra Shanken.

"The purpose of a Jewish community event should be to marshal and unify our community as opposed to fragment it," Shuchat wrote on his Facebook page. "It had to be obvious to any reasonable person who might have investigated her political positions that she would be a polarizing figure to many in the community. This decision is a regressive and irresponsible one and should be reversed as quickly as possible to prevent damage to both the reputation and fundraising ability of our federation."

Shuchat's letter was reposted by a group called Vancouver United with Israel. Its only online presence is a Facebook page that as of Feb. 18 had almost 400 likes, up from 35 earlier this month when the *Jerusalem Post* ran a story on how it denounced the federation for inviting Nini. The *Post* later removed the story from its website after Nini's management issued a statement denying her support for BDS.

Cynthia Ramsay, publisher of the *Jewish Independent*, a Jewish weekly in Vancouver, said she's received several letters and emails about Nini. "Every person who's tried to get me to run a letter or has CCed me on an email to federation has the exact – and I mean exact – same two points: she supports B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence, and she's anti-Israel or pro-BDS," Ramsay said.

"No one has provided any evidence... to support their [BDS] allegations, some of which are even nastier and also with zero proof. Because of the wording of most people's emails/letters, I think it's a chain reaction. Everyone's just repeating what they've heard from someone else without doing any research of their own," Ramsay said.

"I think it would be very sad if federation withdrew its invitation or if Nini declined it because of the controversy it's causing, which I think is unmerited."

Shuchat told *The CJN* that the issue isn't about BDS. "This has been very divisive, because [Nini is] very controversial, she'll offend a lot of people and it was very foreseeable that this would happen. She's polarizing, so it was a dumb decision to invite her... Federation should cancel the engagement and focus on building a cohesive community."

In a statement, the JFGV said it was "disappointed" by the JNF's decision. "JNF has been a valued sponsor our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration for many years, and we look forward to welcoming them back next year." ■

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
Including all taxes.
Book by March 4, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break: Mar. 10-21
Passover: Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer: July 03-14; July 24 – Aug. 04; Aug. 07-18; Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break: Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND - One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All Inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
LIVELUDE Travel Partner Agency
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

This winter, feel the warmth of an Amica community.

Come enjoy the company of new friends and the all-inclusive lifestyle of Amica. With a trial stay, you'll experience the comfort and convenience of our first-class dining and housekeeping services, and our extensive Wellness & Vitality™ programs.

Take a break from winter and feel the warmth of Amica.

ENJOY TWO WEEKS ON US!

Reserve a two-week trial stay by February 29th, and we will add two additional weeks free.*

* NO CASH VALUE. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER EXPIRES FEB. 29, 2016. PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

All-Inclusive Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview, North York
Amica at Bayview Gardens, North York
Amica at Thornhill, Thornhill
1.855.738.7248
AMICA

Through the United Jewish Appeal we help

Talia Aaron
Jeremy Abitbol
Amichai Abraham
Darel Adani
Sonia Adani
Noa Agid
Stephen Altbaum
Aryeh Altman
Noy Amsterdam
Vladimir Amurjuev
Chantal Aziza
Menachem Azulay
Benjamin Bach
Samara Bell
Mai Benaharon
Lauren Benchetrit
Adina Benia
Donald Bennett
Richard Bennett
Neta Ben-Or
Rebecca Ben-Shlomo
Jeff Bernstein
Jeffrey Bernstein
Aaron Besunder
Howard Biderman
Raquel Binder
Avi Bogler
Yael Bogler
Shauna Bornstein
Sylvia Bornstein
Amanda Braverman
Matthew Braverman
Joe Brewda
Joseph Brewda
Arielle Brickman
Zara Brill
Maya Britstone
Toby Britstone
Cole Brown
Sarah Brown
Sean Brown
Eviatar Brunschtein
Bobby Brykman
Michael Brzezinski
Michael Buckstein
Adina Burden

Mathew Cariboni
Leah Carr
Stephanie Carr
Adito Chadha
Joshua Chartat
Alexandra Ciobotaru
Aubrey Cohen
Eddy Cohen
Jeremy Cohen
Loren Cohen
Meir Cohen
Michael Cohen
Robert Cohen
Yirmi Cohen
Shawn Cohn
Maddy Arsenault Cooper
Eva Cukerman
Alexandra Cuperfain
Rachael Czutrin
Maya Daien
Shana Dale
Adam Daniels
Michael Davidson
Drew Dawson
Meredith Deutsch-Levy
Gary Diamond
Richard Diamond
Maxx Drukmaler
David Dulberg
Max Eisen
Ruth Ekstein
Ryan Ekstein
Uriel Elituv
Jonathan Elmaleh
Laura Elman
Abigail Engelsman
Daryn Epstein
Sherri Ettedgui
Esther Farbloom
Talia Feder
Yitzchak Feigenbaum
Daniel Ferman
Ari Fialkov
Phyllis Fien
Yonatan Fortinsky

Bailey Fox
Michael Fox
David Freeman
Emily Freeman
Mathew Freiberg
Maxie Friendly
Adam Frodis
Dani Frodis
Michelle Furman
Robert Furman
Veronika Futornansky
Stephanie Gaber
Andrew Gann
Michael Gary
Ronen Geisler
Tamar Gelb
Caroline Gelber
Shel Gelber
Sylvie Geller
Gary Gladstone
Herschel Glickman
Samantha Glied-Belisk
Ehren Gluckstein
Peter Gold
Carly Goldberg
David Goldberg
David Goldstein
Ori Goldstein
Marlee Gonik
Daniel Gonsenhauser
Ellen Gordon Horowitz
Abe Gottesman
Eden Granovsky
Liann Granovsky
Laura Greenberg
Matthew Greenberg
Marly Grief
Spencer Grinberg
Simcha Grosman
Ezra Grossman
Carol Grubert
David Guttman
Jessica Handelman
Robert Handelman
Denise Hans

Marlee Harendorf Gold
Jordana Hart
Aimee Hass
Daniella Haver
Noam Hazan
Gabriel Helfant
Tehilla Helfenbaum
Rachel Herman
Roi Hershqovitz
Judah Hoffman
Lea Hoffman
Max Hoffman
Solomon Hoffman
Gonen Hollander
Jonathan Horovitz
Adam Hummel
Yoav Ickowicz
Jacob Iftah
Nicole Jacobs
Harley Joffe
Carli Kadish
Artem Kaikov
Hersch Kanner
Marcia Kareff
Yael Karol
Brett Karp
Jonathan Karr
Brian Katchan
Cory Katzman
Amanda Kauffman
Joshua Kauffman
Dayna Keena
Avi Kerbel
Orli Kessel
David Kleiman
David Klein
Lirad Kligman
Jesse Klimitz
Talia Knizznik
Noah Kochman
Danielle Kofler
Aviel Koganov
Gary Kopstick
Gloria Korson
Adir Koschitzky

Henry Koschitzky
Julia Koschitzky
Sarena Koschitzky
Elise Kovac
Julie Kovac
Steven Kraft
Mikhail Krivykh
Debbie Krofchick
Michael Krofchick
Alan Kroik
Aaron Kroll
Jason Kronick
Ronen Kroparo
Francy Kussner
Sharon Landis
Bruce Leboff
Elisa Lerman
Gal Levin
Lisa Levin
Harrison Levine
Zoe Levitt
Cooki Levy
Laura Licht
Kyle Lichtman
Danna Lieberman
Susan Lieberman
Anthony Lipkin
Elie Lithwick
David Lubek
Moni Lustig
Shawna Magence
Rony Malev
Tal Malka
Kaili Mandel
Michael Mann
Jordan Maresky
Stephen Margles
Jack Markle
Samuel Markle
David Matlow
Leanne Matlow
Naomi Matlow
Perri Maxwell
Meyer Mechanic
Mordechai Mednick
Jonathan Meital

Steven Mendel
Sam Mendelsohn
Ashley Menkes
Alona Metzer
Alon Mezhibovsky
Erin Michaelov
Israel Mida
Peggi Milgram
Michal Mizrahi
Steven Mlotek
Amanda Moll
Melissa Moll
Ryan Morrow
Joshua Morton
Joshua Moyal
David Muallim
Jesse Muller
Talia Myers Varley
Macie Narbonne
Noah Nefsky
Seth Nefsky
Osnat Nemetz
Daniel Neufeld
Marc Newburgh
Tal Newman
Ziv Newman
Rena Nickerson
One Niedzviecki
Ashley Nitkin
Allie Novack
Jordan Novack
Lauren Nussbaum
Jen Olsen
Carne Orfus-Gelkopf
Kelly Ostro
Stephen Owens
Maddy Packer
Gordon Pape
Caleb Parker
Howie Paskowitz
Jay Pasternack
Aaron Pearl
Gary Peires
Michael Peiser
Idan Peleg

Jessica Perl
Danielle Perlmann
Heather Perlmutter
Jeremy Pertman
Evan Pilz
Farryn Plat
Aaron Pollock
Heather Popliger
David Posluns
Felicia Posluns
Aaron Posner
Moishe Posner
Edward Prutschi
Noa Rapaport
Tamara Rebick
Trevor Reef
Rochelle Reichert
Julie Reiken
Michael Rosenberg
Dov Rosenblum
Joshua Rosenblum
Michelle Rosenstock
Ashley Ross
Elie Roth
Adam Rotstein
Elliot Rotstein
Miriam Rubenstein
Maya Ruby
Yotam Saban
Carly Sacks
Jared Saltz
Noam Samson
Ryan Sanders
Aaron Savatti
Carlie Schachter
Laura Schwartz
Jen Scoler
Sammi Scoler
David Segal
Karen Seidman
Snir Seitelbach
Barry Serebrennikov
Alison Shapiro
Benjamin Shapiro
Brondell Shapiro

Joanna Shapiro
Kortney Shapiro
Alemayehu Sharew
Adam Shechtman
Jason Shedletsky
Merav Shemberg
Nicole Shenderey
Eric Sherkin
Jonathan Sherrington
Earl Shields
Michaela Shimansky
Sara Shor
Stephen Shore
Alexander Shorser
Kylie Shulman
Sarah Shulman
Jay Silber
Aaron Silver
Adrienne Silver
Candice Silver
Eileen Silver
Elana Silver
Jeff Silver
Shoel Silver
Alan Simons
Ruthie Simpson
Ben Singer
Joshua Singer
Sophie Sklar
Nicole Smith
Yuval Smith
Amanda Snow
Seth Sobel
Corrie Spiegel Diamond
Lani Stern
Carl Strauchler
Steven Strauss
Lauren Streisfield
Brittany Sud
Reesa Sud
Darren Sukonick
David Susman
Joshua Syrtash
Benjamin Tanen
Joyce Tanner

Adam Taras
Gary Taylor
An Tenenbaum
Jordan Teperman
Silvia Toscano
Zoe Trster
Helen Tucker
Aaron Vale
Jonathan Vandersluis
Lisa Villeneuve
Nathan Walden
Raquel Wallace
Adam Walman
Jaime Walman
Craig Walters
Brian Waltman
Dodi Weill
Ami Wenner
Ayala Wenner
Elyanna Wenner
Allan Weinbaum
David Weinberg
Lawrence Weinberg
George Weinberger
Lynda Weinrib
Debra Weinryb
Joshua Weinstein
Aryella Weisz
Edward Weisz
Dikla Weitzner
Toby Wercberger
Ora Wexler
Jillian Windman
Rebecca Wise
Robbie Wolansky
Talia Wolkin
Randi Woloz
Jacob Young
Zahava Yunger
Barry Zagdanski
Ian Zagdanski
Nelly Zagdanski
Sara Zagdanski
Emily Zaltz
Rachel Zaltz
Ethan Zatzman

United Jewish Appeal
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

each other – and you make it possible.

UJA would like to thank
the board members of the UJA-affiliated*
Day and Supplementary Schools and UJA Partner* Agencies
for coming out to help.

We look
forward
to seeing
you at
UJA Telethons
next year!

Bialik Hebrew Day School, Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto
CIJA, Circle of Care, Eitz Chaim Day School
Hillel Ontario, J Boots, JACS Toronto, Maayan House Toronto
Netivot HaTorah Day School, Robbins Hebrew Academy, TanenbaumCHAT
Theresa Bass Nursery, Toronto Hospital School, Toronto March of the Living
& UJA's Israel Engagement SimShum

United Jewish Appeal
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

*"Affiliated" and "Partner" do not denote a legal affiliate or partner relationship.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Study examines Jewish domestic violence on Prairies

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

A research study about domestic violence in the Jewish communities in the Prairie provinces is currently underway to learn more about characteristics that may be unique to the way members of the Jewish community experience domestic violence.

"We wanted to find out how domestic violence is perceived in the Jewish community and what happens when people come forward to disclose when they have experienced abuse, so that ultimately, better services and resources can be made available," said University of Calgary Prof. Nicole Letourneau, the lead researcher on the study titled "Assessing Domestic Violence in the Jewish Communities of the Prairie Provinces."

Andrea Silverstone, shalom bayit co-ordinator for Jewish Family Service Calgary, who initiated the study and obtained a grant from the Prairie Action Foundation to fund the three projects in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, predicted, based on 20 years of experience in the field, that the rates of occurrences of domestic abuse are likely the same across Canada for both Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

"What will be different is the way that Jewish women access services and the way that Jewish women stay [in an abusive marriage] or manage the violence in their lives if they are in domestically violent situations... and whom they tell when they are experiencing abuse," Silverstone said.

Background information provided on the survey website shows that there is a tendency for Jewish women to stay up to three times longer in abusive relationships than non-Jewish women, and that Jewish women are less likely to access emergency shelters and social service organizations.

"We're going to take all the data, summarize it and bring it back to the leaders in each community and talk with them about the findings," Letourneau said, adding that the survey is voluntary and anonymous, and takes about 15 to 30 minutes to complete online.

Silverstone said the study aims to understand the "scope, occurrence, attitudes and needs of Jewish women who experience domestic violence in the Prairie provinces. My hope is that this will give us good data and information to both understand what is currently happening and what kind of programming and policy work we as a community need to do going forward to make sure we are properly addressing the need of those who are impacted by domestic violence, and eventually ending domestic violence in the community."

Andrea Silverstone

She said the Jewish Women's International (JWI) Chicagoland Study, published in 2004 in the United States, is "the backbone for this study."

"If the Chicagoland and the JWI study is very different from the experiences of women in the Prairie provinces, maybe it's different in Eastern Canada – I don't know. But if it is the same, I think we can make some extrapolations about this being the experience of Jewish women in North America," Silverstone said.

She said while there are still those who believe the misconception that domestic abuse is not an issue for the Jewish community, general awareness is improving.

"We always say in the domestic violence field generally that we're 25 years into a 100-year journey to de-stigmatize domestic violence. I feel like in the Jewish community, we're 10 or 15 years behind the non-Jewish community. People are starting to say that domestic violence exists... We're getting better, but we're still not where we need to be. There is also a lot of finger pointing. I think there are a lot in the Jewish community [who think] that if you're Orthodox, it's the Reform, if you're Reform, then it's the Orthodox, if you're Canadian, it's the Russians – so I think there is still a lot of compartmentalizing that it's the other parts of the Jewish community, but not my part."

The study launched in early January and the plan is to keep the survey open until May 31. Letourneau said she hopes to get responses "in the thousands," from the roughly 32,000 Jews who live in the Prairies.

To take part in the online study, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/DomesticViolenceinJewishCommunity. For more information, or to seek support for victims of domestic abuse, contact Jewish Family Service Calgary at 403-287-3510. ■

ONLINE JEWISH EDUCATION
FOR TEENS!
FULLY ACCREDITED
Earn an Ontario high school credit with the completion of each course.
BLENDED LEARNING
An option to combine online learning with dynamic classroom experiences.
GET AHEAD ONLINE
Learn without limitations of time or location while using your computer or mobile device.
JEWISH VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL
Learn Wherever. Whenever. Forever.
Get Started Now! Go to jvhighschool.com or call 905-761-6279 x245

Spousal abuse victim uses experience to help others

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Domestic violence survivor and expert Philippa Sklaar said although women are never to blame for being abused, they must take ownership of their role in an abusive relationship if they hope to break the cycle.

Speaking to *The CJN* at the offices of Act To End Violence Against Women, a Jewish non-profit organization that serves female domestic abuse victims, at which she has volunteered since moving to Toronto last fall, Sklaar said she hopes her book, *When Loving Him Hurts*, will help women unravel "the complexities of abuse," and emphasize the need to look inward to understand their role in the "dance of abuse."

Having been married three times since she was 20, each time to an abusive man, Sklaar has years of experience with domestic abuse.

She was raised in a tight-knit South African Jewish community where the misconception that the Jewish community is immune to domestic abuse flourished, and said she didn't realize that abuse could involve something other than physical violence.

"I had no idea that a majority of abuse takes place without a fist or a hand being raised," Sklaar said.

While her first and third husbands were emotionally abusive, it was her second husband, a South African media mogul, who was "not only violently abusive, but he was also addicted to substances. For the longest time, I blamed the substances every time he hit me," she said.

She recalled an incident while they were on vacation in Thailand. She overheard him having a flirtatious phone call with a woman. When she confronted him, the argument escalated to the point that he hit her.

"He hit me so hard that I fell on the floor… He left me crying into the carpet," she said.

"In the cab on the way to the airport, he put his arm around me and he was apologizing. I felt so important and so special and so empowered. He was telling me how much he loved me, and the lesson I taught him that day was that it was OK to beat me."

She said although she eventually left him, she didn't examine her first two marriages or her own contribution.

"I just saw them as these horrible, abusive men and I wanted to go live in America so I could start my life afresh. All I did was relocate my pathology and myself to America, and there I met husband No. 3. After I married him, I started noticing the same syndrome, without the violence," she said.

Philippa Sklaar

"It was after that marriage that I finally had to look at myself enough to see what it was about me – it wasn't a coincidence that I just happened to choose all these men."

Sklaar's therapist Sue Hickey, who practised for more than 30 years, asked her to co-write *When Loving Him Hurts*, to share her experience as a woman who contributed to the "dance of abuse" and learned to overcome her self-destructive pathology. "Until we understand what that is, we'll continue repeating the pattern. My story is proof of that," Sklaar said.

She said that until she was able to understand why she felt she needed to be loved and validated by a damaged man, she would continue to jump from one abusive relationship to another.

"How do you explain to someone why you want to hug a shark? That the hands that beat me, I wanted them to comfort me? How do I explain to myself that the man who hit me, kicked me, punched me, pulled out my hair, spat in my face, that I wanted him to love me? I mean, it's insane."

Although she acknowledges that some people may confuse her message – that a woman must acknowledge her role in an abusive relationship – as a kind of blame-the-victim mentality, she said, although women are "never, ever to blame for the abuse," they are part of the solution.

"As soon as I took responsibility for what my contribution was, I can't begin to tell you how empowering that was. I was no longer at the mercy of anybody," Sklaar said, adding that the book outlines five skills and strategies that women can do to work on a solution.

Since her third marriage ended seven years ago, Sklaar said she is content being on her own. "Now I value my time alone and I love who I am now," she said. "My worthiness isn't dependent on anyone else's opinion of me. That took a long time." ■

For more information, visit www.whenlovinghimhurts.com. To contact Sklaar, email whenlovinghimhurts@gmail.com.

make yourself at HOME in Israel
Nefesh B'Nefesh
Toronto
Spring Aliyah Fair
Tuesday, March 8th
Retirees & Empty Nesters: 5:30pm
General Programming: 6:30pm
Novotel Toronto North York
3 Park Home Ave, Toronto
IN PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A STRONGER ISRAEL THROUGH ALIYAH
Living in Israel can be more than a dream.
Hear from professionals about employment, communities, education, taxes, budgeting and retirement in Israel at the premier Aliyah event of the year.
The Aliyah Fair will feature Israeli vendors and service providers to give you a head-start on your preparations.
This is your opportunity to meet and network with other people planning Aliyah and get the tools and information for success.
If Israel is your dream, let's make it home.
Nefesh B'Nefesh
1-866-4-ALIYAH
#MAKEITHOME
REGISTER:
WWW.NBN.ORG.IL/TORONTO

Supporting older kids in foster care has its own rewards

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

People making the decision to grow their families by adopting a child may be surprised to learn that the adoption landscape is not what it once was

The odds of being able to adopt a healthy newborn, or even a child under the age of two years old, are becoming slimmer and slimmer thanks to better access to birth control, abortion and the lack of stigma increasingly associated with single women raising children.

That said, there are countless children and teenagers in foster care throughout the country and abroad who are looking for stable homes and forever families, as well as young adults who are in need of a support system.

Aviva Zukerman Schure, who has volunteered for the Adoption Council of Ontario and Adopt4Life since she adopted her now 20-year-old daughter about two years ago, said that perhaps what holds most people back from considering adopting an older child is the misconception that children in foster care are "juvenile delinquents with no hope."

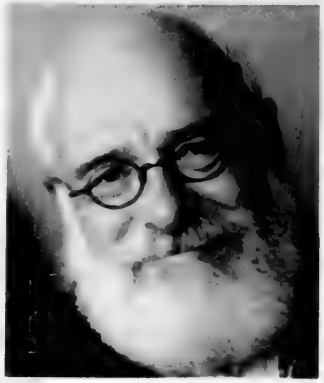
"I think there is a stigma that all the kids in foster care are such screw-ups that you can't even imagine," said Schure, who is also mother to four biological sons, all of whom are younger than her adopted daughter.

She said while speaking to adoption workers about wanting to find a child who was on a positive trajectory, wanted to do well in school and wanted to be part of a supportive family, she was told, "the system is filled with children like that."

Schure recalled meeting a young girl in foster care through Jewish Family & Child, an accredited children's aid society in Ontario that provides child protection services for Jewish families in the Greater Toronto Area.

"She was graduating from high school with super great marks and off to university and all this great stuff. These are awesome kids – not to say they don't have their issues like every single kid, but they just need to have that permanent supportive family there who is going to say, even when things get tough… that you're there for them," Schure said.

"I have friends with biological kids who have mental illness, who are addicted to drugs, who are involved in criminal activity. I have a child with ADHD, and it was not the one who was adopted."



Michael Grand

Schure eventually adopted her daughter based on a lead from the Adoption Council of Ontario.

When they met, her daughter, who is Korean, had been living in Canada for a year with a foster mother, and there was a language barrier.

"But she bonded with my kids over their mutual love of candy… and there was just that moment where she looked at me and I looked at her and I knew that she was the one who was meant to be our daughter."

About 10 months later, after the girl had spent weekends with the family and they got to know each other, the adoption was finalized.

Schure said that moving forward, she'd love to adopt 21-year-olds who have aged out of the system and are struggling on their own.

"It might not mean that they move into a room in your house, but that they have a permanent, ongoing, lifelong connection to at least one grown-up, because that makes the difference in their lives," Schure said.

Noelle Burke, an adoption permanency worker with JF&CS, said although JF&CS does act as a public adoption service, the first priority is to keep children with their original families.

"We put a lot of work and resources into keeping little ones with their original families, and when that's not possible,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Lots of time for things you love

— Helen Mlotek, Kensington Place Resident

When Helen Mlotek broke her hip last year, her children chose Kensington Place because they felt it had the best medical attention. Helen is happy: she'd rather get help when she needs it than hire a full-time caregiver. "I like my independence," she says. Now that she doesn't have to worry about shopping, cooking, cleaning or laundry, Helen has more time to play Gin Rummy, take exercise classes or participate in crafts.

"I enjoy the nice people and the activities," says Helen. "I like having something to do."

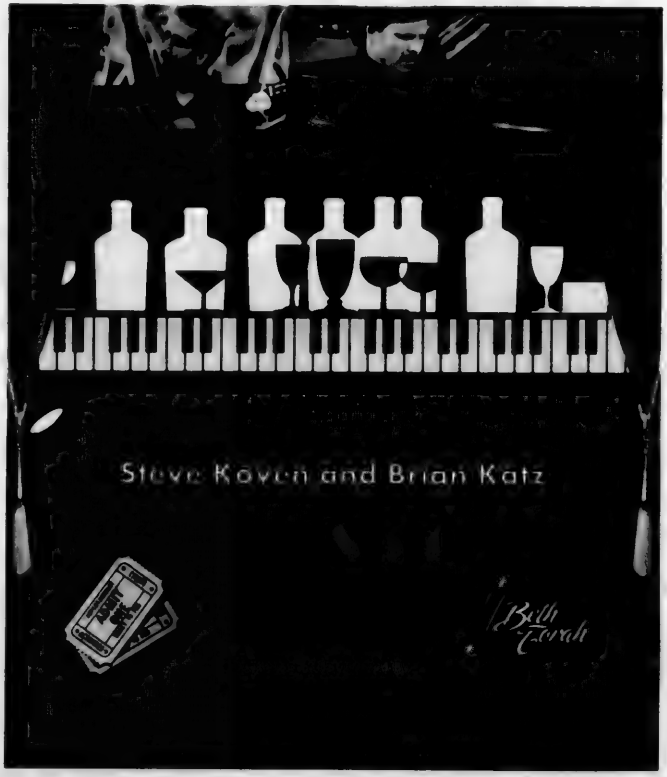
Enjoy all that Kensington Place has to offfer. Call to ask about our Spring Specials!

Kensington Place
Toronto's Finest Kosher
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

866 Sheppard Ave West
Toronto, Ontario M3H 2T5
416.636.9555
www.TheKensingtonPlace.com

A BAYBRIDGE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Independent Living • Assistance When Needed



SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

we go through a process of family finding, which is, if it looks like that young baby is going to come into our care, instead of placing them with a foster family right away and moving toward adoption, we put a lot of effort in looking at extended family who know the child because we want to strengthen family and keep them close," she explained.

"We go through that, and if that is not successful, only then will we really look at a non-relative adoption. There are a lot of processes that we go through to keep the child with their people, rather than placing them with non-relatives."

JF&CS currently has close to 40 children in care.

"Within that 40 we have about 10 kids in a legal position to be adopted. The majority are older teens," Burke said, adding that they serve children from birth to 18, but the average age of a child in need of adoption now at JF&CS is about 16.

Michael Grand, a University of Guelph professor emeritus who co-directed the National Adoption Study of Canada in 1993 and wrote a book called *The Adoption Constellation: New Ways of Thinking About and Practicing Adoption*, said the big push for agencies like JF&CS is to find homes or foster care for "hard to place" children.

"These are kids who have been in care for an extended period of time, kids with physical or emotional handicaps, kids who are older and sibling groups," he said.

Grand said in addition to addressing some of the issues that come with adopting an older child, there are certain efforts that need to be made to ensure lifelong connections are made.

First, he believes that for older children, one of the components in helping the adoptive child feel like a member of the family is to offer them the opportunity to give informed consent and a choice about whether they want to join a specific family.

"It is important that children move into a home where they themselves are part of the decision-making process, and that this is something they want," he said.

"Someone might say, 'I know better. This is good for you whether you like it or not.' We don't always respect the consent rights of the children as well as we could."

Schure said she understands the need for a child to be heard and acknowledged, but sometimes a child might need some convincing.

"With a lot of young people, if you ask them if they want to be adopted, all their experiences with family have been negative. And so when you say, 'Oh, do you want a new family?' They'll say no. Because why would they? So we need to stop saying, 'Well, we asked them and they didn't want to be adopted,' because that's not fair to them. The outcomes for kids who age out of the system without a permanent family... are much poorer."

Grand said one of the keys to facilitating a successful adoption in which the family and adopted child build trust and bond is being completely open about the child's adoption.

"It's not just an issue of an exchange of information. I've had many an adoptee tell me, 'Oh yes, they told me once and then we were never allowed to talk about it again.' Or, 'It was told to me in anger,' or, 'It was thrown in my face when I was acting up,'" he said.

He said in many ways, it is a lifelong conversation that families should have without it becoming a source of anxiety or hostility. And the conversation itself needs to evolve over time.

"For the adoptee, the historical fact of being taken from one family and being placed in another always raises the question, 'Did I matter enough to anyone to be kept in my family of origin?' And that is a prevailing question that haunts many adoptees even in the best adoptions because it's a fact you can't get around," Grand said.

"What you tell an eight-year-old is not what a 16-year-old needs to know... and it is not the same as what a 25-year-old needs."

Grand said that overall there is an expectation that openness is the norm, but it is not always practised and this can be the difference between a successful adoption and an unsuccessful one.

"People talk a good talk, but they don't always walk a good walk." ■

FOR ACCREDITED INVESTORS ONLY.

Don't miss this rare lower risk investment opportunity

15% ANNUAL RETURNS

FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS*

Available for a very limited time only.

Canada Israel Infrastructure Fund LP

With the Canada Israel Infrastructure Fund LP you get to invest in major, lower risk Israel infrastructure projects along with Israel's largest bank, insurance company and pension fund.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Stellar track record
- Most projects guaranteed by the Government of Israel
- Additional Tax benefits
- $50,000 USD min. commitment, paid in 4 installments over 36 months

Call us today!

Zale Newman, President
zale@bondstreetmercantile.com
647.341.2663 or visit us @ bondstreetmercantile.com

Put your money where your heart is.

Bond Street Mercantile/BSM Capital Corporation
* Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Leo Baeck NBA all star event kicks off interfaith efforts

JACK BORENSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Amid the glitz and hoopla of NBA all star weekend in Toronto, an event involving Leo Baeck Day School and local Christian and Muslim grade schools was about more than basketball.

Leo Baeck, Holy Rosary Catholic School and Islamic Foundation School took part Feb. 14 in "Building Bridges Through Basketball," which was meant as a prelude to more formal interfaith educational programs involving the three schools later this year.

Eric Petersiel has been involved with Leo Baeck's interfaith school program since becoming head of school in 2000.

"We arrange mock seder table settings as our students explain elements of the seder and what Passover is all about," he said. "There's a core desire of everyone attending a Jewish day school to learn not only about their own culture and environment, but also to be aware of and understand the world around them. We live in a global economy and environment, and our students need to understand what students of interfaith schools are experiencing in their lives."

Petersiel said Leo Baeck contacted Kathy Behrens, the NBA's president of social responsibility and player programs about getting involved in all-star weekend as part of the league's Jr. NBA program.

"Last year during our mock seder program, an informal basketball game occurred in our school gym involving interfaith students. When the opportunity came from Jr. NBA, the three schools were eager to participate."

Students from the three schools were greeted by Chiney Ogwumike of the WNBA's Connecticut Sun and Donnie Arey, an assistant coach at Warner University who teaches skills at basketball camps in more than 20 countries.

"I've used basketball clinics to help communities in conflict work together in friendship and promote team building," Arey said. "During a 10-day 2010 trip to Israel, I held basketball camps with coaches in Ramallah and Bethlehem, and we had a basketball game between Israeli and Palestinian kids from both areas."

Ogwumike sees basketball "as a universal language that can be appreciated by people of different cultures. As a team, we treat everyone as family, and the sport brings out the best in people."

In his introductory remarks, Arey told the kids the session was not only about basketball, "but also making you better people so you, your parents and your teachers learn to grow and develop happily together."

Chiney Ogwumike of the WNBA's Connecticut Sun and coach Donnie Arey give a skills clinic.

Boys and girls competed on different courts in a variety of agility exercises and basketball skills sessions taught in the one-hour clinic by Ogwumike, Arey and Muzala Yamfwa, a 2016 NBA All-Star Jr. NBA clinician and a clubs and competition assistant with Ontario Basketball.

Islamic Foundation School teacher Fazila Macci, said her Grade 8 students "were excited... and open-minded to meet new people on different levels, through sports. I feel today's basketball event will help when the interfaith sessions begin. Our students will proudly teach Leo Baeck and Holy Rosary students meanings of aspects of Muslim culture, such as Eid and Ramadan holidays, and wearing the hijab."

Leo Baeck Grade 7 student Aaron Davis was a key sponsor of his school's participation in the event, donating a significant portion of his bar mitzvah gift money. "I wanted to give something back to Leo Baeck so our students could enjoy this unique basketball experience, and meet students from the other schools."

Richard Davis said he was very proud of his son, "who stepped up in leadership with his generous donation. Aaron's sponsorship was based on using sports for good things, beside sports. Our family strongly support this interfaith initiative, which shows how different cultures share many similarities."

Leo Baeck south campus vice-principal Seth Goldsweig said the skills session highlights included "learning the game of basketball, or learning new skills to develop their game, as well as enjoying meeting a WNBA player, seeing former NBA players [including four-time champion Horace Grant] and current NBA players [including NBA rookie star Minnesota Timberwolves Karl-Anthony Towns], and meeting people from the other schools."

He acknowledged there wasn't much time for students from the three schools to get to know one another at the event, "but seeing a familiar face in future makes all the difference. Many of the students had this common experience, so when they see each other at the upcoming interfaith meetings they can start by saying 'Hey, remember when we played basketball together and...' Our students are looking forward to getting to know their Holy Rosary and Islamic Foundation school peers at future interfaith events." ■

CIJA

The Board of Directors and staff of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of

[illegible]

An inspirational Jewish community leader, highly respected statesman, and pioneer in Christian-Jewish Dialogue. He will be missed. May his memory be for a blessing. ז"ל

cija.ca

Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem

The Boys Town Jerusalem family in Israel and in Canada extend their heartfelt condolences to

The Bernick Family

upon the passing of

Ann Bernick, ז"ל

A distinguished and respected friend and supporter of
Boys Town Jerusalem for more than forty years
May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Rabbi Moshe Linchner, Dean
Rabbi Ronald L. Gray, Executive Vice President
Jules N. Kronis, Q.C., National President
Jerry Tollinsky, National Executive Director

Media adds to trauma of terror attacks, psychologist says

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

The media are responsible, at least in part, for exacerbating the trauma many Israelis and others suffer from exposure to terrorism and war, an expert on the emotional impact of terrorism says.

"The media's tendency to rebroadcast a terrorist attack over and over again along with reporting many false rumours worsens the trauma and sense of fear that many people feel in the aftermath of a terrorist attack," Solly Dreman, a professor emeritus in the department of psychology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev told a Winnipeg audience at Temple Shalom on Feb. 9.

Speaking on the topic "Psychological Impact of War and Terrorism" along with two others – Edith Kimelman, a child Holocaust survivor, and Michelle Strain, a refugee response co-ordinator – Winnipeg-born Dreman, 77, cited for example the media's blanket coverage with raising the fear level higher than it needed to be.

"The media needs to cool it," he said. "While it is important to report the news and keep people informed, updates every four or five hours instead of continuous coverage would help calm the situation."

On behalf of the advocacy group Winnipeg Friends of Israel (one of the evening's sponsors along with Temple Shalom, the *Jewish Post and News* and the Winnipeg branch of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University), Yolanda Papini-Pollock added that Israelis, currently suffering through the "knife intifadah," have had more experience than most in dealing with war- and terror-related trauma.

Yolanda Papini-Pollock and Edith Kimelman
MYRON LOVE PHOTO

Israeli-born and raised, Papini-Pollock noted that Israelis do their best to live normal lives despite the fact that many have suffered some emotional damage through the experience of war or losing a loved one or friend to terrorist violence.

Dreman spoke about two families he counselled who were traumatized by terror. In both cases, two young children lost parents in a terrorist attack – a father in one and both parents in another. In the second attack, the children watched their parents die.

In both cases, Dreman noted, counselling seemed to help the children and the surviving mother to return to normal lives.

"Long term though, our counselling failed," he said. "Following up 10 years later, we found that the two children who were orphaned were involved in criminal activity (one was involved in a robbery at a museum) and drugs, while the boy in the other family became anorexic and was a compulsive worrier, and the girl had psychological difficulties brought on by having been called to serve in the army."

Although the widowed mother did remarry, he said, the marriage didn't last, in part because of the government's compensation rules. On remarrying, she lost her generous compensation benefits as the widow of a terror victim and her second husband was unable to financially support the family.

In dealing with trauma as a result of violence, Dreman emphasized the importance of having a social support network, maintaining a normal routine (especially for children), trying not to over-protect children and having parents encourage their children to express their fears, suggestions that the other two speakers agreed with.

Kimelman spoke of her lifelong nightmares and anxiety from her experiences during the Holocaust and her fears for the safety of her own three sons. After coming to Winnipeg at the age of 14 with other surviving family members, however, she said, she was able to complete her education and enjoy a successful career as a teacher and principal in the Jewish school system in Winnipeg.

Strain, a Manitoba Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Sector Association refugee response co-ordinator with the Salvation Army, talked about Manitoba's resettlement efforts on behalf of Syrian refugees.

"Manitoba has pledged to welcome about 2,000 Syrian refugees," she said. "The refugees that are coming here are among the most vulnerable. They are large families from poor areas of Syria. They have had limited education. The children received no schooling in the refugee camps. Housing in particular is a major problem."

But Manitoba has had a lot of experience integrating refugees from war-torn countries, she said. "The key to successful integration is a helping hand, helping the refugees to learn English, find work and become part of a community."

She cited the example of one young woman who was separated from her family during an attack on her village in Africa. She spent several years living in the jungle and came to Winnipeg with no English, limited education and two small children.

"At first, she rarely left her home," Strain said. "We got her into a program and she blossomed. She got a job, became a manager where she works and became a homeowner. She has built a wonderful life for herself and her children.

"That resiliency is common to most of the refugees that I have worked with." ■

The Board of Directors and Staff of
Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA

Extend our deepest condolences to
the entire Goldbloom family on the passing of

Dr. Victor Goldbloom ז"ל
Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
May God comfort you among
the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Julia Berger Reitman
Chair, Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA

Linda Kislowicz
President & CEO, Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA

JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA - UIA
הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה - UIA
FÉDÉRATIONS JUIVES DU CANADA - UIA

The Board of Directors
and staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
express their profound condolences
to our colleague and friend

Michael Goldbloom
and family
on the passing of his father,

Dr. Victor Goldbloom ז"ל

He is survived by his wife of 67 years,
Sheila Goldbloom,
his children,
Susan Restler (Peter Restler),
Michael Goldbloom (Fiona Macleod),
Jonathan Goldbloom (Alice Switocz),
four grandchildren, Victoria (Byron), Lincoln,
Alexandra and Matthew;
two great-grandchildren, Sol and Sylvia;
his brother, Dr. Richard Goldbloom,
and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

CJN

May his memory forever be a blessing.

Pioneer was Canada's first female provincial chief justice

JOEL JACOBSON
ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT, HALIFAX

Halifax, the province of Nova Scotia and Canada have lost a trailblazing woman who set precedents in the civic and justice communities.

Constance Glube, the first female provincial chief justice in Canada as well as the first Jewish woman to hold that job, died in Halifax Feb. 15 at 84. Glube was a woman who gave much of herself to the legal profession and the many community organizations who benefited from her extensive wisdom and expertise.

The Ottawa-born Glube was the first female city manager in Canada when she was named to the post in Halifax in 1974. Three years later, the graduate of McGill University (BA 1952) and Dalhousie Law School (LLB 1955) was named the first female judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia by then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau. In 1982, she was named the province's chief justice, the first woman in Canada to hold a provincial chief justice position.

In 1998, she became Chief Justice of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, where she served until her retirement in December 2004.

"We'll miss her dearly," Nova Scotia Chief Justice Michael MacDonald told the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*. MacDonald appeared before Glube, known to friends as Connie, as a young Sydney lawyer. He called her "a great Canadian."

"There is no question Connie will have a place in history," former Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan said. He was a law school classmate of Glube, and premier when Glube was named chief justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Constance Glube FAMILY PHOTO

He said Glube's career saw her preside over many important legal cases in Nova Scotia history, including the Westray Mine inquiry.

Buchanan said he saw Glube only two weeks ago during a Canadian Bar Association event. The organization recognized Glube by awarding her the Constance R. Glube CBA Spirit Award, given to those who demonstrate "outstanding effort and contribution to women in law." Glube attended as the special guest.

Buchanan praised Glube as a great lawyer, excellent city solicitor and superb judge who knew many people and treated everyone with grace and respect.

"Constance Glube's contributions to the law and to our province are profound," said Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil. "She maintained a lifelong commitment to gender, ethnic and religious equality and opportunity."

An obituary on the Courts of Nova Scotia website said Glube, as a Jewish woman in Canada in the mid-1900s, showed "steadfast dedication to overcoming the gender, ethnic and religious barriers of her era."

Glube and her late husband Richard were lifelong members of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, of which Richard's father, Joe, was a founding member. Glube served the synagogue in many capacities, and she was also a member of Hadassah WIZO and the local Masada Club for Jewish seniors, as well as a board member of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Atlantic region, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

A Queen's Counsel and member of the Order of Canada (2005) and Order of Nova Scotia (2006), Glube served the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Foundation as a member, vice-chair and finally chair from 2007 to 2009. She was honorary chair of the Nova Scotia Barristers Society and an honorary member of both the Canadian Bar Association and International Association of Women Judges. She received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, Mount St. Vincent University and Saint Mary's University.

Always a woman of integrity, dignity and generosity, Glube was never one to ruffle feathers, except in situations when she knew she was right, of course. Her constant smile made people feel welcome in her presence. You were the focus of her attention and were met with eye contact in any conversation. As a judge, she was known for complete impartiality and she led her private life the same way, remaining unaffiliated with external organizations to retain that judicial independence.

As a judge, she was focused on finding what was right and just. Her sense of fairness carried into her private life, where she treated everyone as an equal.

After she retired in 2004, Glube developed a passion for bridge, calling it "my second career." She became a Ruby Life Master, and days before her passing, she was eagerly anticipating a bridge cruise in late February.

Her children reflected on her generosity. "She gave back to so many causes because she felt she was so blessed in her life," said son Harry.

Her eclectic interests included gardening, swimming, Symphony Nova Scotia, Neptune Theatre and other arts endeavours.

Glube is survived by her sister Sheila Pollock of Ottawa; sons John (Toronto), Harry (Wanda Pottle, Halifax), and Joe (Elizabeth, Oakville, Ont.); and daughter Erica Kolatch (Barry, Silver Springs, Md.), five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. ■

New Israel Fund of Canada
הקרן החדשה לישראל

Extends condolences to
the Goldbloom Family on
the passing of

Victor Goldbloom ז"צל

We mourn the loss of a committed supporter of Israel and leader across our community.

המקום ינחם אתכם עם שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The Board of Directors & Staff
New Israel Fund of Canada

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement

CJN

We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.

Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

ICRF Cancer Research

END CANCER

Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe

Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Goldbloom taught us to be proud, but never arrogant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

In recorded interviews, notably with the oral historian Sharon Gubbay-Helfer, he discusses how difficult these responsibilities were and admitted that the Jewish community did not especially favour them. Yet he believed in them, dedicated himself to them and achieved a great deal.

Many Jews feared the conversion goals of the Christians involved in dialogue. Victor had a different understanding and approach. He read a great deal and understood the history of Christianity. He knew the history of the papacy and of the Catholic Church during the Holocaust. He was able to find fault where it lay, but to also see the effects of Christian aid and attempts to hide and help Jews during the Shoah. He was willing to build on that.

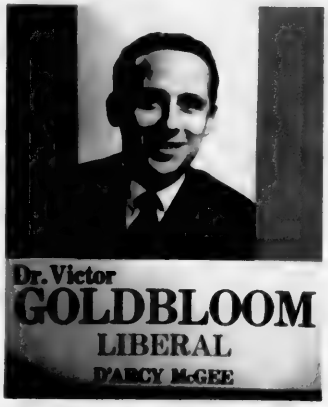
But primarily, he did not feel his Judaism was vulnerable to conversion. He was confident in his own Jewish identity and that of his colleagues. In fact, he felt that the more they would have to stand up and explain Jewish practices or define Jewish experiences, the stronger their voices would become and the stronger their identities would grow. He felt that the more you talked about Judaism to a non-Jew, the more comfortable and eloquent you became. On this basis alone, he was more than willing to engage in dialogue.

But, of course, he had more compelling reasons. Fear did not dissuade him. Insecurity was not familiar to him. He was confident as a Jew, but his overriding goal was to bring Jews and Christians to a mutual understanding. He noted that in the beginning, there was tension, and deep theological issues were divisive. But eventually, they were able to move away from those, which in itself was a great achievement. His dialogue discussions and meetings were able to focus on the social justice and action issues to improve our shared world. This was truly a great achievement, and a benefit to all.

Victor always looked to understand the context of any issue. He sought the consequence of events for both the individual and the community. Rather than being pedantic or overbearing, in his own way, he gently educated and shared information with colleagues by sending them clippings and articles. Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, from 1990 to 2012 the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal, once noted of Victor: "He only talks about what he knows."

Victor's legacy is directed at the critical matter of how to approach diverse communities. He taught that we must learn what inspires people who are not like ourselves and what hurts them. Those are his lessons and commandments to us. He taught the Christian world – those that would listen – the same things. He taught us all to be proud and confident, but not arrogant or haughty, and to be both gentle and strong. He also showed us that we can survive and prosper with French and with dialogue. What a wonderful heritage.

Consequently, when he passed away last week, we all lost. We lost a leader, an advocate, an activist, a mentor and, for the lucky amongst us, a friend. But, of course, his family lost much more. They have suffered the loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather whose presence and dedication was fundamental to their lives and who imparted to them the central elements of their heritage.



Victor Goldbloom was the first Jewish cabinet minister in Quebec.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDBLOOM FAMILY

Victor was blessed with Sheila, his wife of 67 years. They were a delightful and significant Montreal couple, adding to the dynamism of this community's legacy. Each in their own way contributed much to the culture and ethos of Montreal, but together they formed a strong presence that should be celebrated. They formed a vibrant family with three children, Susan, Michael, and Jonathan. The chain of life that began on July 31, 1923, with Victor's birth is alive and well, renewed in his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and even in the work that Victor cherished and laboured over.

While active and eager to continue his work, Victor was very modest about his many very significant awards. In an interview with Gubbay-Helfer after being personally made a Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI, Victor said that one must think, why him? After all, his awards were often not the usual ones, but were singular, public and distinctive.

> *We lost a leader, an advocate, an activist, a mentor and, for the lucky amongst us, a friend*

His answer was very instructive. He said the answer is for others to give. But most importantly, we must recognize that each of us tries to make the world a better place than when we came into it. He then noted that we must acknowledge we are all limited, but we are all able to do something. When it comes to interfaith dialogue, for example, small groups might have only limited, even minor, effect. Thus, one might feel insignificant.

But Victor felt that if each individual could feel the responsibility to dialogue, to reach out to others and improve the world, then as all those small steps would accumulate, and we could accomplish a lot.

That was his vision. That was what prompted his constant good work. And that is his legacy. We have indeed lost much. ■

JUDAISM 101

An entry level seminar exploring the essential ideas and practices of Judaism

with Rabbi Michael Skobac

Topics include:
• Judaism on One Foot
• Basics of Jewish Belief & Philosophy
• Ethics of Interpersonal Relationships
• Life Cycle: From Cradle to Grave
• The Jewish Home: Decor and Diet
• Special Days: Shabbat & Holidays

Six Consecutive Tuesday Evenings
March 8 to April 12, 2016 • 8:00 PM
BAYCREST TERRACE SYNAGOGUE
55 Ameer Avenue • Admission: FREE
Registration required: 416-789-0020
or E: toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca

UJA Federation OF GREATER TORONTO
jewsforjudaism.ca
KEEPING JEWS JEWISH

Reuben Cipin HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property

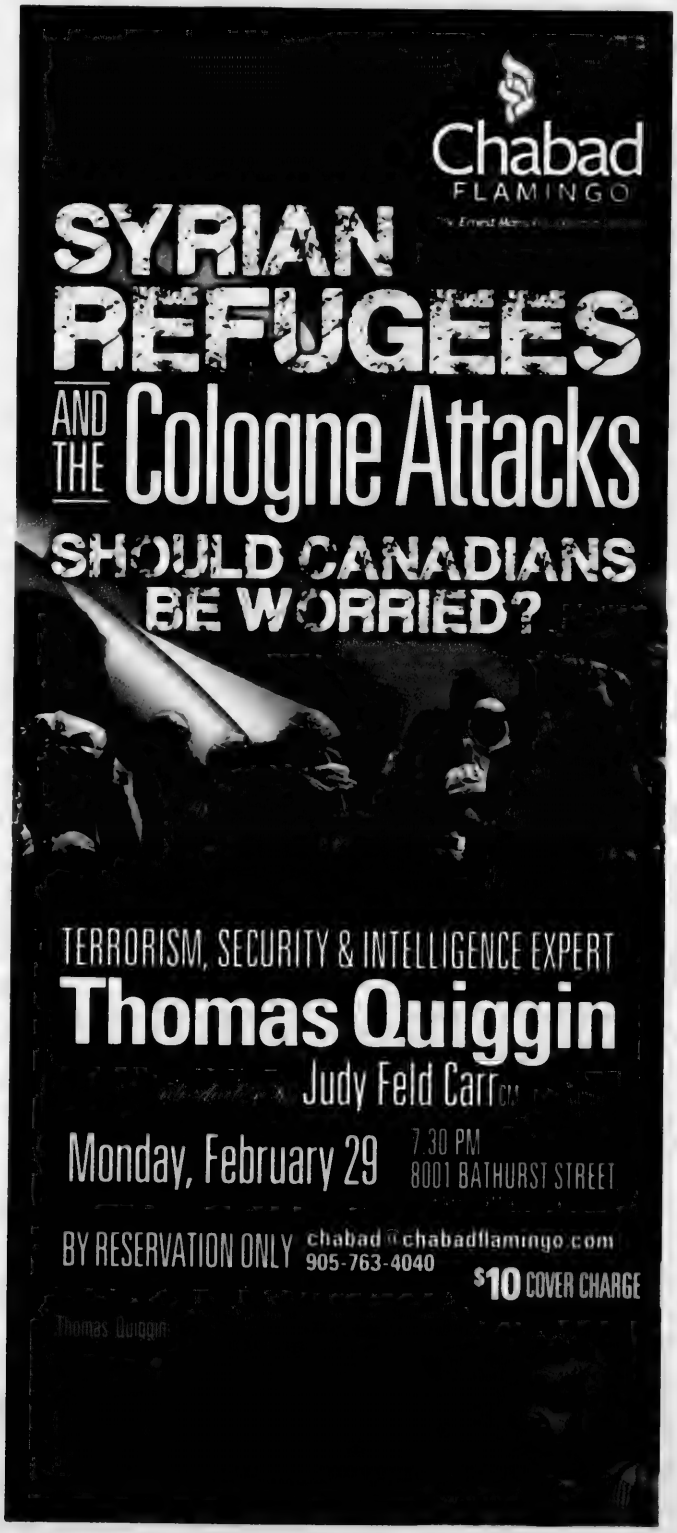
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations

One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+

Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6

For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca



'A unifying force... a great expert on compromise'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

He also served as minister of municipal affairs and oversaw the completion of the facilities for the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

He resigned from the National Assembly in 1979 to become president of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. Goldbloom was one of the first Jewish leaders to reach out to the Catholic Church in Quebec in the 1950s, and his belief in the value of frank dialogue between people of different faiths, languages and cultures never wavered over his long life.

The memoir he published last year was aptly titled *Building Bridges/Les Ponts du Dialogue*. His fluency in English and French enabled him to write them both, without a translator.

His interest in inter-religious understanding extended to the national and international levels.

In honour of his life's work, Pope Benedict XVI made him a Knight of the Order of St. Sylvester in 2012, a rare honour for a Jew, or any non-Catholic.

The ceremony's venue was also unusual – a Jewish congregation, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom – and the guest of honour was Goldbloom's longtime friend and colleague, Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte. At Goldbloom's initiative, Cardinal Turcotte had years earlier spoken from the temple's pulpit.

From 1987 to '90, Goldbloom was president of Quebec's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

He also served as Canada's commissioner of official languages from 1991 to '99.

Within the Jewish community, he was notably chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, and for many years headed the committee of Jewish public health and social services institutions.

"In addition to his innumerable communal accomplishments, Dr. Goldbloom contributed in countless small ways to improving the lives of the individuals and families he touched, from the house calls he made to patients' families, like mine, in his early days as a pediatrician, to the thoughtful and gentle support that he provided to people of all ranks and backgrounds who sought his wise counsel. He will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him," said Federation CJA CEO Deborah Corber.

In "retirement" (a word he loathed), Goldbloom, well into his 80s, became a one-man road show, visiting towns all over the province trying to demystify what it means to be Jewish. During the corrosive debate over the secular values charter a few years ago, he made videos that were posted on social media, appealing to Quebecers' better natures and tolerance of minorities.

Victor Goldbloom at the *McGill Daily*.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDBLOOM FAMILY

McGill principal and vice-chancellor Suzanne Fortier said Goldbloom "made many important contributions to our society, as a community leader, as a political figure and a public servant. He worked tirelessly to build bridges between religious groups and between language groups, helping foster greater understanding and tolerance."

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said Goldbloom was, "above all, a unifying force, an extremely talented politician and a great expert on compromise." He called him a "true-blooded Montrealer for whom our city's diversity was a great asset... He will remain an exemplary model for anyone who wants to go into politics."

David Birnbaum, the current MNA for D'Arcy McGee, said Goldbloom "greatly inspired me in the way I perceive politics. He was a mentor to me and will always be an example to follow."

In 1992, McGill bestowed an honorary degree on Goldbloom in recognition of his many years of service.

Among his many other citations, Goldbloom was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada and an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec.

At the launch of his memoir at Montreal city hall, Goldbloom reflected on his extraordinary life.

"The things I have been part of, never in their wildest dreams would my [four Russian immigrant] grandparents have thought imaginable for their grandson, that I would have the privilege to do what I have been able to do."

Goldbloom is survived by his wife of 67 years, retired McGill University social work professor Sheila, and their children, Susan (Peter Restler), Michael (Fiona Macleod) and Jonathan (Alice Switocz), four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his brother, Dr. Richard Goldbloom. ■

INTERNATIONAL

Netanyahu, Herzog differ on Mideast peace prospects

JTA
TEL AVIV

Benjamin Netanyahu

Isaac Herzog

Speaking to a delegation of American Jewish leaders, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Knesset opposition leader Isaac Herzog struck divergent tones on the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Netanyahu suggested that a resolution to the conflict may come only after improved relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, while Herzog reviewed his newly conceived plan for laying the groundwork of a future peace.

The two leaders spoke to a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which was in Israel last week for a five-day mission. The delegation met with a range of Israeli leaders, including President Reuven Rivlin, Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon and Education Minister Naftali Bennett.

Before arriving in Israel, the group also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

In a brief reference to the Palestinians within a larger speech on Israel's international relations, Netanyahu said Israel shares interests with Arab states that could create stronger ties between Israel and its neighbours. Those ties, he said, could influence the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and regional stability.

"I think the better relations with the Arab world could help bring progress with the Palestinians," Netanyahu said in his Feb. 14 speech. "I think that is very clear given the, what I regret to say is, the dysfunctionality that I often see in Palestinian politics, and I think that the encouragement of Arab states, leading Arab states, for a more realistic position on the part of the Palestinian Authority might contribute to a stabilizing situation and even advancing to a better future."

Speaking to the delegation Feb. 16, Herzog called for Israeli steps to improve prospects for a future two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians. His plan, which he first released last month, calls for Israel to complete its security barrier around the West Bank – including through eastern Jerusalem – transfer civilian control in West Bank Palestinian areas to the P.A., and initiate a regional conference to address shared concerns. Herzog also called for a freeze on West Bank settlement expansion outside the major Israeli settlement blocs.

"Under the current leadership of both sides, there is no way we can progress even one iota," Herzog said, according to a Presidents Conference news release. "In a way, the borders have already been drawn."

In his address to the delegates on Feb. 18, the last day of their mission, Rivlin said the relationship between Israel and the United States should remain "beyond debate" during the U.S. election season.

"Many of you have different political views, support different candidates, and possibly vote for different political parties. But whichever party or candidate you support, there are important issues on which everyone must agree," Rivlin said. "Support for Israel in the United States has never been, and must not become, a party political issue.

"During the election season, it is my deep hope that the close relationship between Israel and the United States remains beyond debate. American friends of Israel should be able to feel free to express their democratic right and vote as they want, and know that whatever happens, the bonds between Israel and the U.S. are strong."

Rivlin also called for unity in the fight against the rising threat of anti-Semitism.

"Across the world we are seeing a rise in this old, and new disease, and there is more and more pressure to boycott the world's only Jewish state. We must stand firm against these threats; Israel is your partner in this fight," he said. ■

Homemade guns add to Israeli security woes

ROBERT SWIFT
THE MEDIA LINE, JERUSALEM

The gun that killed Hadar Cohen wasn't carried into the Palestinian territories through tunnels or smuggled past guards at a checkpoint. It was an improvised firearm, probably homemade in a basement or kitchen somewhere in the West Bank.

The 19-year-old rookie Border Police officer was killed and her colleague wounded in a combined stabbing and shooting attack at Jerusalem's Damascus Gate at the beginning of the month. The three attackers, Palestinians in their early 20s from northern communities in the West Bank, had been approached and questioned because they were acting suspiciously, prompting their deadly reply.

Neither of the guns used in the attack – described as Carl Gustav submachine guns – were the ubiquitous Kalashnikov assault rifles favoured by the likes of Hamas and Hezbollah.

"We're not talking about military grade, manufactured weapons. These are weapons that are being produced in homemade factories," Israeli police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld told *The Media Line*.

Whether the guns were improvised or not, Cohen's death demonstrates that such tools' lethality cannot be underestimated. "These firearms are reaching the level of military-made weapons. They fired like an AK47 or M-16," Rosenfeld said.

Photographs of the two firearms seized in the incident appear to show they were both customized from the original bodies of conventional weapons – one a Kalashnikov AK47 and the other the American standard, the M-16. Both weapons fired 5.56 ammunition, Rosenfeld said.

Two weeks later, the scene almost repeated itself, underscoring the growing use of the improvised weapon.

Shortly before midnight on a Sunday evening, police on patrol, again near the Old City of Jerusalem's Damascus Gate, ordered a man said to be acting suspiciously to stop. The suspect responded by drawing a weapon and was shot dead by the officers. A nearby attacker then opened fire on police and was also killed, but only after firing scores of rounds at police with his weapons – an improvised M-16 variant and a second homemade gun – on "automatic."

Occurring late in the evening after traffic had died down, the gunfire was heard across central Jerusalem.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Availability, cost may lead groups to make own weapons

CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE

Weapons of this nature have a long history of use in conflicts involving non-state actors, Nick De Arrinaga, European editor at *IHS Jane's Defence* weekly magazine, told *The Media Line*. Resistance fighters in France and Poland during World War II; the underground organizations Haganah and Etzel during Israel's War of Independence; and more recently, Chechens seeking to push out the Russian Army all used improvised weapons, he said.

"There's a huge breadth of quality when it comes to improvised weapons: Some are very basic, not reliable and potentially dangerous to the user," De Arrinaga said, noting that at the other end of the spectrum are, "essentially underground factories producing standardized weapons."

Cohen's killers came into Israel illegally from the West Bank, so it's likely that their weapons were produced there, rather than inside the 1967 borders, and provided to the assailants prior to the attack. The Israeli army, responsible for security in the West Bank, declined to comment on issues relating to the infrastructure used to manufacture and distribute this sort of weapon.

"It's fairly complicated and it takes time. But the fact is if it's made by a close circle [of people], the time that it takes them is maybe a couple of days or weeks," Rosenfeld said. Ammunition is not hard to come by in the West Bank, he said, suggesting that rounds in the possession of the Palestinian security forces can easily fall into the hands of those seeking to shoot Israelis.

Which raises the question, "Why is anybody making improvised firearms when conventional weapons seem to be relatively easy to get in the West Bank?"

Availability and cost are the first two reasons that a group might choose to make its own weapons, De Arrinaga said. If it's difficult to procure weapons or the cost of doing so is prohibitively high, then an organization might choose to build their own. A third reason, De Arrinaga suggested, is to remain unnoticed by security forces.

Homemade guns do not have serial numbers, which can be traced. In addition, if they were to be made by a small group of people capable of keeping a secret, they could stay beneath the radar and surprise Israel's security forces.

The fact that improvised weapons are still being made despite the abundance of guns in the West Bank also shows that the individuals using such weapons are not connected to the mainline terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Brig.-Gen. Nitzan Nuriel, former head of counter-terrorism with the Israeli government, told *The Media Line*.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits wounded Border Police officer Ravit Mirilashvilli, whose partner, officer Hadar Cohen was killed in an attack earlier this month. AMOS BEN GERSHOM/GPO PHOTO

The individuals making these weapons "are not connected to any terror groups and want to keep a low profile," Nuriel said. If a person were to decide they want to conduct an attack against Israelis, they might inadvertently tip off security forces if they began by attempting to purchase a weapon. Constructing one at home avoids this problem, according to Nuriel, who warned that this is something that's only going to become easier as technology improves.

Instructions for making these weapons are readily available on the Internet and most of the items needed to produce them can be easily acquired, because they have dual purposes, like agricultural fertilizer used to make explosives, Nuriel explained.

Further complicating these factors is the emergence of new technology in the form of 3-D printers, which allow production of solid plastic objects using a computer file and a specialized printer, and are being developed for firearms production in the United States.

According to Nuriel, 3-D technology has not yet been seen among Palestinian organizations, but it's something they are interested in.

"I'm from the group that believes it is only a matter of time until we see more and more improvised explosives and weapons attacks," Nuriel said. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Subscription Rates

❑ 1 YEAR $60.00*
❑ 2 YEARS $114.00*
❑ 1 YEAR DIGITAL (eCJN) $33.84*

*TAXES INCLUDED Delivery made only to Canadian Addresses

How to Subscribe

Log on to:
bit.ly/cjnsrvc

Mail this form to:
PO Box 1324, Stn Main, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Call us:
416-932-5095 or 1-866-849-0864

❑ **YES,** I would like a subscription to The CJN

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY PROV. POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE EMAIL

✔ **Payment:** $_____

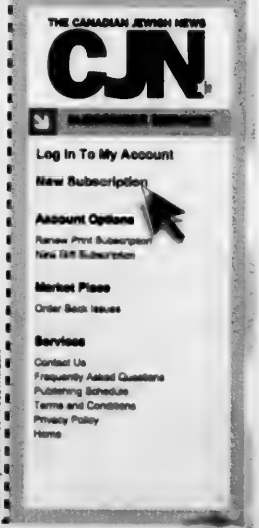
❑ Cheque Enclosed Charge my ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Amex

CARD NUMBER CVC EXPIRY
SIGNATURE

Doc key: SUBPHCJN SUBWHCJN

It's easy to subscribe online

bit.ly/cjnsrvc



Rabbinate's control of mikvahs raises privacy concerns

AMANDA BORSCHEL DAN
JERUSALEM

A religious married woman stands, unclothed, in front of a ritual bath attendant and is inspected for errant strands of hair, earrings or nail polish.

In every other forum, she dresses modestly – often from head to toe– yet at the ritual bath, which religiously observant women must visit monthly, seven days after ending menstruation, she's questioned on matters of excruciating intimacy.

Several Supreme Court cases, both active and resolved, and even a set of 10 protocols released in 2014 by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, have fought for a woman's right to privacy at the mivkah. But a new law proposed by United Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni that would place the ritual baths under the authority of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate threatens to unravel these privacy protections.

Gafni began collecting signatures from fellow MKs for his proposed law after the Supreme Court ruled the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel can use the state ritual baths for their conversions.

The head of the Israeli Reform Movement Gilad Kariv told *The Times of Israel* that his movement performs some 500 conversions a year. Kariv added that many of the children adopted abroad, and presumably those born by surrogates abroad, are converted in Reform conversions. (Since a 2002 Supreme Court decision, those converted in Israel by the Reform and Conservative movement can register with the Interior Ministry as Jewish.)

In Israel, public ritual baths are run by local municipalities, all of which have religious life committees that in many cases include women. This month's Supreme Court ruling established that since the baths are publicly funded, they must be even-handed about who can use them.

For Gafni, moving oversight of mikvahs to the Chief Rabbinate is a twofold victory: In making them a religious matter – like marriage or divorce, which are legally unavailable to the Reform and Conservative movements – the Rabbinate could block their use by the liberal movements. As well, the switch would also alter the way the majority of the ritual baths' customers – modern Orthodox women – use them. By putting them under the Chief Rabbinate's control, they'd be forced to follow the institution's ultra-Orthodox approach.

According to the Eden Center, a mikvah education agency that trains bath attendants to be more compassionate, some 10,000 secular women have their first, and often only, experience with mikvahs before marriage. However, some 750,000 observant women, the overwhelming majority being modern Orthodox or religious Zionist, make regular use of them.

New rules could affect modern Orthodox women, critics warn.

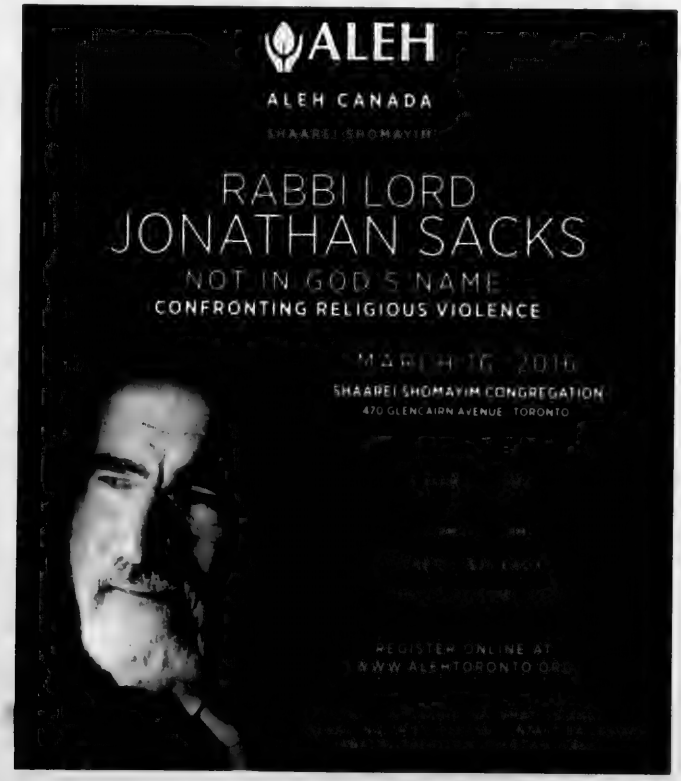
It's therefore counterintuitive to see signatories on Gafni's bill from Education and Diaspora Minister Naftali Bennett's Jewish Home party, whose constituents are largely modern Orthodox.

In 2014, while minister of religious affairs, Bennett's deputy minister Ben Dahan released a 10-point set of protocols for privacy in mikvahs. Among them was the right of women to decline help from attendants. "If the woman who is preparing to immerse in the ritual bath is not interested in receiving the services of the bath attendant, including inspection, the attendant must not delay her immersion and shall not ask her any questions... One must emphasize the need for total privacy in the ritual bath, and thus the attendant must not ask questions that may infract on the woman's privacy," read the protocols.

In a letter to several Jewish Home MKs ahead of a party meeting Monday, Rabbi Seth Farber, head of Itim, asked the signatories to rethink their support. Itim, an NGO that helps Israelis, including new immigrants, navigate Israel's religious bureaucracy, is also involved in a Supreme Court case on behalf of 13 women seeking privacy in the ritual bath.

Putting mikvahs under the Chief Rabbinate's control, Rabbi Farber said, essentially creates a new monopoly for the rabbinate and "emasculates women from any authority in the mikvah." With Jewish Home support, he said, "they're disenfranchising not just the Reform and Conservative movements, but the 'bread and butter' of their community – the religious Zionists." ■

Times of Israel/Timesofisrael.com



Jerusalem square to be renamed for teen stabbed at pride parade

JTA
JERUSALEM

Zion Square in downtown Jerusalem will be renamed for the teenage girl who was stabbed to death last summer at the city's gay pride parade.

The area will be called Tolerance Square in memory of Shira Banki, 16, who was killed in July by a haredi assailant who had just been released from prison for committing a similar attack at the 2005 gay pride march. Five others were injured in the 2015 attack.

Banki, a high school student from Jerusalem, was marching to support her gay friends. Her parents donated her organs.

The Jerusalem municipality has also announced a competition to redesign the site, which is being renovated.

"Zion Square, in the historic heart of downtown Jerusalem – which for many years attracted protests, demonstrations and clashes – will soon become a square to represent tolerance and mutual respect in the spirit of the late Shira Banki, murdered during the Gay Pride Parade," the municipality said in a statement.

Shira Banki FACEBOOK PHOTO

The square is located on Jaffa Road adjacent to the popular Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall. ■

Third suspect nabbed in deadly supermarket stabbing

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF

Israeli security forces said Sunday they had arrested a third suspect in the stabbing attack at a West Bank supermarket that killed an Israeli man Feb. 18.

Omar Rimawi and Ihad Sabah, both 14, from Beitunia near Ramallah, were identified as the two attackers who stabbed Tuvia Yanai Weissman, 21, and another man at the Rami Levy supermarket in the Sha'ar Binyamin Industrial Zone, southeast of Ramallah.

They were shot by an armed civilian who rushed to the scene after hearing screaming. Sabah died of his wounds. Rimawi remains hospitalized.

Weissman, a dual Israeli-U.S. citizen and resident of the West Bank settlement of Ma'ale Michmas, was stabbed and critically injured while shopping with his wife, Yael, and four-month-old daughter, Neta. He later died of his wounds in the hospital.

A second victim, identified as a 35-year-old man, sustained moderate injuries, but has been released from the hospital.

Israeli police released photographs Feb. 18 from the supermarket showing blood splattered on the floor of an aisle stocked with laundry detergent.

Security footage from the attack showed that three Palestinians sought to enter the supermarket. A security guard turned one away, but allowed the other two in without a physical check. The third suspect is believed to be the one seen being turned away. The suspect is identified by authorities only as a Ramallah resident.

The Feb. 18 attack was the second to occur in a Rami Levy supermarket in recent years. In 2014, two Israelis were moderately injured in an attack at a branch of the discount chain in Mishor Adumim, an industrial zone east of Jerusalem.

Since October, some 30 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians in knife, gun and car-ramming attacks. More than 160 Palestinians have been killed, some 115 of them while carrying out attacks, and others during clashes and demonstrations. ■

Timesofisrael.com

Israel: Perspectives & Possibilities

Come hear dialogue from leading speakers and thinkers on Israel as they answer questions about peace, security, and much more

Tuesday, March 22 at 7:30 pm
Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave (Wilson Hts/Sheppard)

PANEL
Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs: Steve McDonald
Deputy Director of Communication and Public Affairs
JSpace Canada: Dr. Karen Mock
Noted Human Rights Consultant, Lecturer, Educator and Spokesperson
New Israel Fund of Canada: Joan Garson Chair

Moderator: Rabbi Denise Handlarski, Oraynu Congregation

Oraynu
CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

Tickets: $10 – Register now!
tinyurl.com/IsraelPanel
416-385-3910 | oraynu.org

Congratulations!

In honour of your marriage, The Canadian Jewish News is pleased to present you with a 6 month subscription.

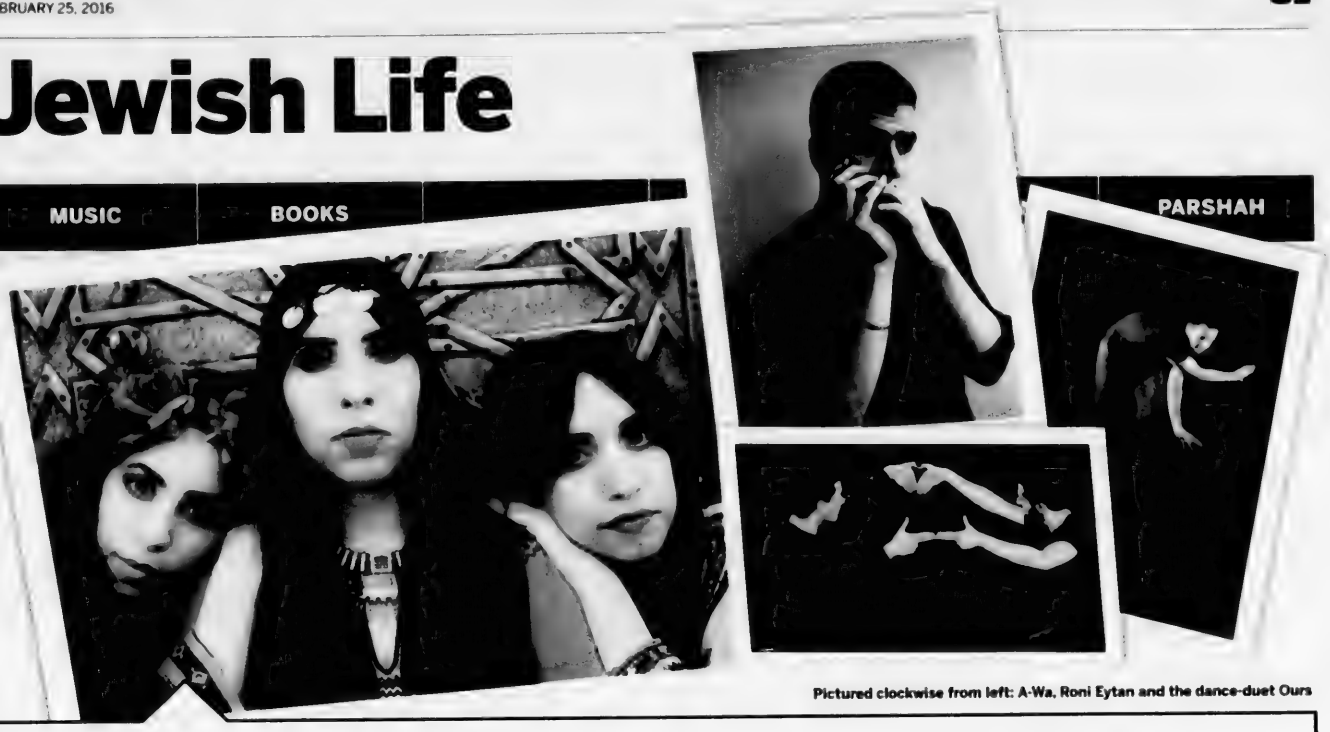
Please fill in the requested information and mail to PO Box 1324 Stn K Toronto, ON M4P 3J4 or fax to 416-932-2488

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____
Phone number _____
Email _____

CJN
Doc key: W16FXCJN

Jewish Life

MUSIC | BOOKS | PARSHAH



Pictured clockwise from left: A-Wa, Roni Eytan and the dance-duet Ours

Spotlight shines on Israeli culture in Toronto

SHERI SHEFA
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The Spotlight on Israeli Culture, a two-month showcase of Israeli music, theatre, film, dance and visual arts, is gearing up for its third year.

"We're just trying to once again focus and highlight and showcase some of the diverse and vibrant original culture that is coming out of Israel. Israel, as you may be aware, produces beyond proportional [numbers] of artists compared to other countries in the world, so maybe it is just a lifestyle, in that they put a lot into art and culture," said Janet Klugsberg, executive director of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation (CICF), the group that organizes the event.

Supported by the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto, the Spotlight is presented by a number of cultural organizations in Toronto – the Ashkenaz Festival, the Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, The Rex Jazz and Blues Bar, the Toronto Jewish Film Society, the Toronto Public Library and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – to showcase Israeli art throughout the city from Feb. 21 to April 10.

Klugsberg said it's meaningful to her to be able to present Israeli artists whose careers have flourished, in small part as a result of financial support they received from CICF's Sharett Scholarship program in Israel, which provides tuition assistance to young, talented artists.

"Young artists, whether they are musicians, dancers, in film, in theatre, in art, compete for these prestigious scholarships. People like [conductors and violinists] Itzhak Perlman or Pinchas Zukerman received these when they were young," she said.

Some of the participants in this year's Spotlight, including musicians Roni Eytan, a harmonica player studying on a full scholarship at Berklee College of Music, and Avishai Cohen, a world-class trumpeter, are former Sharett Scholarship recipients. Both will be playing at The Rex on April 10.

"CICF is pleased to have supported some of these artists when they were young, and now we're featuring them in the Spotlight. To be part of their growth and to see how far they've come is really something amazing for me," Klugsberg said.

Some of the other performance highlights include A-WA, Israel's hottest new world music act consisting of three sisters – Tair, Liron and Tagel Haim – who combine their Yemeni musical roots with contemporary funk, electronica and hip-hop influences.

"They have the first Arabic song to hit the top of the charts in Israel, and they were also featured by *Al-Jazeera*, even though they are a Jewish-Israeli group," Klugsberg said.

A-WA will perform at the Mod Club on March 20.

Mikvah, an Israeli play that explores the secret world of the ritual bath as it relates to religious observance and "evolving feminist consciousness" and was named the 2004 Production of the Year at the Israeli Theatre Academy Award, will run at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on March 6.

The film *The Kind Words* (in Hebrew and French, with English subtitles), a story about three siblings who are confronted with a revelation about the identity of their "real" father, will be screened at the Empress Walk theatre on Feb. 28.

Idan Sharabi, a choreographer and dancer who will be at The Citadel on March 1, will be part of a triple bill performance that will include her award-winning dance duet *Ours*, which won best choreography in the Copenhagen International Choreography Competition and the Hanover Choreography Competition.

Klugsberg said Idan Sharabi, a Sharett scholarship recipient, has openly praised CICF and credited the support he received from the scholarship as helping to shape his career.

"Idan Sharabi is really one of the up-and-coming stars in the world of dance, so it is really nice to know that the support we gave these people when they were younger has helped in their growth, and now to see them be world class, whether they are musicians or dancers, is really something special for CICF and our donors to see the impact our support can have," she said.

"Culture is really something that transcends borders and we really want to make the Spotlight on Israeli culture something that people recognize this time of year and make it a fixture in Toronto's cultural scene... Hopefully in 2017, with Canada's 150th anniversary, and then in 2018 [with] Israel's 70th anniversary, we're hoping to increase the exposure and increase the connection between the countries and continue to make this a real splash." ■

For more information about the festival or a listing of upcoming events, visit www.spotlightonisraeliculture.ca

ADVERTISEMENT

Greater Expectations!

Setting a new Standard for Alzheimer's and Dementia Care

I remember that morning clearly. It was just after Purim and my then four year old daughter stood next to me facing the hallway mirror. She stayed silent while intensely studying the movements of my hands as I hurriedly and almost instinctively formed the knot and fastened my tie. As I proceeded to put on my suit jacket she quickly turned to me, the ringlets in her red hair following behind and with big blue eyes filled with wonder and curiosity, broke the silence with seven unforgettable words. "Daddy, are you wearing your work costume?"

I am fascinated by societal norms and expectations. Indeed, who determined that a suit and tie versus more casual wear was standard workplace business attire? My daughter saw no distinction between her Queen Esther outfit and my suit and tie and if you think about it, both are equally like playing dress-up.

Too often, what society 'expects' becomes what is considered the accepted norm. Unfortunately, this also applies to how we regard and treat the elderly. No longer can we be satisfied for retirement residences to be places to merely passively live out one's remaining years. Although strides have been made when it comes to how seniors living with Alzheimer's and dementia are cared for, we as a society need greater expectations.

Right from the beginning of my career, I have been determined to change the 'system'. I advocate to 'see' the person and recognize that who they are is distinct from the symptoms of their disease. Our seniors have a lifetime of experience upon which to draw from and share. As such, retirement residences should be places where 'life comes to people, and people come to life'. Places of love, life, laughter and vibrancy. Places of growth, learning and continuous development for those living, working and visiting within it. They should be places where the uniqueness, dignity and spirit of the human soul is fostered, honoured and respected. And most of all, be a place to live, not just a place to be.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one
onekentonplace.ca

Isaac Weinroth
Executive Director, One Kenton Place Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Community

With over 26 years of combined experience in the fields of Gerontology and Long Term Care, Mental Health and Developmental Services, Mr. Weinroth holds a Master of Health Sciences in Health Administration from the University of Toronto as well as a Combined Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Gerontology and Economics with a minor in Religious Studies from McMaster University.

Ottawa-born goalie gets NHL call-up

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Daniel Altshuller GREGG FORWERCK PHOTO

At 21, Daniel Altshuller has registered some pretty impressive highlights in his still young hockey career. First, there was the time he was selected from the second-tier Nepean Raiders junior team to backstop a group of OHL skaters on Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. Altshuller shut the door on some high-level competition, led the team to a gold medal and was voted tournament all-star.

Then there was the time the Carolina Hurricanes selected him in the third round, 69th overall, of the 2012 NHL entry draft in Pittsburgh, marking the start of his pro career.

Pretty good memories, to be sure, but they were eclipsed recently when Altshuller got to live the dream – to actually suit up for a game in the NHL. In all, Altshuller spent four games with the Hurricanes, called up from the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League (AHL) to serve as Eddie Lack's backup when starting goalie Cam Ward sat out with an injury. One of the games was in Toronto, just down the road from his hometown of Ottawa, so Altshuller had plenty of support as he made his NHL debut.

"A lot of my family came to watch," he said on the phone from Charlotte. "It was a great experience in that building. It was a sold-out arena. It was awesome."

What makes his NHL debut even more remarkable is that the six-foot-three, 205-pound netminder started the season playing for the Florida Everblades in the ECHL, two rungs below the NHL.

His career trajectory is clearly pretty steep. He spent last year – his first as a pro – with the Everblades, where he recorded an .881 save percentage and a 3.34 goals against average (GAA). Not exactly Carey Price numbers.

But something happened over the summer – all of it good. He worked hard on his game and focused on improving his skating. And with a year of pro hockey under his belt, he began to feel more confident in his abilities.

He started the season with the Everblades, in the Fort Myers area, and in 14 games, produced a 1.58 goals against average and a .941 save percentage. He led the ECHL in pretty much all important goalie statistics – wins, shutouts (3) and save percentage.

> *It was a great experience in that building. It was a sold-out arena. It was awesome.*

Called up by the Checkers, the Hurricane's AHL affiliate, he continued to turn heads while turning away pucks. In his first 11 games, he played a big part in the team's 9-1-1 record, boasting a 1.71 goals against average, a .941 save percentage, and one shutout.

He's cooled off a bit since then. After 13 games, he now sits with a won/loss record of 9-2-2, with a 2.17 GAA and a .929 save percentage.

Pretty good numbers for a rookie who is still feeling his way in the pro leagues. But as they say, goalies are voodoo – you never know just how they'll turn out.

Even he admits, "With young goalies, it takes time."

He feels he's continuing to make steady progress in his on-ice performance. And he doesn't seem all that intimidated by the competition.

The step up to the AHL, where he serves as the backup to veteran Drew MacIntyre, was manageable. "It's not really a big jump," he said. "It's just a little more organized and structured."

Management told him they were going to give him a chance, and "if I play well, it could be a more permanent situation," he recounted.

Like other elite prospects, Altshuller has enjoyed success at all levels of hockey. In his first year with the Oshawa Generals of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) he won the Dinty Moore Trophy for having the best rookie goals against average.

He was named to the OHL's first all-rookie team, and a year later, he was named top academic university or college player, receiving the Roger Neilson Memorial Award.

A student at Ottawa's Hillel Academy growing up, Altshuller was preparing to backstop Canada at the Maccabiah Games in 2013, but he had to withdraw so he could attend the Hurricane's development camp.

He still has plans to visit to Israel. He, along with his brother and a friend, have applied to the Birthright program, and if accepted, they expect to visit the Holy Land this summer.

In the meantime, he's got pucks to stop and games to win.

Asked to provide a scouting report on himself, Altshuller said he's developed his own unique style.

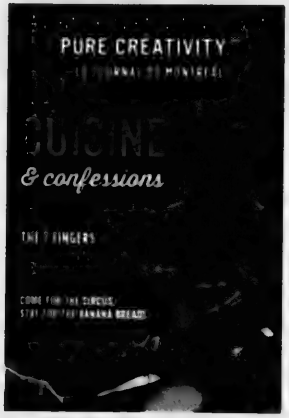
The website Hockey's Future describes him like this: "Altshuller has all the tools to be a dominant butterfly goalie: size, athleticism and a calm consistency. Since turning pro last year, he's been able to wrestle away significant ice time in net. He is capable of handling a big workload…

"His tools and athleticism suggest he can be an NHL goaltender one day. To reach that level he will need to gain game experience." ■

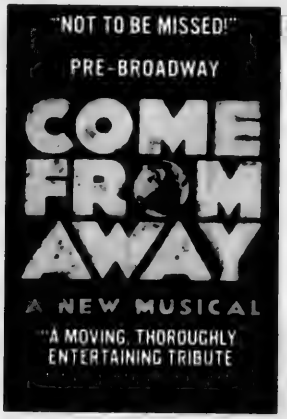
PHOTO: CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN

DAVID MIRVISH PRESENTS THE 2016/17 MIRVISH THEATRE SUBSCRIPTION SEASON

7 *Beautiful* SHOWS FROM ONLY $169



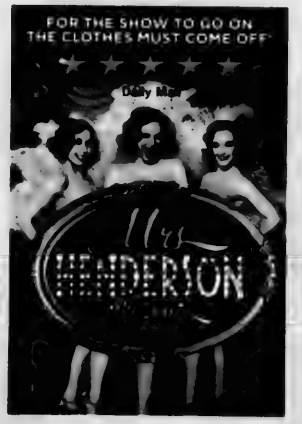
NOV / DEC 2016



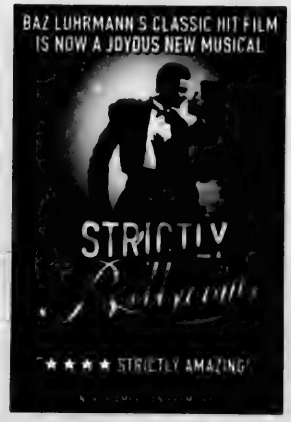
NOV / DEC 2016

JAN / FEB 2017

FEB / MAR 2017



FEB / APR 2017



APR / MAY 2017

JULY / AUG 2017

NEW SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS!

YOUR THEATRE EXPERIENCE GOES BEYOND THE STAGE

- **Save up to 43% off** full-priced tickets
- **Pay no service charges** on extra ticket orders or non-subscription shows
- **Enjoy 15% off** meals at popular restaurants
- **Discounts** on extra tickets for friends and families
- **Free and flexible ticket exchange**
- **Advance & priority offers** on non-subscription shows such as *The Book of Mormon*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Illusionists* and *Cabaret*

416.593.4225 mirvish.com 1.800.771.3933

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

What we must rebuild before building a Jewish museum

Evelyn Tauben

With the Jewish Museum of Canada now on hold indefinitely, it is apparent that where a renovation is truly needed is in the systems of thinking and organizing in our community.

The laudable vision of philanthropists Isadore and Rosalie Sharp – to embed the museum in a larger cultural complex at University of Toronto together with part of the Jewish studies program, departments of History and Near and Middle Eastern civilizations, the Institute of Islamic Studies and a performance hall – will not be realized. While the museum is not entirely moribund, it will not be part of this visionary hub, but will join other discarded Canadian Jewish museum projects.

That such a significant partnership opportunity was left to fizzle suggests great indifference on the part of Canadian Jews toward our history and its place in the national narrative.

Leading museum professional Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett expressed her own disappointment to me. "There was an opportunity to create a first-class institution in an academic setting, next to Toronto's flagship museum, the Royal Ontario Museum. Not just another Jewish museum, but rather an innovative institution that could break new ground in drawing on the experience of one of Canada's many communities to reflect on a wide range of issues of increasing relevance in our world today."

"What went wrong?" She asked her online network. The answer lies in ineffective Jewish communal structures and the diffuse nature of Canadian Jewish identity.

Having visited Jewish museums around the world – in Amsterdam, Warsaw, Athens, Paris, Los Angeles, New York – I find it disappointing, embarrassing even, that a Jewish museum cannot gain traction here. *The CJN* report on the abandoned plans revealed that the fundraising effort, shepherded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, did not meet targets along the university's timeline.

Perhaps part of the reason why this initiative was not funded is that we don't have a clear sense of the story we have to tell – and worse still, don't believe strongly it is worth telling, to ourselves or to the wider public.

Many with influence and wealth, especially in the gravitational centre of the national community – Toronto – cultivate a Jewish identity reminiscent of the Enlightenment ideal: Jew at home, man on the street. Jewish philanthropists who are vital to bastions of culture such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, the ROM, the ballet, opera, symphony and so on, were evidently not equally inspired to foster a major institution of Jewish cultural import. What to make of this disparity? Does it reflect an innate insecurity or ambivalence about Jewish culture in the public sphere?

Even as a museum advocate, I find myself wondering: if resources are so sparingly distributed in our community to Jewish arts and culture, can we bear a cultural institution of the scope projected by the Sharps? Perhaps the focus must be instead on grassroots projects that are innately tied to community with more modest budgets such as the nomadic Museum of Jewish Montreal with its strong online presence and popular walking tours.

There is a further structural challenge in Canada, where leading Jewish philanthropists are tethered to the fossilized Jewish federation system, which, despite a respectable core mandate, never even pretends to place a premium on culture. Rather, volatile circumstances have repeatedly demonstrated that the federation with its conservative approaches and limited priorities makes for a strange bedfellow, if not a toxin, to cultural initiatives. Yet, it remains the system that donors trust.

The usual channels will not do for an undertaking as bold and big as a Jewish museum to succeed. We need new strategies, risk-takers, galvanizing leaders and experienced cultural professionals. We need to support the latter with real resources to build substantive, groundbreaking institutions. We need to cut loose from the federation system, letting it focus on what it does best rather than deputizing it as a catchall for every Jewish undertaking. We need to know our story as Canadian Jews and to value it as part of the great Canadian story. ■

Evelyn Tauben is a writer, producer and curator in Toronto.

NAOT FOOTWEAR
* BLOWOUT SALE *
ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

Feb. 25 - Feb 28
HOURS OF OPERATION:
Thursday 10am-6pm
Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-5pm

NAOT OUTLET ONLY
142 Edilcan Drive
Concord, Ont. L4K 3S5
(905) 738-3776

Naot Footwear is handmade for superior quality and comfort, and has the following features:
- handmade with fine Italian leathers
- cork and latex insole which takes on the shape of your foot for maximum support and comfort
- unique designs combining style and comfort

Thrill
Tangara
Chord
Rubino

NAOT

SINCE 1978
CLASSIC - MODERN - TRANSITIONAL - CHOBI - SHAGS
30 TO 70% OFF
BLOWOUT!
Everything
SALE ENDS MARCH 3RD 2016
Sizes 2'x3' to 12'x20' Bring your room dimensions
Choose from 15,000 rugs from Iran, Tibet, Afgan, Pakistan, India, Belgium & Turkey

8400 WOODBINE AVE
MARKHAM, ON
In the Furniture Mall
905-940-0088

2111 DUNWINE DR
Dundas St W & Dunwine Dr
Next to Taco & Jamison pools
905-940-0088

395 LEWIS RD & QEW
STONEY CREEK, ON
In Stoney Creek Furniture
905-643-8005

Monday - Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 12pm-5pm
www.tajrugs.com

LIMMUD
AN INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE
FESTIVAL OF JEWISH LEARNING
THAT BRINGS PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS
TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE
THE RICH DIVERSITY OF JEWISH CULTURE
Visit www.limmud.ca for tickets
St. Andrews Club & Conference Centre
150 King Street W. | Toronto, ON

Music series pays tribute to the composers of Golden Age of Hollywood

David Wall

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When the Great Depression dimmed the lights of Broadway, its predominantly Jewish songwriters packed their bags and headed to Hollywood which absorbed some 75 per cent of Broadway's talent after the stock market crash of 1929.

Out west, songwriters such as George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin and Richard Rodgers penned the soundtracks of classic movies made during the "Golden Age of Hollywood," from the 1930s to the 1950s. In the 1960s, Jewish songwriters continued to make an impact in Hollywood. Burt Bacharach composed music for the hit movies *What's New Pussycat* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

Jazz.FM's Jewish Songwriters Series is presenting an evening of songs written by Jewish Americans that have helped define the sound of Hollywood on March 9.

Local singer David Wall, the radio station's director of community outreach and education since last September, is hosting the show.

"I guarantee there's going to be some songs from the Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers movies, which were for some reason a fount of classic songs," Wall said, singling out *Isn't This a Lovely Day (to Be Caught in the Rain)* by Berlin and *You Can't Take That Away From Me* and *A Foggy Day (in London Town)* by Gershwin. Wall said he'll probably perform his rendition of *Goldfinger*, the theme song from the 1964 James Bond movie, with lyrics co-written by Anthony Newley.

"There's an endless possibility because there are so many Jewish composers who dabbled in film music," Wall said, adding that what's on the show's song list also depends on what the guest vocalists, Sophie Perlman and John Finley, decide to sing.

Wall called jazz and R&B singer Perlman one of the most accomplished singers in Canada. "She has an instantly recognizable voice and an absolutely winning personality," he said.

Finley is a former singer of the late-1960s rock group Rhinoceros. In the mid-1960s, he shared vocal duties in Jon and Lee and The Checkmates, a popular Toronto R&B band. Finley has "actually turned into one of the best jazz singers I've heard in my life," Wall said.

Jazz.FM's 2015/16 edition of the Jewish Songwriters Series winds down on April 6 with an evening devoted to protest songs written by Phil Ochs, Bob Dylan, Laura Nyro and Woody Guthrie and features vocalists Lorraine Segato, Dione Taylor and Wall. The show's song list includes Malvina Reynolds' *Little Boxes* and Abel Meeropol's *Strange Fruit*.

"We're going to approach them as if they're jazz standards," Wall said, adding that jazz musicians have historically taken songs that might not necessarily be called jazz songs and reinterpreted them.

This is the second year of Jazz.FM's Jewish Songwriters Series, the brainchild of the station's president and CEO Ross Porter. Porter approached Wall one night two years ago at a tribute to Bacharach with the idea for the series, after hearing Wall speak about how aspects of Bacharach's music and Hal David's lyrics seemed intrinsically Jewish.

As a curator of the series, Wall said, "It's not very difficult to find Jewish songwriters, especially in the history of jazz. Most of the jazz standards were written by Jewish composers. That's just a fact." ■

The Jewish Experience in Hollywood, at Hugh's Room on March 9, 8 p.m. features vocalists Sophie Perlman and John Finley and MC/vocalist David Wall, with saxophonist Alex Dean. We Insist! Jazz Songs of Protest, at Hugh's Room on April 6 at 8 p.m., features vocalists Lorraine Segato and Dione Taylor and MC/vocalist Wall, with saxophonist Richard Underhill. Pianist Mark Kieswetter, drummer Davide Direnzo and bassist Daniel Fortin play at both shows. For tickets go to jazz.fm. For dinner reservations at Hugh's Room call 416-531-6604.

I host Friday night dinners, they take care of the rest!

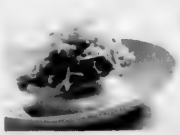
HELEN HOFFMAN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE JUNE 2015.
CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
Make us part of your story.
784 Centre Street, Thornhill
289-588-0974
Conditions may apply.

Dan Hotels Israel

Where pleasure is a way of life
Gorgeous beaches - Thrilling destinations - Endless sunshine

DISCOVER THE ONGOING PLEASURES OF A DAN HOTEL VACATION. WHETHER IT'S THE LEGENDARY KING DAVID IN JERUSALEM OR RESORT HOTELS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND RED SEA, EVERY DAN HOTEL IS A LANDMARK DESTINATION THAT REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF ITS SURROUNDINGS. AND THANKS TO OUR WIDE RANGE OF LOCATIONS, THE OPTIONS ARE ENDLESS FOR ENJOYING THE BEAUTY, HISTORY AND DIVERSITY OF ISRAEL.



FOR INFORMATION TEL: (212) 752-6120. TOLL FREE: 1-800-223-7773-4
FOR RESERVATIONS 1-800-223-7775

King David, Jerusalem | Dan Tel Aviv | Dan Carmel, Haifa | Dan Jerusalem | Dan Eilat
Dan Accadia, Herzliya-on-Sea | Dan Caesarea | Dan Panorama Tel Aviv | Dan Panorama Haifa
Dan Panorama Jerusalem | Dan Panorama Eilat | Dan Boutique, Jerusalem

Dan Hotels Israel Experience The Best | www.danhotels.com

Play looks at patriarch suffering from dementia

DAVID SILVERBERG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

We've seen the hashtag #realtalk used flippantly on social media, but one of the pioneers of modern Canadian theatre truly deserves that millennial moniker.

Director Joel Greenberg often takes an unflinching gutsy look at the human condition in his productions, which he's been doing for decades with his company Studio 180. But now he's partnering with Tarragon Theatre for the first time to probe another complicated and important facet of life – dealing with dementia.

You Will Remember Me was written in French by Quebec playwright François Archambault, and will have an English translation for this Toronto premiere. It will run at Tarragon Theatre from March 9 to April 10.

The play looks at an aging patriarch of a modern family who suffers from dementia, and how the people who love him struggle to understand his disease and care for his well-being.

Joel Greenberg

"There's a larger metaphor in the play about collective memory," says Greenberg in an interview. "What does one generation work hard to achieve, and how does the next one work hard to not ignore it?"

Greenberg goes on to say he was attracted to the play's larger theme about what a generation will be passionate about in a given moment, and how successive generations are expected to take on those same missions.

> *You Will Remember has that human connection, of watching a family in crisis.*

"*You Will Remember* has that human connection, of watching a family in crisis," adds Greenberg.

Bringing this production to Toronto echoes Studio 180's core goals: put on plays that deal with hard complex issues. "I don't think we've done any play that ties up neatly at the end," notes Greenberg.

Studio 180 has tackled homophobia (*The Laramie Project*), the Middle Eastern conflict (*The Arab-Israeli Cookbook*), the George W. Bush administration (*Stuff Happens*), black-white relations (*Parade*) and class war (*Clybourne Park*). If it's dense, dark but still offers flashes of humour, Studio 180 will be on top of it.

Greenberg, a native of Montreal who moved to Toronto in 1971, is keen on partnering with other theatre groups, he says, as he's done with Mirvish Productions and Canadian Stage. In this debut partnership with Tarragon Theatre, Greenberg says it's a good fit, because "this is a new writer to English Canada and Tarragon audiences are very appreciative of new work.

"Part of the excitement of a partnership is you get to have more ideas, when someone is looking at the same work in different ways." ■

You Will Remember Me runs from March 9 to April 10 at Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgeman Ave. For tickets call 416-531-1827

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

SICILY ADVENTURE TOUR
JEWISH HIGHLIGHTS
10 DAY TOUR $3,000
MAY 13TH TO 23RD / OCT 14TH TO 24TH
WWW.JEWISHSICILIAN.COM CONTACT BILL GENOVA
416-367-0380 billgenova@rogers.com

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— *or* —
TRADE UP
If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

Myanmar: A nation in a state of transition

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, MYANMAR

The exterior and interior of Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, the only shul in Myanmar RON CSILLAG PHOTOS

This country is in a constant state of flux. Though still widely called Burma, its official name has been Myanmar since the late 1980s. The capital was Rangoon, now called Yangon. A decade ago, with no warning or consultation, the government moved the capital 300 kilometres north to Naypyidaw, halfway to Mandalay.

Myanmar is emerging, gingerly, from decades of harsh military rule. Last November's elections resulted in a landslide win for Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who spent 15 years under house arrest by order of the junta. The whole nation, it seems, is holding its breath about the upcoming scheduled handover of power. If it fails, it's feared the generals will be back.

But an overall sense of optimism prevails and tourism is up thanks to a new openness.

The sole constant in this complex, gentle land is religion, a profound Buddhism. The skyline of Yangon is dominated by the sumptuous, gold-dome Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist site in the country and always packed with worshippers who drop and pray pretty much anywhere along a tiled promenade of shrines and chapels.

Another stable institution can be found in Yangon's insanely cacophonous downtown neighbourhood of Pabedan, which is mainly Indian and Muslim. At number 85 on 26th Street, tucked between a paint store and an open-air shop bulging with rope and webbing, one finds the Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, Myanmar's sole Jewish congregation.

Built by Baghdadi merchants who migrated here in the 19th century, later augmented by Cochin Jews from India who traded in teak, the small wooden structure burned down in 1854 and was re-opened in 1893 on this spot. After visiting over a dozen Buddhist monasteries, shrines and pagodas in various states of disrepair, it was a pleasure to walk into the spotless synagogue's sanctuary.

We were told that the caretaker, who was mopping the floor the day we visited, and the guard at the door, are Muslim.

The Jewish population in Rangoon peaked at 3,000 and Jews dealt in textiles and timber. The community was so well-regarded that Rangoon and the smaller city of Pathein had Jewish mayors.

But when Japan invaded and conquered Burma in 1942, things came to a halt. Regarded by the new wartime overlords as spies for the British, Jews fled to Australia and India. Any remnants left when the Burmese army took power in 1962.

At one point, there were 126 Torah scrolls stored in the shul. Today, there are two, encased in beautiful Iraqi-style filigreed silver capsules.

We are warmly greeted by a smiling Sammy Samuels, a 35-year-old business graduate of Yeshiva University in New York and community spokesman. Sammy took the helm from his famous father, Moses, who served as caretaker and trustee for decades before his death last year at age 65 (on display under glass are letters of condolences, including one from the government of Canada).

Samuels notes that the core community today consists of 20 people, all citizens of Myanmar, but that a wider Jewish group of visiting academics, diplomats, students and ex-pats may number up to 120.

There's a minyan Friday nights, depending on how many foreigners show up. Samuels says a rabbi visits from New York for High Holiday services.

The synagogue's airy two-level interior is marked by chandeliers, white pillars, a central bimah, lots of red velvet, and sturdy teak pews with woven rattan seats and backs. The whole affair is a colonial relic.

Prayer is still in the Sephardi style. Funds are raised mainly by donations. There's a Jewish cemetery holding 700 graves on 91st Street but we didn't make it there.

Interfaith relations are good, Samuels reports, with Christian schoolchildren visiting regularly. He lowers his voice when he tells me that there's growing tensions between Buddhists and Muslims. "This is something the government will have to face," he adds.

Burma and Israel achieved independence the same year, 1948. Blown-up photos in the sanctuary show a 1961 state visit here by founding Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion wearing full Burmese dress, and by former foreign minister Abba Eban in 1967. Burmese leaders also visited Israel.

Relations with Israel are good, Samuels says, with plenty of agricultural know-how being imported.

Under military rule, there was only a trickle of foreign visitors, he says. But now, dozens arrive every week, including many from Israel. In fact, TripAdvisor touts the synagogue in its Top 10 things to see in Yangon.

Samuels beams when he describes Chanukah here. "Oh, it's amazing. Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Baha'is all sit in one room participating in a Jewish holiday. It's a miracle." ■

TORONTO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

THE KIND WORDS

Nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards and direct from its acclaimed premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival!!
Filmmaker Shemi Zarhin (*Passover Fever, Aviva My Love*) offers a heartwarming story about three siblings who are confronted with a revelation about the identity of their "real" father. What follows is an unpredictable journey through Paris and Marseille as they search for their own identities. Israel's biggest box office hit of the year, *The Kind Words* features a top notch cast that includes Sasson Gabai (*The Band's Visit*), Rotem Zisman Cohen (*Hunting Elephants*), Tsahi Halevi (*Bethlehem*) and Levana Finkelstein (*The Farewell Party*).

Date: Sunday, February 28th
Screening Times: 1:00pm & 4:00pm
Location: Cineplex Cinemas Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St. (North York Centre subway station)

Tickets: $15 Available at TJFF.COM or 416-324-9121 (Cash only at door, subject to availability)

Coffee and tea will be available in-theatre prior to screening.

Hebrew with English subtitles.

Presented as part of

TJFF.COM

A moving, insightful narrative of Holocaust experience

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The powerful Holocaust movie *Son of Saul*, which is up for the best foreign film prize at the Academy Awards on Feb. 28, presents a gut-wrenching view of Auschwitz-Birkenau from the point of view of a Sonderkommando – part of a group that herds prisoners into the gas chamber, processes their belongings for valuables, ferries the corpses to the crematoria, and prepares for the next trainload of doomed Jews. Although shot in a studio, Hungarian director Laszlo Nemes' remarkable film resembles what might have resulted had an actual Sonderkommando been wearing a hidden body camera.

As the *New Yorker* recently remarked, a movie that staged such nightmarish scenes without an overriding dramatic structure "would not be watchable, or even defensible." Still, the Holocaust has spawned an enormous genre of literary and artistic works based upon such imagery.

The Weight of Freedom by Nate Leipciger is one of the latest titles to emerge from the Azrieli Foundation, which has published dozens of well-produced Holocaust survivor memoirs in Canada over the last decade. *The Weight of Freedom* presents a well-written description of life and death at Auschwitz-Birkenau and other slave labour and concentration camps. Told by a sympathetic narrator, the story is gripping, moving and insightful.

Born in the town of Chorzow, Poland, Leipciger experienced the horrors of the Sosnowiec Ghetto, Auschwitz-Birkenau and various camps in Silesia. Although he lost his mother and sisters, he and his father miraculously managed to stay together throughout their prolonged ordeal. Both of them survived and came to Toronto.

Like a cosmic black hole, Auschwitz-Birkenau was a place where light (and life) were seldom allowed to escape. By all odds, Leipciger should have perished there or in any of a dozen other situations during the Shoah. Brought to the brink of death, he was ultimately spared to give powerful testament to the insane, morally perverted world he had entered.

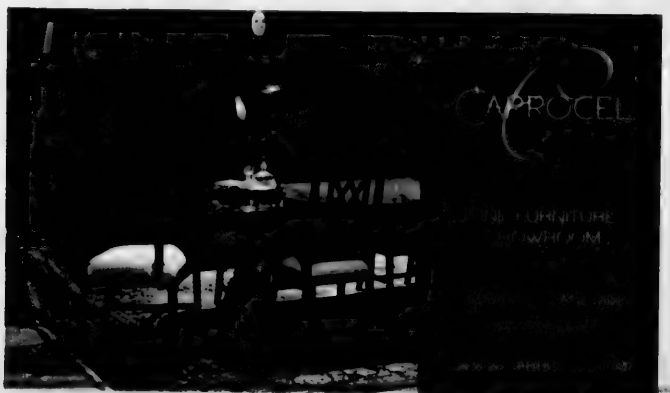
At Auschwitz-Birkenau, the "continuous flow of transports and the knowledge that unsuspecting people were being marched to their deaths in the gas chambers was unbearable," he writes. "On some days, the smoke from the crematoria obscured the sun, creating a continuous dull grey transition from day to night."

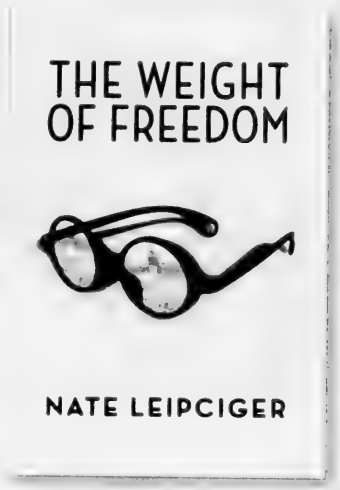
Transferred to another camp, he found that death was again omnipresent. He was assigned the task of carrying the dead from the barracks onto pyres for burning because the crematoria could not handle the camp's daily quota. Disease was rife, especially typhus, and lice had infested everything: "A shake of our clothes and we would see the lice fall out like sand."

What made existence slightly more bearable for him was the guiding presence of his father, who gave him a modicum of hope. In one instance, the ailing, malnourished teenager was ready to go to an infirmary, until his father dissuaded him. Later they found out that all the infirmary patients had been taken to the forest and shot.

Forced on a series of long marches, the lad became dangerously weak and felt he lacked the strength to continue. The marches had resulted in the loss of thousands of participants, and Nazi guards randomly shot stragglers who seemed too weak to go on.

"For my father and me, survival depended on staying together; we had to sustain the will to live for each other," he writes. When at one point he told his father he no longer cared what happened to him, his father responded angrily: "I will not hear of this, and I will not leave you. We did not give up before and you must not give up now. You will come with me even if I have to carry you."





The Weight of Freedom
Nate Leipciger

(Azrieli Foundation)

> *For my father and me, survival depended on staying together.*

The Flossenberg camp, where they ended up, was so close to a nearby town that inmates "could practically see into the white curtained windows with flower boxes on their sills. Boys and girls congregated on the street, leaning on bicycles and having a good time horsing around." For Leipciger, despite his weak and emaciated state, it was a reminder that normal life still existed beyond the barbed wires and sentry towers. Then one day, American soldiers arrived to liberate the camp. "As a rupture in a dam, floods of emotion so long suppressed – joy, tears and laughter – were uncontrollably released. My father and I embraced, danced, laughed and cried with joy." In their mad rush for food, some prisoners even tore away the flesh of a dead horse.

When some American soldiers asked him to open his shirt so they could photograph his skeletal body, Leipciger agreed. "I felt like a freak, exposing my emaciated body, but I complied as I was eager to be part of the documentation." Afterwards, he was admitted to hospital where he battled typhus, so weak he couldn't lift his head from the pillow.

After a postwar trip to Poland in a vain search for family members, he returned to his father in a German displaced persons camp to await their Canadian visas, a process that took years.

"In Germany at the time, no one wanted to speak about what had happened to the Jews. Everyone blamed it on the SS and the Gestapo and claimed no personal knowledge, nor did they show remorse. No one was prepared to accept responsibility. 'The Jews one day all just disappeared, no one asked any questions,' was the typical comment."

One day, he nearly drowned while swimming, but was saved by a German while several Jews stood by, not caring to rescue someone they wrongly assumed was German. The incident had a "profound influence" on him, making him realize he could not tar all Germans with a single black brush.

He and his father came to Toronto in June 1948 and were met at the station by an uncle whom the father hadn't seen in 36 years. "For the first time in my life, I saw [my father] cry, his tears flowing uncontrollably and his body shaking as he hugged his brother."

Slowly integrating into Canadian life, he was profoundly influenced by a remark from Rabbi Emil Fackenheim after a talk at Holy Blossom Temple. When Leipciger commented that he would not want to bring children into a world that persecuted Jews as the Nazis had done, Rabbi Fackenheim "became agitated and asked him to come forward and said, 'Young man, this is exactly what Hitler intended. Don't you see you are giving Hitler a posthumous victory?' His words jolted me into the realization that the Nazi indoctrination and propaganda had worked on me: I was its victim. Little did I know, at the time, that this proclamation would one day become Rabbi Fackenheim's thesis and be the basis of his proposal for a 614th commandment."

An engineer who built up a large firm in partnership with others, Leipciger married, raised three children, and began writing his memoir at the age of 84. A leader in the Holocaust education movement and the annual March of the Living, he describes returning to Auschwitz-Birkenau and climbing the gatehouse tower to an observation room where, for the first time, he could see the entire camp in its entirety.

"This view was not one we could see as prisoners," he writes. "I never knew the enormity of the camp. This, without a doubt, was a huge murder factory. No one could dispute it. It was overwhelming."

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

The CJN Prize winner Jasen Sagman and family

The CJN chief operating officer Tara Fainstein and editor Yoni Goldstein

Prof. Carl Ehrlich, director of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and Prof. Sara Horowitz

Barbara Kay, keynote speaker and CJN Prize judge

MPP Gila Martow and MP Michael Levitt

CJN Prize Award Ceremony

Close to 100 people turned out to support, acknowledge and fete the winners and runners-up of the inaugural CJN Prize. Keynote speaker, and one of the CJN Prize judges, Barbara Kay provided an entertaining and thought-provoking speech on polemic writing. But the night was owned by the community's young writers who had the audience enthralled as they each read their Jewish-themed essays. Spontaneous applause and cheers were plentiful throughout the ceremony. Looking forward to next year's event. ■

– *The Socialite*

The CJN Prize runner-up Jessica Pollock and family

The CJN Prize runner-up Mira Blumenthal and her family

The CJN Prize runner-up Mitchell Consky and his father

Julie Feinberg, co-ordinator, Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies and Anna Baev, director Hillel York and Jewski

Rabbi Michal Shekel, Prof. Carl Ehrlich, Tara Fainstein and marketing editor and The CJN Prize co-ordinator, Rachel Oliver

CJN STAFF PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com
• Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

FEB. 25 - MARCH 4

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, Feb. 25

THE BOOK OF JUDGES
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner teaches a class for women on "The book of Shoftim: The judges and the judged in an era of turmoil," starting today, 1:30 p.m., 49 Michael Court, Thornhill. Email info@torontotorah.com or 647-234-7299.

TMJ SOCIETY
The TMJ (Temporomandibular Joint) Society of Canada meets at 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Email tmjscanada@gmail.com

Saturday, Feb. 27

JEWISH CLASSICS AND BEYOND
Beth Tikvah Synagogue presents an evening of classical music featuring the **Cecilia String Quartet** and pianist **Shoshana Telner,** 7:30 p.m., $18/$25. Tickets at 416-221-3433.

SHLOCK ROCK CONCERT
Camp Moshava Ennismore presents Shlock Rock's **Lenny Solomon** in concert, 8 p.m., Netivot HaTorah Day School, 18 Atkinson Ave. Tickets $36/$18. RSVP campmoshava.org or 416-816-0050.

MOVIE NIGHT
Short films from the Ma'aleh Film School in Jerusalem will be shown in Hebrew with English subtitles, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, Thornhill, 8:30 p.m. $5/$10.

Sunday, Feb. 28

THE GATEKEEPERS
Temple Sinai shows the film *The Gatekeepers*, 10:15 a.m. Discussion led by **Rabbi Michael Dolgin** and lunch at noon. $18/$20. RSVP 416-487-4161.

DIGGING UP THE PAST
Rachel Urowitz and **Shawna Dolansky** discuss "Digging up the past: Israel's legacy," at a dinner at Beth David Synagogue, 5 p.m. $36. Register at 416-633-5500.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of March 10 is Feb. 29. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Adult b'nai mitzvah

In early February, 13 brave adults took to the bimah at Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill as adult b'nai mitzvah. The group –which had completed an intensive 18-month study process taught by Rabbi Micah Streiffer, top row far right, and Shoshana Streiffer, top row far left – led the service, chanted from the Torah and shared moving thoughts about the meaning of this milestone in their lives. Kol Ami is planning to start a similar program next fall.

THE KING OF MUSICAL THEATRE
Club Chaverut presents **Andrew Tees** performing an afternoon of musical theatre, Beth David Synagogue, 1:30 p.m. $7/$10. RSVP **Annette** 416-635-8910.

FREE HEBREW READING CLASSES
Beth Emeth Synagogue offers free Hebrew reading classes, level II, for those who can read Hebrew slowly but want practice saying and singing the prayers. Starts today, 9:15 a.m. for 6 weeks, led by **Michael Kinrys.** 416-633-3838.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH INFO SESSIONS
Beth Radom Congregation holds a bar/bat mitzvah information session for parents of children in Grade 4 and up, 9:30 a.m. 416-636-3451.

Monday, Feb. 29

GRASSROOTS IN DRY LANDS
First Narayever Synagogue and the Intercultural Dialogue Institute show the film *Grassroots in Dry Lands*, 7 p.m., at 187 Brunswick Ave.

HONOURING PARENTS
Rabbi Jay Kelman discusses "Linking the past, present and future: the mitzvah of honouring parents," Beth Emeth Synagogue, 8 p.m.

SYRIAN REFUGEES
Thomas Quiggin discusses "Syrian refugees and the Cologne attacks: should Canadians be worried," with an introduction by **Judy Feld Carr,** $10, Chabad @ Flamingo Congregation, 8001 Bathurst St. at 7:30 p.m. Must pre-register at Chabad@chabadflamingo.com or 905-763-4040.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS
Rabbi Eva Goldfinger discusses "The book of Genesis unearthed and illuminated," Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $20. RSVP 416-385-3910.

Tuesday, March 1

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *Gloomy Sunday*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes commentary by **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

Wednesday, March 2

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS
Dr. Nasreen Khatri discusses "Care for the caregivers," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $5 for non-members. RSVP 416-221-3433.

THE WORLD OF ISRAELI POLITICS
Daniel Silverman discusses the basics of Israeli politics, in 3 sessions starting today, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation, $25/$40.

Thursday, March 3

HOPE INTO PRACTICE
Author **Penny Rosenwasser** discusses her book *Hope into Practice: Jewish Women Choosing Justice Despite our Fears*, 7 p.m., Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St. Sponsored by the United Jewish People's Order- Toronto. PWYC

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

YIDDISH VINKL
Yiddish Vinkl presents Yiddish songs and humour, noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20 (includes lunch). RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings until March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy,** 416-225-2112, ext. 204

Circle of Care is looking for a Yiddish-speaking male volunteer to lead a men's discussion group Monday afternoons. Volunteers also needed for kosher meals on wheels program and friendly visiting. Call **Lisa** 416-635-2900, ext. 284.

JF&CS

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155
Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Celebrate Purim and enjoy a new play from the Smile Theatre company, March 24, 1:30 p.m. Register at ext. 0.
◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526.
Sandra Bruton discusses digestive health, March 3, noon.
◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112.
Feb. 28, Concert with Musical Mavens Quartet - Broadway show tunes, 1:30 p.m.; March 1, lecture on "John Garfield: the Jewish Brando," 10 a.m.; March 3, lecture on "How food plays an essential role in our wellbeing," 1:30 p.m. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
◗ **National Council of Jewish Women.** 416-633-5100. Aviva Club is looking for new mature members to join discussion. Email reception@ncjwctoronto.org
◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama March 16; barber/hairdresser March 17, 10 a.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at noon.
◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi,** 416-785-0941.
◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue.** Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen,** 416-781-3514.
◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. **Amy,** 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
◗ Passover cooking workshop: gluten and grain-free, March 31, 6:30 p.m.
◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Mondays, 2 p.m..
◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Beginner mah-jong, Wednesdays to March 30, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.
◗ Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," March 2-23, 1 p.m.
◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa**, "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," March 8-22, 1 p.m.
◗ Glass fusion workshop with **Marcela Rosemberg.** Make a salad bowl, seder plate or cake stand, March 8, 7 p.m.
◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

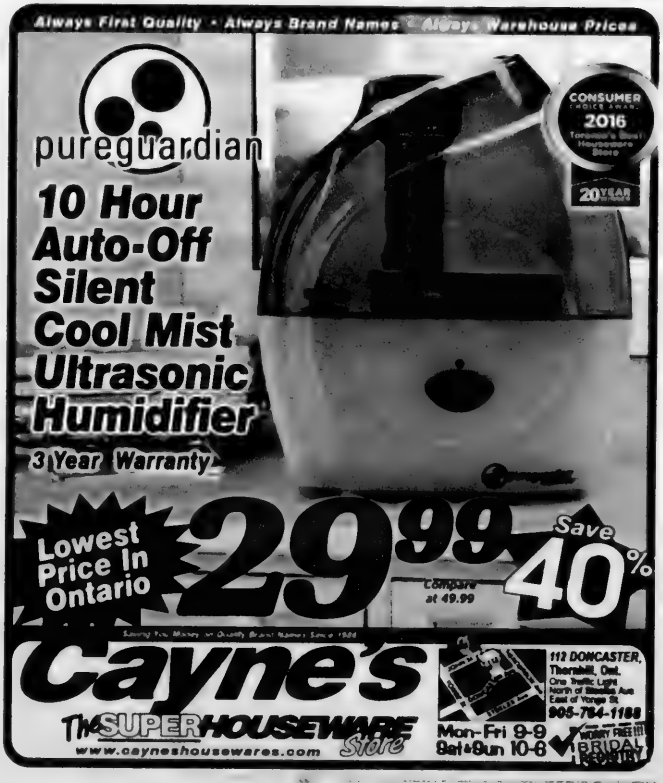
Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
◗ *Dreamland: after Mark Twain in the Holy Land.* Photographer **Motty Levy** follows in the footsteps of Mark Twain, on display at the gallery March 2-30.
◗ Choral workshop for opera lovers with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** Feb. 24-April 13 at 1 p.m. or Feb. 25-April 14, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Novelist **Allison Pick** discusses her new book, *Between Gods,* Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Iain Scott** teaches 4 sessions on "Opera appreciation: All in the family," starting March 21, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Wheel dance: Latin dance. Learn Latin dance in an accessible environment, a mixed abilities class. Sundays to Feb. 28, 6 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ A free forum on affordable housing for people with disabilities, with panelists **Remo Agostino, Bryan Keshen, Nancy Singer, Adam Vaughan, Jijian Voronka** will be held Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre.
◗ Havana Nights, a concert in support of music programming at the MNJCC will be held Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Tickets $50 at uofttix.ca/havananights. Patron tickets, ext. 328.
◗ Bring your own lunch and learn day, March 3: Enjoy a facilitated discussion of *Second Person Singular* by **Sayed Kashua,** 11 a.m.; Nutritionist **Trish Krause** discusses "Is organic food better for you?" at 1:30 p.m.
◗ Accessible yoga, Sundays to March 13, 1 p.m.
◗ **Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi** discusses "A psychological look into Arab and Jewish relationships," March 15, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Living with dementia: caring and coping. A 10-week program starts April 14. Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca
◗ Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.
◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org
◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong runs Tuesdays, until March 29, 10:30 a.m.
◗ "Is your child a picky eater?" Strategies for parents with **Carolyn Hay and Jordana Schwarz,** March 3, 7 p.m.
◗ The J Singles 50+ group meets for a social painting night, March 6, 7 p.m.
◗ Free bagel breakfast and socializing, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. ■

www.cjnews.com



ASK ELLA

When the going gets tough, is it time to bolt?

Ella Burakowski
eb@thecjn.ca

Dear Ella,

My husband Paul and I have been married for five years and have a four-year-old daughter. Paul was laid off work a few months ago. His severance is coming to an end, and it has put a huge wedge between us. All we do is fight. The job market is challenging, and we live in Toronto with a mortgage, car payments and living expenses that can't be managed on one salary. Our daughter cries and is crankier than ever. She feels our tension.

I'm hoping we'll get through this with our marriage intact, but as each day passes, we are growing further apart. Inappropriate comments are being said that can't be taken back. The love we shared is taking a back seat to this stress. Help!

Marriage Meltdown

Dear Marriage Meltdown

Money problems can ruin a marriage, and yours has been hit squarely in the face by our economy. The fear and constant anxiety of the unknown are overwhelming. You need to regroup both emotionally and financially. Take a deep breath, put your anger aside and communicate as a team. You need a concrete plan.

Toronto is a very expensive city. This can work to your benefit. For starters, you are homeowners at a time when prices have soared. Depending on when and where you bought your home, it's probably increased in value. Talk to a good, experienced real estate agent who knows your market, as well as markets outside of Toronto. It's free. You may discover you are sitting on some substantial equity.

Create a realistic a budget you can both stick to. Can you manage with one car for now? Where can you sacrifice? Seeing numbers on paper forces accountability and makes it easier to trim expenses.

In the grand scheme of things, this is a blip, albeit a big one, in a lifelong marriage. Don't forget to make time to enjoy yourselves, too, with family activities like a walk in the park, ice skating, tobogganing or playing games. You need fun to balance the stress and to remind you of why you fell in love in the first place.

Work together and support each other though this challenging time. It won't last forever. Hunker down and ride it out. You have a strong common goal: your family. Working together through this crisis will empower and strengthen your marriage. You can do this.

Dear Ella,

I agreed to meet Andrew after connecting online. We met at Starbucks and talked for a couple of hours. He asked if I would like to continue our chat over dinner, and I agreed, until he suggested we go to his place for dinner.

I was really taken aback. How could he think I would agree to go to his place after knowing this stranger for two hours?

I suddenly felt incredibly uncomfortable and realized I had misjudged this guy. He was shocked at my reaction. All I wanted to do is get out of that coffee shop and run. What do you think?

Couldn't Run Fast Enough

Dear Couldn't Run Fast Enough,

Good for you for not allowing yourself to be pressured into a situation you are uncomfortable with.

Dating requires a balance. You allow yourself to be a little vulnerable by letting your guard down so your date can get to know you while staying true to your feelings and never doubting your instincts.

Never allow yourself to be in a situation where you don't feel safe. If Andrew can't understand that a first date should never take you to a secluded place where you are alone together, then Andrew is either completely out of touch with the etiquette of dating, or he has an ulterior motive.

Either way, bravo for not allowing yourself to be pressured into feeling like you're the one with the problem. You've got your values and intuition intact. I only hope that anyone else who comes across Andrew is equally as confident in their decision, or is a specialist in krav maga. ■

Ella is the author of Hidden Gold - A True Story of the Holocaust. *Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice.*

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Happy 100th birthday to Dorothy Schwartz, seen here enjoying her party with her great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov Ruth Lesser, who turned 92 years old on Feb. 18. From her daughters Carol and Wendy.

Rose Freiheit will turn 100 on Feb. 29, a special leap year birthday! Much loved by your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

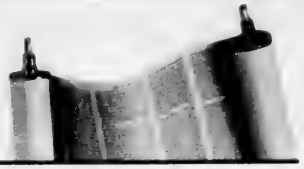
Mazel tov Alexandra Kelly on your bat mitzvah. Proud parents Carol & Howard Klerer, grandparents Henk & Bernice Brohm, Kay Klerer and the late Kelly Klerer.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!
מזל טוב!

Parshah

Ki Tisa | Exodus 30:11-34:35



Rabbi Ilan Acoca wonders why Judaism is so detail oriented. Does it really make a difference to God?
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl explains why the Torah does not emphasize systematic theology
Rabbi Catharine Clark considers how our religious tradition approaches social change

Rabbi Ilan Acoca

The parshiot read shortly before Ki Tisa this week dealt with the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

The Torah is extremely detailed about the building, including which materials are to be used, the measurements to follow and the amounts of various items needed.

Why is it so important for the Torah to provide all this detail? Furthermore, why is Judaism so detailed? Does it really make a difference in God's eyes?

In order to answer the question, let me share with you an anecdote.

A while ago, a heart surgeon I know showed me microscopic glasses he had just gotten to assist him with his surgery and increase the success of his operations because of their accuracy.

What I learned from this was the importance of details. In this kind of surgery, missing a spot by one millimetre could mean life or death.

When it comes to serving God, it is no different. We perform mitzvot in order to create more light and positive energy. To be able to create this energy, we need to follow the details that are prescribed in the Torah and in the words of our sages.

I would like to take it one step further – if details are so important, isn't it incumbent upon us to preserve our customs that our ancestors left for us as a legacy? These customs might be details, but they are important details.

I am often saddened to see that people leave their ancestors' tradition in order to adopt another one. Who gave them the right to do this? Is their ancestors' tradition less important than the one they have adopted?

As Am Yisrael, the People of Israel, we are supposed to be united as one nation that might have different traditions but is serving the same God. Let us all respect our differences and unite together as one nation. ■

Rabbi Ilan Acoca is rabbi at Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

There are three biblical sins that are seen as transformative of the destiny of humanity and the Jewish People. They are the eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil despite the direction of God not to do so, the mould-casting of the Golden Calf when Moses' return is delayed, and the reluctance to enter the Land of Promise after the report of the spy-scouts.

Each represents an expression of anxiety, a lack of trust. Each results in an exile: from Eden, from the Presence of the Divine, from immediate entry into the Land.

The episode of the Golden Calf indicates not only an impatience for and uncertainty about the return of Moses from Sinai. It also demonstrates the human yearning for a God that can be frozen, captured, made permanently present, easily understood. Idols fix a conception of God in one form. But the God of the Bible is Y-H-V-H, a divine being whose very name indicates an enduring process, "I will be what I will be." No single image would suffice.

Perhaps that is why the Torah tradition does not emphasize a systematic theology (although medieval philosophers, engaged in disputations and polemics with other religious faiths, did try to articulate one). Instead, we have a tradition of narrative theology, a sacred saga of the relationship between our people and God.

Thomas Mann once wrote that "music and narration… present themselves as a flowing, as a succession in time, as one thing after another and… differ from the plastic arts, which are complete in the present."

As we sing our prayers, tell our stories and do our mitzvot, we construct our covenantal relationship, more enduring than any single image. ■

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Rabbi Catharine Clark

The consumer model of social change is a popular one. Individuals who care about the environment are urged to compost or drive an electric car. A person who believes that animals have rights might buy only meat that comes from free-range animals rather than from animals that were confined to large feeding operations. The thinking behind these purchasing decisions is that, if enough people make them, carbon emissions will decline, animals will not suffer and the world will be a better place.

Parshat Ki Tisa does not buy this argument. The parshah includes the formula for making the oil to anoint the Mishkan (Tabernacle), its equipment and the priests who will serve in the Mishkan. The instructions conclude with a prohibition and a punishment: anyone who makes this oil in the same proportions for anything other than the above-stated purposes will be cut off from his kin.

Rashi pays close attention to the specific language of this prohibition. Drawing on a talmudic discussion in Keritot, Rashi clarifies that only the perfumer who mixes the oil will be cut off from his kin. A person who happened to acquire this oil and anoint himself with it would not be liable.

In this view, for the oil to be reserved exclusively for the Mishkan, it would not be enough to punish the consumer. Restricting use of the oil to the Mishkan could not rely upon consumer choice, even consumer choice limited by the heavy disincentive of being cut off from one's kin. Rather, the law punishes the producer. Such an insight should make those of us interested in social change look less to improving consumer choices and more to reforming the laws that govern production. ■

Rabbi Catharine Clark is the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in London, Ont.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL CENTRAL PROPERTIES

VESTA DRIVE SPECTACULAR ½ ACRE PROPERTY $4,895,000
Gorgeous Gardens & Pool Great The Setting For This 6 Bdrm Wengle Inspired Residence. Custom Cabinetry, Granite, Hardwood And Exceptional Kit/Brkfast/Sitting Area + Wonderful Mstr Ste + Gracious Princ Rms Combine To Perfect Family Home. Julie Golman* 416-488-2875

COULSON AVE CHARMER $2,495,000
Forest Hill, Recently Upgraded 4+Bdrm, Sun Drenched Princ Rms, Chefs Kit/Brkfst, A/G Family Rm, Mstr Br Retreat Incls, Steam Shower + W/I Closet, Full Lower Level, One-Of-A-Kind, 'Mud Rm' With Well-Organized Storage. Must See. Julie Golman* 416-488-2875

BRACONDALE HILL RD $2,448,000 – THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR
Exquisite Restoration! 4+Bdrm, 4 Bth, 3rd Flr Mstr Ste, Open Plan LR/DR, Dramatic Family Rm, Mn Flr Family Rm, Excavated Lwr Lvl, Steps To Wychwood Barns, Hillcrest. Marinanne Miles** 416-488-2875

OTTER CRES - $2,195,000
Caribou Park – Updated 4+2 Bdrm, Family Rm + Sunroom On Main, Excavated Lwr Lvl W/La4rge Rec Rm, Master Bdrm Features W/O To Deck Wick + 5 Pce Ens. Set On 54 X 130 Pie Shaped Lot, By Appt Only. Yvonne Crawford* 416-488-2875

WESTOVER HILL RD – CEDARVALE $1,799,000
Completely Reno'd 4 Br, 4 Bth On Great Street, Main Floor Family Room With W/O To Deck. Hrdwd Flrs, High Ceilings, Lwr Lvl Inlaw Ste. Professionally Landscaped, 2 Car Pkg. Just Move In. Janie Jesin* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

NEW LISTING YONGE/ST. CLAIR 1 BDRM + DEN AT 33 DELISLE
Luxury Boutique Bldg 24hr Concierge, Move Into Open Style Lr, Dr, Kit, Hrdwd + Marble Flrs, S. Merrick* & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

LIVE RIGHT IN FOREST $529,000
Affordable 2 Bdrm Under Renovation, Great Rm W/Centre Dining Island. Plank Flrs, SS Appls, Walk To Subway, Pkg Locker. Valerie Lennox* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

RENOVATED 1 BEDROOM FOREST HILL
Minutes From Rosedale Subway Stn. Over 1000 Sq. Ft. Gourmet Kitchen S/S App. Hardwood Through Out. 9' Ceilings. Designer Custom Closet. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

2 LEVEL CONDO TOWN HOUSE $869,000
On The Cusp Of Leaside In The Brand New, Award Winning "Scenic On Eglinton" Condos By Aspen Ridge Homes. Acres Of Parkland At Your Door! Steps From TTC, Min To DVP, 401, Downtown Walk To Shops. Mohsen Movaseghi* 416-785-1500

8 BRIGHTON PLACE, UNIT 46! BATHURST/STEELES!
$575,000! Incredible 3St 3Br 3Bth South Facing Exec Townhome! Priv Patio W/Gas Hook-Up! 2Car Parking At Bsmt Door! 10++ Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 100 ANTIBES DR! BATHURST N/FINCH! $319,000!
Don't Miss! Seldom Available 3Br 2Bth S/W Corner Ste Awaiting Your Renovation! Hi Floor W/Panoramic Views! 2 Car Tandem Parking! Immed Possession! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

YONGE/YORK MILLS PENTHOUSE 4400 SQ FT – NOW $2,598,000
Bungalow In The Sky! Ravine Views, All Round, 3 Bdrms + Den, 5 Balconies To Enjoy The Privacy, Light Drenched Space, Showcase Your Art, Entertain Elegantly, 10 Ft Ceiling Height, 4 Parking, Concierge + More. Saul Merrick* & Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTY

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE + 320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1506-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$1,610/Mo! Spadina N/St Clair! Spectacular 1Br 1Bth South Facing Ste W/Panoramic Views! Ou[LEASED]cilities! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

350 LONSDALE RD #315 $3000/MO.
Forest Hill Lonsdale House, Renod Luxury 2 Bdrm, Parling, Locker, Concierge, Indoor Pool, Walk To Subway + Village Shops. Saul Merrick* & Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR LEASE

3025 BATHURST STREET! JUST S/LAWRENCE! NOW $3,300/MO!
Fab Opportunity! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2 Car Parking! Was Used As A Restaurant! Immediate Closing! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR LEASE
Prime Leasing Opportunity In A North York Area. Two Storey Building Is Suited For A Different Kind Of Business! $7,500/Mo Net Lease. Payam Andazesgishahr* & Anzhelika Liubchenko* 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

MARINA YUSUFOV
Sales Representative
C: 416-414-9224 • B: 416-739-7200
Sutton Group-Admiral Realty Inc

CRESTWOOD/MILDA/YONGE

$1,789,000

PRIME THORNHILL LOCATION! Immaculate custom built, 2 story home with 4+2 bed and 5 bath. Approx. 3000 sq.ft. premium LOT 73x153 ft. Finished basement with 3 bdr., 2 baths. The house of your dreams is here!

BATHURST/CLARK/ATKINSON

$1,299,000

EXCLUSIVE! Located in the most prestigious part of Thornhill. Detached 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, finished basement, approx. 3000 sq. ft, 2 car garage. Totally renovated top to bottom. DO NOT MISS OUT!

Downsize Your Home.
Upsize Your Life.
Creative solutions for Buying, Selling and Renting.
kw KELLERWILLIAMS

647-333-5530 Vivien@VivienSharon.com
www.VivienSharon.com

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Boca West condo 2 bdrm/2bath, upper totally renovated garden apt. Move in condition. Panoramic view of the 8th hole of the Dye #4 golf course. Well priced at $149,000. Call: 514 249-9724/514 906-4637

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Exper. pre-school teacher, for a.m. @ Jewish Thornhill Day Care. Call: 905-764-6663 /send resume & ref. to lc.centre@yahoo.ca

245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

A kindergarten teacher looking for full time position. Pls. call: 416-226-4361

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Experienced caregiver wkends **ONLY**, avail. to travel, driver's license. Ref. 647-280-9435.

Caring for the elderly, 36 yrs. exp. available 7days per wk. Live-out. 416-704-0826

PSW w/many yrs exp. avail. p/t for the elderly. Own transportation to take clients to apts., shopping etc. Prefer areas of Markahm, Unionville & Richmond Hill. Call: 647-203-5527

Hungarian lady - caregiver who speaks English, with own vehicle, refs. & yrs. of exper. will take care of your loved ones in home or hospital. Pls. call: 647-783-4202

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ESSIE SHER
Bathurst/Centre
$2,878,000
Luxury Stucco/Stone Tudor - 4 bdr Custom Home On 50x180Ft. Sunny Lot! approx. 5700 Sq.Ft. Downsview Wood Kitchen. Attention to Exquisite detail. Fin basement. A dream come true!
Call **Essie Sher 416-464-5261**
SUTTON GROUP-ADMIRAL REALTY BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, lndry. indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bathurst. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours www.TwoNeptune.ca 647-788-4887

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available March/April.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Exp. female caregiver looking to care for the elderly or the ill men or women. 647-739-7138

Experienced caregiver for the elderly live-in or live-out. Honest, caring & responsible w/driver's license. Pls. Call: 416-346-6738

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Caregiver wanted with vehicle for live-out to care for an elderly couple, & clean, cook & shop. Bath. & Steeles. Call: 7pm-9 pm 905-764-1759.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant
COR
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905.762.0640
www.cafesheli.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, reasonable prices. Call 647.867.6144.

Experienced Polish cleaning lady available anytime. Please call: 416-566-6426

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Bar/Bat Mitzvah photo & video 25 Anniversary special under $1000. Call: Andy 905-763-1584

Specializing in furniture repair?
ADVERTISE IN CJN

No secret to making great rice

SUE EPSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Many people, who are otherwise good cooks, seem to have a difficult time with cooking rice. It comes out sticky or gluey – or sticks to the bottom of the pan no matter what they do.

One "secret" to successful rice cooking is to use the proper rice for the dish you're making. There are several varieties of rice, generally classified as long grain, medium grain and short grain. Brown rice is whole grain rice. It has a mild, nutty flavour, and is chewier and more nutritious than white rice, but goes rancid more quickly because the bran and germ – which are removed to make white rice – contain fats that can spoil. Basmati rice is a small, but long grained, aromatic rice with a nutlike flavour and aroma.

Long-grain rice is the least likely to stick together after cooking and what you want to use in dishes that call for light, fluffy rice. Medium-grain rice is a sticky rice – good for sweet dishes and sushi. Medium- and short-grain rice are basically the same thing.

This is Jamie Oliver's basic recipe for getting perfect rice every time. Once you've got the hang of that, you can flavour it with things like fresh herbs, a cinnamon stick, a strip of lemon zest or even a green tea bag in the water with the rice.

Put a large pan of salted water on a high heat and bring to the boil. Rinse the rice in a colander under running water for about 1 minute, or until the water runs clear. Add your rice to the boiling water and wait for the grains to start dancing around. From that point, boil for 5 minutes.

Drain the rice in a colander. Pour 1 in. of water into the pan, put it back on the heat and bring it to the boil again, then turn down to a simmer. Cover the rice in the colander with foil or a lid. Place the colander on top of the pan of simmering water and let the rice steam over it for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and if you're ready, serve immediately. If not, leave the foil or lid on and put aside until ready to serve – it should stay warm for about 20 minutes.

White basmati rice with tah dig

- ❑ 6 1/4 cups water (filtered is best) plus more for washing rice
- ❑ 2 tbsp. salt
- ❑ 2 cups Indian basmati rice
- ❑ 1 Yukon gold or red potato
- ❑ 1/4 cup canola oil plus more as needed

Bring a nonstick 4- or 5-quart pot with 6 cups water to a boil. Add the salt. Meanwhile, place the rice in a large bowl and run under water, agitating it with your hand, until the water runs clear. Drain it and then place it in the pot of boiling water. Stir it to be sure it doesn't stick. Let the rice boil rapidly, stirring periodically, 5 to 10 minutes, uncovered, until halfway cooked. If you taste it, it will have some resistance to your teeth but you will be able to bite through it. Drain and then rinse the rice under cold water to stop the cooking.

Rinse and dry the rice-cooking pot. Slice the potato into 1/8-in. thick slices. Pour the oil into the bottom of the rice pot; you want a layer of oil about 3/8-in. thick.

Cover the bottom of the pot with a layer of non-overlapping potato slices. Add the rice and smooth it to cover the potatoes. Drizzle with 1/4 cup water. Cover the pot and let the rice cook over medium to medium-high heat 30 to 40 minutes until the rice is cooked through and the potatoes and rice make a crust at the bottom of the pot.

Remove pot from stove, uncover and place a serving platter on top of pot. Invert tah dig and rice onto plate. Remove pot and serve. (Makes 10 to 12 servings)

Garlic cilantro lime rice

I have served this recipe, by Rhee Drumond, both warm as a side dish and cold as a salad. Either way, it's delicious.

- ❑ 1 tbsp. canola oil
- ❑ 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 1 large onion, chopped
- ❑ 2 cups long-grain rice
- ❑ 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ❑ 3 to 4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- ❑ juice of 3 limes and zest of 2 limes (hold back juice of 1 lime for garnish)
- ❑ chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and onions and cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Reduce the heat to low and add the rice and salt. Cook over a low heat for 3 minutes, stirring constantly to make sure the rice doesn't burn.

Add 2 cups of the broth and the juice and zest of 2 limes and bring it to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until the rice is done. Add more liquid as needed. The rice shouldn't be sticky. Just before serving, stir through the juice of 1 lime and lots of chopped cilantro. (Makes 8 servings) ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Dr. Avram Mark Clarfield on geriatrics in the Negev

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Avram Mark Clarfield is a Toronto-born doctor and director of Ben-Gurion University's Medical School for International Health. He previously worked as chief of geriatrics at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and as head of McGill University's division of geriatric medicine. In 1992, he made aliyah and headed the division of geriatrics in Israel's Ministry of Health. He was subsequently appointed head of geriatrics at Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva. His research specialties include Alzheimer's disease and the related dementias, the organization of health care services and medical history and ethics.

Earlier this month, Clarfield spoke at an event in Toronto presented by the Aliyah Division of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University called "Medicine in Southern Israel."

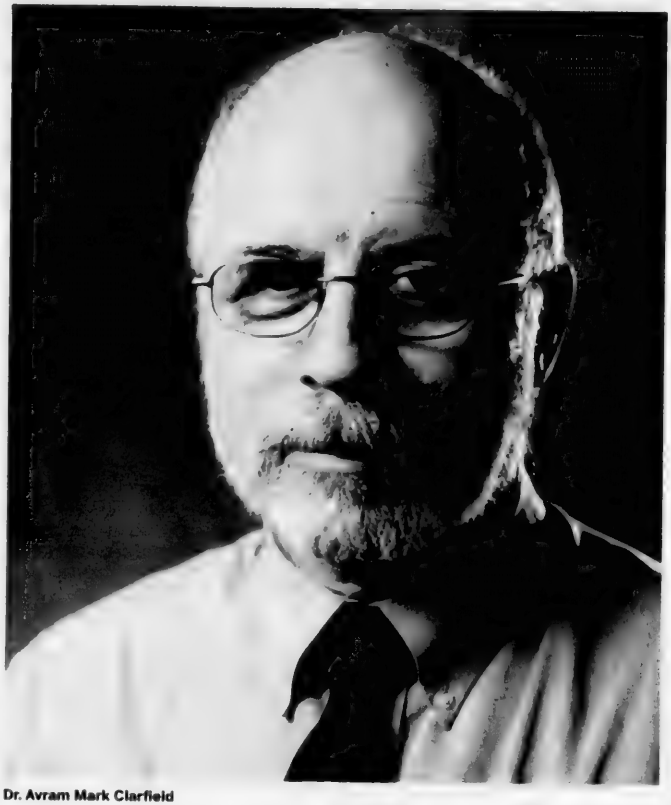
What kinds of things did you speak about at the Toronto event?

I addressed medical services in southern Israel and talked about my amazement, as a Canadian, at how excellent the medical system in Israel is in general. It's a country in the middle of nowhere surrounded by Arab countries, most of which are hostile to Israel. And despite the lack of natural resources, over the years, the country has developed a one-of-a-kind system of medical care.

I spoke specifically about Ben-Gurion University, where I work, and the fine medical schools that exist there – there's one school for Israelis and another one for foreigners. The Medical School for International Health specializes in global medicine. It's the only medical school in the world to focus on that and it's in the middle of nowhere. Students come from all over to study there

Then I talked about the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement and how, oddly enough, Israeli academics have tended to be very blasé about it. In my view, it's a very serious threat, but it's been difficult to mobilize Israeli academics against it. BDS is big in North America, particularly in the humanities fields – less so in the hard sciences – so you can understand why Israeli academics, especially those not in the humanities, are fairly oblivious to it.

We talked about how BDS is mainly run by anti-Semitic anti-Zionists. I pointed out that not every anti-Zionist is anti-Semitic, but most BDS leaders are both anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist.



Dr. Avram Mark Clarfield

How have you seen the efforts of the BDS movement play out in the medical field in Israel?

Fortunately, in the medical field, we almost don't see it at all. I'm involved with BDS stuff because I'm an academic, but its presence is rare in medicine, engineering, physics, chemistry, etc. It's common in the humanities – particularly in disciplines like anthropology and linguistics. Still, I'm convinced that if we don't do anything about it, it will seep into medicine.

Why do you think it hasn't affected the hard sciences much?

I think it has to do with humanities thinkers' way of looking at the world. Much of anthropology literature is now neo-Marxist, and that's never been sympathetic to any kind of nationalism, though I do think that BDS supporters in the humanities are capable of criticizing Jewish nationalism while at the same time being sympathetic to Palestinian nationalism. They give them a free ride for their behaviour, but criticize us for ours.

> *Despite the lack of natural resources, over the years, [Israel] has developed a one-of-a-kind system of medical care.*

In what ways is Ben-Gurion University leading the charge on geriatric care?

Because Be'er Sheva is the only major city in the Negev and Ben-Gurion University is the only medical faculty in the Negev, it's essentially the only game in town. That means we organize all these services for the elderly that are co-ordinated with the hospital. So there are really good community services, and we're able to liaison between them. This is unique, because in other places, people often come home from the hospital and then get lost in the shuffle in terms of community or medical services. We're trying to build services that reduce the likelihood of people getting lost.

We also do research at Ben-Gurion University on dementia and care. For example, we did a study comparing Israeli institutions with Canadian institutions and divided the Canadian ones into Jewish and non-Jewish. We looked at Baycrest and Sunnybrook (which isn't Jewish) in Toronto, and in Montreal, we looked at Maimonides Geriatric Centre and a Catholic hospital in Quebec. We compared these four Canadian hospitals to two hospitals in Israel, looking at the rates of tube feeding for patients with last-stage dementia. We found that Israel has a high rate of feeding patients with a tube, while in Canada, it's lower. We also found that the Jewish institutions in Canada have a higher rate of using tube feeding than the non-Jewish ones.

What's the relevance of comparing rates of tube feeding?

There's an ongoing discussion in geriatrics about whether to tube feed end-stage dementia patients at all.

A lot of doctors don't believe that tube feeding is the best way to feed end-stage dementia patients, but instead believe you should feed the person with a spoon, and whatever they take in, they take in. The idea there is that people with end-stage dementia are like end-stage cancer patients, that we shouldn't force-feed them, but focus on palliative care. We hypothesized that religion and culture play a role in the decision to use tube feeding, and we found that it does.

We found that Jewish religion and culture emphasize feeding a patient over not feeding them. We're not saying one approach is necessarily better than the other, we're just looking at the different values at play. I actually think it's worse to force-feed patients. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

The case of the unlikely Holocaust scholar

Backstory

PAUL SOCKEN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

How did a secular Jew, who didn't even know he was Jewish until he was 11, become the world's authority on Auschwitz?

Living in Holland with his family, the boy came home one day during the Six Day War and found his mother in tears. She feared that she was living the nightmare of World War II all over again, and confided in her son that they were Jewish. She had been hidden during the war and wanted to spare him her fate.

That boy, Robert Jan Van Pelt, grew up to become a historian at the University of Waterloo's school of architecture. He became a renowned scholar on the architecture of Auschwitz and was called as a witness in the David Irving Holocaust denial trial in England. He prepared a documentary on Auschwitz for BBC News. His entire professional career has been devoted to expose the lie of Holocaust denial and to teach the truth of what happened during the war years.

The life story of this journey toward Holocaust scholarship is remarkable. As a young boy, he was unable to attend high school due to grave illness and was home-schooled instead. But still he passed the university entrance exams and was admitted. He considers himself a kind of survivor to this day and identifies with his mother and all those who have overcome the most serious obstacles to testify to the value of life.

The real moment of epiphany, however, came during his PhD defence. His thesis was on the *Cosmic Speculation of King Solomon's Temple*. One of the professors asked him if there is any building in our time that rivaled the Temple of Solomon in importance. Unprepared for the question and before really having a chance to think, he said, "Yes. Auschwitz."

Thus a career was launched.

That career has led to a realization that both Rome and Jerusalem have shaped the history of Western civilization. Van Pelt's research has attempted to find the balance, to retain the belief that we can enjoy the accomplishments of Western civilization and not lose the spiritual life offered by the Judeo-Christian faith tradition.

> *What is unique and important about his research is the emphasis on physical evidence.*

As a historian of architecture, van Pelt feared that the architectural legacy had morphed from creations such as the Parthenon and the Pantheon into the concentration camps and the crematoria. What, indeed, had happened to what we consider "civilization" in order for such a transition to have taken place? Reflecting on the meaning and implication of the camps, forces consideration of what it means to be civilized. For that reason, van Pelt's work is not morbid but rather a necessary corrective in the quest to understand what it is to be human.

What is unique and important about his research is the emphasis on physical evidence. Other scholars examine historical forces, events that occurred and effects on people and their lives, which are all valid approaches. Van Pelt's rigorous and focused attention on the construction of the camps, and methods of mass murder, constitute irrefutable evidence of historical truth and a wakeup call to the conscience of humanity.

His current project is called The Evidence Room. It will be exhibited at the 2016 Architecture Biennale in Venice, attended by well over 200,000 visitors and attracting worldwide media attention. The project is an example of a new discipline: architectural forensics. The exhibit will consist of life-size casts of key pieces of evidence – for example, gas columns, blueprints, contractors' bills – that demonstrate conclusively that the camp was purposely designed as a factory of death. After Venice, the exhibit will travel to a number of cities.

With each passing year, there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors to bear witness. They embody the memory of a tragedy so unspeakable that some would like to see it erased. Fortunately, there are scholars like Van Pelt who are dedicated to making that malignant objective virtually impossible. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sonya Yoffe	Feb 4/16	120 Torresdale Avenue	Sylvia Stein	Feb 12/16	2600 Bathurst St.
Clara Rosenbaum	Feb 6/16	111 Avenue Road	Spencer Berg	Feb 12/16	4 Alton Avenue
Luba Mamiashvili	Feb 8/16	100 Schuster Lane	Fay Pollit	Feb 12/16	645 Briar Hill Ave.
Faigie Klein	Feb 8/16	123 Eglinton Ave. East	Fern Rose	Feb 11/16	1400 Wildlark Drive
Len Richmond	Feb 10/16	988 Sheppard Ave. West			
Sarah Gradzanowski	Feb 10/16	2 Covington Road			
Dr. Robert Cohen	Feb 10/16	30 Spruce Street			
Gordon Zack	Feb 10/16	147 Elder Street	Sylvia Flower	Feb 7/16	3560 Bathurst St.
Rosalie Hoffman	Feb 10/16	94 Longford Drive	Martin Harvey Kramer	Feb 7/16	866 Sheppard Ave. W.
			Gregori Vilshanski	Feb 9/16	345 Pleasant Ave.

MEDRAEW BASIC

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Pollock, Michael Lorne	Jan. 26, 2016	Private	Rotstein, Morris Jacob	Feb. 4, 2016	7250 Bathurst St
Shiewitz, Sam	Jan. 27, 2016	12 Renoak Dr	Stone, Merv	Feb. 4, 2016	11 Goodyear Cres
Grach, Maria	Jan. 27, 2016	4455 Bathurst St	Fryers, Joyce Ruth	Feb. 4, 2016	57 Green Bush Rd
Malovatskaia, Nioura	Jan. 27, 2016	6250 Bathurst St	Waldner, Bella	Feb. 6, 2016	7420 Bathurst St
Simon, Ruth	Jan. 28, 2016	7 Townsgate Dr	Hadda, Roger Jacob	Feb. 6, 2016	2339 Dufferin St
Lauterpacht, Mina	Jan. 28, 2016	3560 Bathurst St	Urbas, Freda	Feb. 6, 2016	484 Steeles Ave W
Lebofsky, Brandon	Jan. 28, 2016	3000 Victoria Park	Bernick, Ann	Feb. 9, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Kaufmann, Dieter Bernd	Jan. 29, 2016	15 Torresdale Ave	Goland, Roza	Feb. 9, 2016	Private
Helpert, Irving	Jan. 30, 2016	32 Bayhampton Crt	Benshabat, Lisa	Feb. 9, 2016	74 Purdon Dr
Rusonik, Gilda	Jan. 30, 2016	8 Denmark Cres	Weintraub, Masha	Feb. 10, 2016	89 Hove St
Shteyn, Marat	Jan. 30, 2016	Private	Barsky, Sima	Feb. 11, 2016	Private
Katz, David Mordecai	Jan. 30, 2016	Private	Ginzburg, Raisa	Feb. 11, 2016	4891 Bathurst St
Kruger, William	Jan. 31, 2016	1500 Steeles Ave W	Eisenstein, Regina	Feb. 11, 2016	7300 Yonge St
Zelikovskiy, Leonid M.	Jan. 31, 2016	Private	Abrams, Marilyn	Feb. 12, 2016	Private
Kopstick, Frances	Jan. 31, 2016	429 Walmer Rd	Ciubotaru, Dvora	Feb. 12, 2016	Private
Joseph, Renee Lillian	Jan. 31, 2016	107 Mountbatten Rd	Jeremias, Sonya	Feb. 13, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Goldberg, Charles	Jan. 31, 2016	484 Steeles Ave W	Wiseman, Ruth	Feb. 13, 2016	1500 Steeles Ave W
Rosenblum, Martin	Feb. 1, 2016	41 Vinci Cres	Small, Barry	Feb. 13, 2016	51 Windsor Cres
Forman, Evelyn	Feb. 1, 2016	718 Sheppard Ave W	Veisbein, Evgeny	Feb. 14, 2016	130 Huntingfield St
Stukalin, Yaacov	Feb. 2, 2016	32 Everglades Crt	Wise, Myrtle	Feb. 14, 2016	1131 Steeles Ave W
Blumenfeld, Sara	Feb. 2, 2016	548 Steeles Ave W	Mandel, Albert (Al)	Feb. 14, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Sporer, Harry	Feb. 4, 2016	63 Waterloo Ave	Arizo, Daisy	Feb. 16, 2016	35 Fleance Dr
Zuckerbrot, Shirley	Feb. 4, 2016	288 Brighton Ave			

BEING JEWISH DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE EXPENSIVE!®

THE ISRAELI SOURCE

10 YEARS OF SAVINGS!

WHERE YOU CAN EXPECT TO FIND CANADA'S BEST DEALS ON ALL YOUR JUDAICA NEEDS!

IT'S OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND WE ARE CELEBRATING WITH SAVINGS! COME CELEBRATE WITH US !

ONE DAY MEGA-SALE EVENT - FEBRUARY 28 - 10AM-5PM
ENTIRE STORE DISCOUNTED* - OUR BIGGEST DISCOUNTS EVER!

JUST A TASTE OF SOME OF THE SAVINGS YOU CAN EXPECT:

Kosher Lamp MAX
Assorted Colours

Hand-Crocheted Kippot
Assorted Styles

Tallit or Tefillin Tote Bags
Assorted Sizes

Challah Board
Wood with Silver Finish

Seder Plate
Nickel or Pewter Finish

PLUS LOTS OF OTHER DEALS, TOO MANY TO PUBLISH!

FREE GIFT WITH EVERY PURCHASE!**

KEEP CELEBRATING WITH US THROUGHOUT THE WEEK
FRESH DAILY SPECIALS, FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 4

STAY TUNED TO OUR FACEBOOK AND TWITTER FEEDS FOR EXCLUSIVE FLASH DEALS AND PROMOTIONS

facebook.com/IsraeliSource and @IsraeliSource

SPECIAL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 - 12PM TO 3PM

BRING YOUR KIDS IN FOR A FREE DECORATE-YOUR-OWN CHALLAH COVER CRAFTS EVENT!
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY! (LIMIT ONE CHALLAH COVER PER CHILD, AGE 12 AND BELOW ONLY)

*ITEMS SOLD ON CONSIGNMENT AND SPECIAL-ORDER ITEMS NOT INCLUDED. IN-STORE MERCHANDISE ONLY. **FREE GIFT LIMITED TO ONE PER HOUSEHOLD, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES. NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES ON DISCOUNTED MERCHANDISE. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR PROMOTION.

60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill · info@israelisource.com · (905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18
SUNDAY 10-5 / MONDAY-THURSDAY 10-6 / FRIDAY 10-2 · www.israelisource.com - 24 HOURS A DAY

THE CJN PRIZE

CELEBRATING OUR INAUGURAL AWARD FOR YOUNG WRITERS

Featuring: ***Who speaks out for the Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands?*** **By Jasen H. Sagman.**

Plus 10 more winning essays.

Who speaks out for the Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands?

WINNER Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

JASEN SAGMAN

Every year on Nov. 29, the international community marks the anniversary of the UN Partition Resolution 181(II). It is often forgotten that this resolution, dating back to 1947, was the very first blueprint for an Israeli-Palestinian "two states for two peoples" solution. While this resolution was accepted by Jewish leaders, it was renounced by Arab and Palestinian leadership, who also, by their own accord, declared war on the fledgling Jewish state – while simultaneously targeting their own Jewish populations with tangential displacement, and dispossessing Palestinian people from the mandated state.

Had Resolution 181(II) been accepted by the Arab States contiguous to contemporary Israel, there would have been no 1948 Arab-Israeli War, nor the ensuing refugee problems. Instead, the annual UN-organized International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People may well have marked peace within the entire Middle East, as a direct result of the coexistent establishment of Israel and Palestine.

Instead, in May 1948, the local Arab population of Mandated Palestine was joined by seven Arab states in a collective UN-violated attempt to destroy the newly re-established Jewish state. This conflict would become known to Israelis as the "War of Independence," and to Palestinians as "The Catastrophe." This distinction in narratives is vitally important in understanding the plight of both Jewish and Palestinian refugees over the past 67 years.

As a direct outcome of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, 500,000 Palestinians fled to camps in neighbouring Arab States as refugees, while 160,000 accepted Israel's offer to remain. Today, there are more than 1.6 million Israeli-Arabs living in Israel – 20 per cent of Israel's population!

The subject of refugees remains one of the core issues for understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unfortunately, the rights and claims of one group have come to be promoted at the expense and displacement of the other. This need not be the case, as the question of peace is never a zero-sum game. In fact, the opposite ought to hold true. As the Jewish and Palestinian refugees are reciprocally and intrinsically linked, light shed on one ought to shine onto both.

With the rejection of Resolution 181(II), a vast exchange of populations took place in the Middle East between 1947 and 1952 – with the number of displaced Jews from Arab States exceeding that of Arabs from Mandated Palestine. Despite this fact, the revisionist Middle East narrative holds that there was only one victim population: the Palestinians – and that Israel was responsible. Not only is this factually incorrect, but it rejects the pain and plight of almost one million Jews who were expelled from Arab states for no reason other than that they were Jewish.

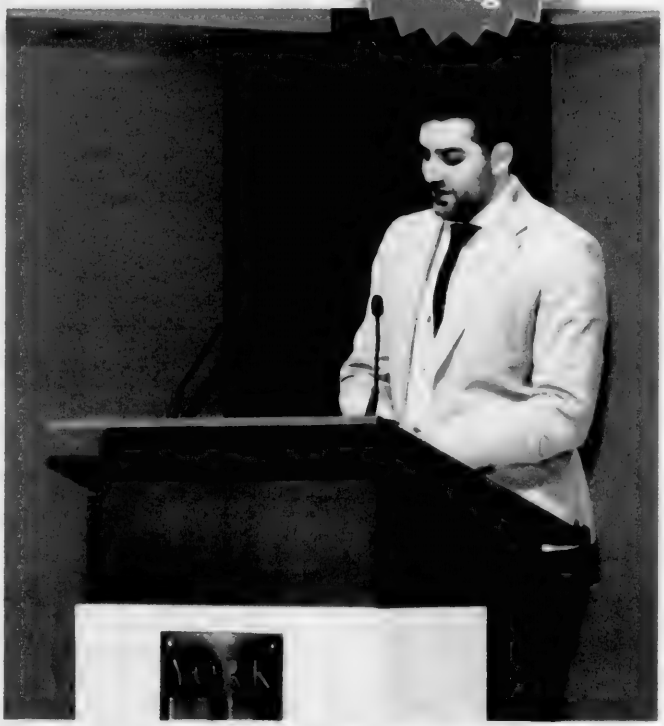
Moreover, this revisionist narrative not only concealed the forgotten exodus from memory and remembrance, but it also denied that it was forced. Simply put, the Arab states rejected a proposed Palestinian state by declaring a UN-violated war on the fledgling Jewish state, and targeted their Jewish population living in their respective Arab states. This created two refugee groups: the evacuee Palestinian refugee population resulting from the UN-violated Arab war against Israel, and the Jewish refugees resulting from Arab hostilities against its own expelled Jewish population – which included forced expulsions, illegal confiscation of property, denationalization, arbitrary arrests, torture and murder.

The United Nations also bears express and continued responsibility for the distorted narrative of Jewish refugees. Since 1948, for instance, there have been more than 150 UN resolutions that have dealt unequivocally with the Palestinian refugee plight. Not one, however, has made any reference to, or expressed any concern for, the plight of almost one million displaced Jews from Arab States.

The Palestinians are also the only group of refugees out of the more than 100 million from World War II who were provided with their own special UN agency – UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) – which, according to its mandate, cannot help but perpetuate their tragedy. Every other refugee in the world is administered by UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).

Taking into account the imbalance of attention and resources given to Palestinian refugees over Jewish refugees, this essay recommends five steps to rectify a historical wrong and ongoing injustice. Taken individually, these steps would bring attention, retribution, closure and/or compensation to the victims. Together, however, these steps would bring a sustainable and balanced solution for Jewish and Palestinian refugees to live and thrive in coexistent peace.

First, each of the Arab States – and the Arab League – must acknowledge its role and responsibility in the triple aggression of launching a UN-violated war against the UN's newly created State of Israel, the perpetration of human rights violations against their Jewish populations, and the tangential Palestinian displacement and disposition from Mandated Palestine.



The CJN Prize winner Jasen Sagman reads his essay. CJN STAFF PHOTO

Second, reparations must be invoked for Jews displaced from Arab States – including financial compensation.

Third, the UN must recognize the perpetuation that is caused by UNRWA and transfer responsibility for Palestinian refugees to UNHCR.

Fourth, the international community's perception of Jewish refugees must change, including referencing and addressing their plight in balanced measure to that of Palestinian refugees.

And fifth, bilateral Israeli-Palestinian Peace negotiations must include reference to Jewish refugees as well as Palestinian refugees.

The exclusion of and denial of rights and redress to Jewish refugees from Arab states continues to distort comprehensive negotiations between the peace negotiation parties, and to distort a just and lasting settlement plan. As Irwin Cotler, a former minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, once noted, "Where there is no remembrance, there is no truth; where there is no truth, there will be no justice; where there is no justice, there will be no reconciliation; and where there is no reconciliation, there will be no peace – which we all seek."

This call to guarantee the rights and reparations for Jewish refugees from Arab states will not counter Palestinian rights and claims. Rather, it will encourage all parties to recognize the fact that there were two groups of refugees, each of whom are entitled to redress and to an enduring peace and coexistence. ■

Jasen Sagman is a recent graduate from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies where he earned a Master's of Arts degree in diplomacy. He is currently employed by the Canadian Marketing Association as their manager of regulatory affairs.

What drove the change?

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

RONI ZVEIRIS

What drove the change in attitude toward Israeli immigrants to North America throughout the past few decades?

Background

The last decades of the 20th century created a dilemma for the State of Israel, involving the emigration of Israelis to North America. The following report will describe the transformation in outlook towards the "*yordim*" and the causes that drove the change.

The importance of this issue is twofold. First, classic Zionism, which proclaims Israel as the Jewish motherland, frowns upon the movement of Jews away from Israel. Second, from Israel's perspective, leaders wish to benefit from expatriates while understanding that a decrease in the local Jewish population is detrimental.

While many Israelis are comfortable with emigrating for the pursuit of prosperity and stability, others debate whether leaving is ethically sensible. Understanding this complex relationship could help Israeli expatriates strengthen their ties with Israel while enjoying the benefits provided by North America.

Beginning of a new immigration movement

Throughout the 1970s, Israeli Jews began immigrating to North America. Unlike Soviet and Persian Jews, who saw North America as a political asylum, Israelis moved for economic or educational reasons. For Jewish leaders, the classic Zionist stance of "*shelilat haGolah*," ("negation of the Diaspora") explicitly sought to halt the Diaspora as a form of Jewish life. As stated by Itzhak Rabin, those who left Israel were "*nemushot*" ("weaklings").

While the Israeli government believed that a decrease in population could pose an imminent threat to the nation's security, North American Jews were worried that the Zionist vision was failing if Israelis were leaving the Holy Land.

Integration in North America

The integration process of Israeli Jews can be divided into five stages. First, during 1975-1980, the "explicit denial" policy manifested itself as many Jewish leaders denied that Israelis were immigrating to North America. While this rationale was suitable since many Israelis moved for short-term job contracts, the growth in permanent relocation made North American Jewry more aggressive.

As Israeli immigration grew in the 1980s, it became too large to ignore, forcing Jewish leaders to adopt a policy of "malign neglect." While this did not cause any substantial change, local Jews continued claiming that "they [Israeli Jews] were bad Jews, and the Jewish community should have nothing to do with them."

Towards 1985, Jewish leaders developed the "benign neglect" policy, providing Israeli Jews with the opportunity to participate in the Jewish community. However, the policy prohibited special services that would specifically cater to the Israeli community, such as Israeli-style synagogues. The local community believed that "there is an implication that the citizens who left Israel [should] feel guilty [due to the] betrayal of the shared obligation to protect Israel."

Subsequently, a fourth policy of "containment" aimed to proactively act against Israeli immigration. This involved the creation of Zionist programs that encouraged Israeli Jews and their children to return to Israel. However, these programs had limited success because many Israeli Jews moved to North America for financial motives rather than emotional Zionist considerations.

Thus, York University professor Rina Cohen argues that an "accommodation" policy began around 1990, where the former "communal deviants" started their absorption in community groups. The groups' growth practically forced them to immerse locally because Israelis did not have widespread access to Israeli culture. With time, this led many Israelis to connect to local Jews through themes of philanthropy and Jewish education, both uncommon in Israel. Thus, the stage was ready for a full integration of Israelis into local Jewish life.

Change from Israel's perspective

During the early 1980s, Israeli leaders realized that the purposes for which Israelis were leaving (education, employment, love) could not be easily replicated in Israel. The systematic belittling of Israeli expatriates and motives of Zionist guilt were not effective. Therefore, Israel created a new Diaspora policy in 1985, based on understanding that emigrants will want to come back only if they have some ties to Israel. Hence, Israel encouraged Diaspora Jews to study about Israel's culture and religion, and provided funding toward travel to Israel. This allowed Israeli Jews in North America to create their own local sub-communities, often funded by the State of Israel.

From Zionism to Jewish 'Peoplehood'

As traditional Zionism weakened, the concept of "Peoplehood" emerged. If in the past the Jewish goal was to build the State of Israel, "Peoplehood" argues that the modern focus is to build strong global Jewish communities. Israel no longer requires immediate physical attendance from all Jews because greater contributions can be made through philanthropy, science, technology, business,and education. "Peoplehood" creates a symbiotic relationship whereby global Jewish communities and Israel learn to accept Israeli Jewish immigrants.

"Peoplehood" relies on several pillars. First, it requires using mutual aid to build a global network of prosperous and resilient Jewish communities, wherever they may be. Second, it defines Hebrew as the global Jewish language, favouring the integration of Israeli Jews. Third, "Peoplehood" encourages the strengthening of Israel, creating a common interest between Israeli and North American Jews. Fourth, "Peoplehood" also relies on the common goal of fighting anti-Semitism.

The impact of "Peoplehood" on Israeli Jews in North America is portrayed through the Jewish Agency for Israel. While the organization historically viewed "aliyah" as a core mission, a profound change is now seen through the "Strategic Plan for Israel."

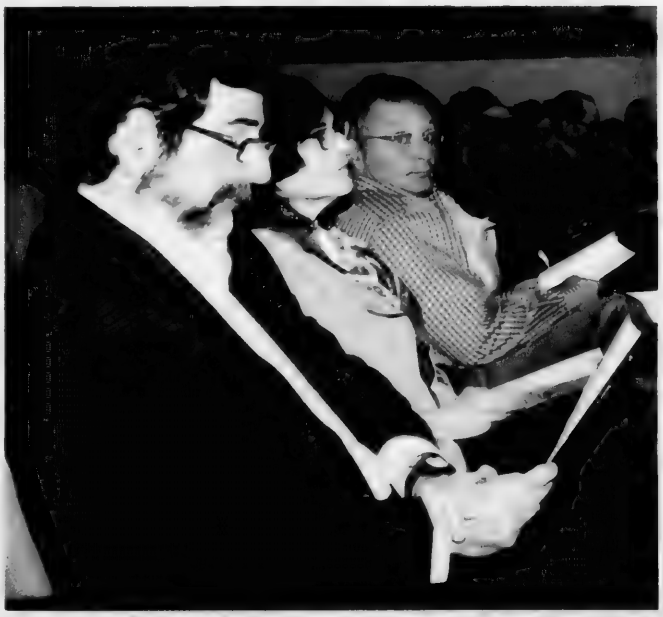
Rather than rejecting former Israelis due to misalignment with "aliyah" values, the plan involves social activism and creation of unique Jewish experiences that is provided through activities in Israel.

Conclusion

Overall, the change in outlook toward Israeli Jews was driven by three factors. First, the North American Jewish community changed its behaviour due to the sheer growth of the Israeli Jewish population. Second, the State of Israel understood that policies of rejection would only distance emigrants. Last, "Peoplehood" reinforced the change by replacing classic Zionism and creating a new mentality that eliminated mistreatment towards Israeli Jews in North America.

Roni Zveiris is a second year JD/MBA student at the University of Toronto.

The CJN Prize Event



CJN STAFF PHOTO

Some of the close to 100 people at the CJN Prize night Feb. 10.

How I met my Rabbi

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

ZACK BABINS

First, I came as a rebel. I'll be honest: I was a 16-year-old Jewish atheist/agnostic. I considered myself an iconoclast, smarter than everyone. How could others be so blind that they would give up bacon? Or napping in front of the TV on Saturday afternoons? Or bread for a whole week? After my bar mitzvah, my parents decided to let me decide if I wanted to go to shul. Almost every time, I decided that my bed was too warm to leave.

Then, I came as a teenager. The later years of high school saw a rise in religious attendance: I was dating a girl, and her family went to Kabalat Shabbat services often. Even though I was reciting the words I've known since kindergarten, it was clear that I was not there to pray.

Next, I came as a deserter. I was enraptured by the freedoms of university. At Guelph, sitting in Johnston Hall on that first sweltering day in late August, I found 2-1/2 Jews on my floor of 40, myself included. This was alien to me. Growing up off-Bathurst Street in Toronto, I'd look around the classroom and see 2-1/2 non-Jews! I loved this opportunity to experience other cultures. I wanted nothing to do with the established Jewish groups on campus.

When Hillel and AEPi, the international Jewish fraternity, had their kickoff event in the middle of campus, I walked around three buildings just to avoid them. Even so, when I managed to make a new best friend, it was the other Jew on my floor.

After that, I came with coercion. With first semester over, I was home for the holidays. That meant spending time with my high school friend (my high school persona didn't engender popularity). He had gone to Ottawa and was not as opposed to being Jewish – he had joined AEPi. He'd decided that I was going to as well, and proceeded to talk my ear off until I agreed to go to a single event and try.

A year later, I was running for chapter president, on a platform to repair relations with our local Hillel so we didn't split attendance. That brought me into direct contact with Hillel's director, Rabbi Daniel Levitt. It is written in Pirkei Avot: "Acquire for yourself a teacher, and you will find yourself a friend," and I know that it's true, because it happened to me.

First, I came to him as a client: I have my organization, you have yours. We should work together.

Then I came to him as a friend: his sessions of Jews and Brews, where a number of students would meet him at the campus pub to discuss Jewish issues, often got derailed and turned into just "peers and beers."

> *Even now, whenever I need him, I call my rabbi. Not bad for a Jewish atheist/agnostic.*

After that, I came as a favour: Hillel had been missing a secretary at their meetings, and since I was filling the same role in AEPi, Rabbi Daniel asked me to fill in. Why not?

Next, I came to him as a challenger: I took an ethics class. Genocide was a topic we discussed. Aside from the usual Jewish perspective on genocide, I started thinking – my bar mitzvah portion was Beshalach. It features a battle with Amalek. Afterward, Moses is instructed to write that God will "utterly blot out the name of Amalek from under Heaven."

This sounded suspiciously like genocide to my ears. I had trouble reconciling that with Jewish history and went to Rabbi D to throw down that gauntlet. How can you believe in this after what's happened to us (repeatedly)? An hour of dialogue later, I understood. Amalek, we decided, was not a race, but the *yetzer hara*: the inclination, not necessarily to do harm, but to be selfish, lazy, ruthless and duplicitous, and we must blot out the inclination to do the wrong thing, even for the right reasons. It resonated with me. After all, it was what I'd been taught my entire life. I left thirsting for more.

Then I came to him as a student: I had never learned about Judaism or Jews in a collaborative way, or a way that allowed for questioning. I had never learned what it was like to debate a rabbi and have him concede. I wanted to do it again. We set up weekly sessions. I would open the Tanach, from Bereshit on, and read until we found something to argue about. Our hour-long appointments often ballooned to two hours.

Rabbi Hillel famously said that the whole Torah was to not do unto others as you wouldn't want done to you, and the rest was commentary. Yet, most people forget the suffix: "Now go study." Study we did.

Then I came to him as a guest: his family hosted Shabbat dinners for students at their house every week, and I became a regular. It was always a warm environment, reminding me of my parents' house, and it was a free hot meal. I started counting him as a friend.

Next, I came as a candidate: Rabbi D let me know that it might be good for Hillel – and for me, too – if I ran for president. Seeing no other challengers and a void to be filled, I gladly accepted his nomination, and after a hard fought campaign against no one, I won.

Two years later, I left him as a brother: we initiated him into AEPi. More than that, he became my mentor. Someone I could talk to about anything. When I got in trouble, I called my rabbi. When I met a girl, I called my rabbi. When my grandparents died six weeks apart, I called my rabbi. When I graduated and got a job with AEPi and he moved on to another Hillel far away and we had to part ways, I called my rabbi to cry our goodbyes.

Even now, whenever I need him, I call my rabbi. Not bad for a Jewish atheist/agnostic. ■

Zack Babins graduated from the University of Guelph with a BA in political science and philosophy. He currently works as a special assistant to Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP for Winnipeg Centre.

The CJN Prize Event

CJN STAFF PHOTO

MP Michael Levitt, left with *CJN* editor Yoni Goldstein

Loving lullabies: Yiddish cradle songs as vehicles of maternal expression

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

MIRA KATZ BLUMENTHAL

Although often overlooked in serious musical scholarship, the Yiddish lullaby is a genre of Jewish folk song that exemplifies the Jews' tenacity and strength. During the 19th century, the lullaby was a primary vehicle through which Jewish mothers were able to articulate their dreams and aspirations for their children, even under harsh Czarist rule in the Pale of Settlement.

Cradle songs and children's songs from this time reveal the patterns of life of the Jewish mothers, and reflect the widespread social and religious sentiments of the time.

In her article *Nineteenth Century Yiddish Folk Songs of Children in Eastern Europe*, Ruth Rubin elucidates the social and economic conditions of the ghettoized Pale of Settlement. She describes how music became a means of emotional expression for both women and children in the Pale. As women were often the primary financial supporters of the family, and children commonly worked to support their parents and siblings, children's work songs and lullabies from this period reflect the financial hardships of all members of the Jewish families. Lyrics like, "I must work here to keep from starving" offer a clear depiction of the unforgiving environment of the children's world of work.

Despite these hardships, the lullabies also express a sense of hope. They depict the mothers' yearnings for their sons to become pious scholars and for their daughters to marry devout intellectuals. Rubin explains, "despite the difficult surroundings and the multiple restrictions imposed upon the child by his adult environment, [the] songs reflect the many facets of his intense life," which undoubtedly included religion.

The lullabies reveal that, regardless of the economic deprivation of the era, belief in God remained a primary concern and value to the Jews in the Pale. The children's songs and lullabies that emerged from the Pale indeed reflected the hardships of the restricted lifestyle, but they also revealed the ways in which small freedoms could be achieved through learning and religious devotion.

The Yiddish lullaby is not merely relevant in the context of the Pale of Settlement, however, but is similar to other cradle songs worldwide. Rubin, as well as several other scholars in her field, elucidate the universal qualities of the lullaby. Rubin divides the lullaby genre into two types: natural and unnatural. The natural melodies, such as play songs, counting-out rhymes and chants, have ties to children's songs elsewhere, whereas the unnatural tunes, such as work songs, school songs and war songs, are specifically Jewish and are "characteristic of an oppressed, persecuted minority." Rubin offers examples that emphasize the similarities in both structure and lyrics between European Jewish melodies and those of North America, such as a Jewish cradle song that is similar to the popular North American children's song *This Little Piggy*

Bubi, bubi, little louse,
in Krakow stands a little house.
Who lives in it? Yash and Marinia.
Three ladies sit spinning.
First spins silk,
Second spins silver,
The third spins gold:

These lyrics are reminiscent of the counting structure of the well-known American children's song. The author draws upon songs from her Canadian childhood, such as *Farmer in the Dell* and *Pat-a-Cake*, to draw a comparison between the songs from the Pale era and those of North America and stress the ubiquitous nature of the lullaby.

The voice of the woman is also a topic that has been investigated cross-culturally. Prof. Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, in her course outline for *Teaching Motherhood in History* explains that the mother's role is enigmatic. On one hand, "women's capacity to bear children... [has] been crucial to the rationales for barring [women] from public activities and public and private power," and on the other hand, in many cultures the female's "histor[ic] responsibility [as] primary caregivers" has been the basis for "particular kinds of female empowerment." The woman's position in society is thus ambiguous; the matriarch is at once discriminated against and respected due to her capacity to give birth.

Although Rubin does not explicitly discuss the enigmatic nature of the female, the traditional Jewish notion of the female voice being distracting and lesser than the male's is implied in her work. In her discussion of Yiddish folk songs, Rubin highlights that the composers of such songs were typically low class. The women who sang cradle songs were often considered "simple folk" who "poured their finest sentiments, their most tender emotions, their most intimate thoughts" into their lyrics.

The supposed subordination of the female voice is in line with the traditional Jewish notion that the man is forbidden to hear the sound of a woman's voice singing because he will get distracted or aroused. The Talmud explains, the "woman's voice is a sexual enticement, as is her hair and her leg."

Carl Ehrlich, director of the Israel and Golda Koschitsky Centre for Jewish Studies, left with Mira Katz Blumenthal CJN STAFF PHOTO

As such, although the woman is not necessarily considered wholly inferior, her voice is considered a distraction from the study of Torah. Rubin's contention that the female cradle song composers were often part of the lesser social classes, then, parallels the inequality in Orthodox Judaism, for the woman's song and voice are both secondary to that of the man.

In a different vein from Rubin's practical perspective, Judith Kaplan Eisenstein takes a spiritual approach to female involvement in Jewish music. Whereas Rubin carefully outlines the major themes of Yiddish songs and traces the transformations that took place in tandem with socio-historical events, Kaplan Eisenstein considers song as a powerful device that allows the woman to enter into the primarily male dominated world of traditional Judaism.

She argues that as she subjectively explores the music of her own people, she discovers "the raw material for great creation" and a "deep sense of continuity." Although the two writers have divergent approaches and writing styles, both Rubin and Kaplan Eisenstein contend that the songs of Jewish women are expressive of the women's thoughts and emotions about the world around them, and are emblematic of Jewish audacity and strength.

Rubin's contention that the Jews have forever been a singing people regardless of the harshness of their circumstances proves true in her writings. She clearly elucidates how the continuity of the Yiddish lullaby as a genre symbolizes the resilience of the Jewish spirit and the power of the Jewish voice to the mother who suffered quietly as her children grew rapidly and married off, or as her husband moved to America in search of a new life for the family.

It is critical to keep in mind, however, that Yiddish lullabies are not merely reflective of the emotions of an individual mother, but rather a manifestation of the common emotional experiences of a group. They are not merely sweet, crooning tunes with which a mother can lull her child to sleep, but rather a window into the way of life and the personal beliefs of those who compose and sing them. The lullaby acts as a conduit for the dissemination of the social, religious, and political ideals of the performer. When considered from this perspective, the woman is no longer positioned ambiguously as the matriarch of the household who is unjustifiably silenced, but she is given a voice.

This excerpt is part of a larger discussion around the role of the female in Jewish music. For the full version of this essay, please contact Mira Blumenthal at mirablumenthal@gmail.com

Mira Blumenthal is a freelance writer and editor at Idea Couture in Toronto.

Forty Five Seconds

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

MITCHELL CONSKY

As I sit on the quaking metal floor, ascending 12,000 feet into the air, there's one question jumping through my adrenaline-flooded mind: what the hell am I about to do?

The door slides open and furious winds blast inside. I'm tightly strapped to the instructor I just met – some former IDF soldier called Steve or Zeve or Zev – who I'm expected to trust enough to pull the chute on time to prevent my body from becoming a splattered yolk on the far below land. At least I've got a strong grasp on his first name.

He instructs me to scoot over to the edge and let my feet dangle out. "Keep your eyes open," he calls in his Israeli accent, over the hissing wind.

The world below is like an immense quilt of green and yellow patches, vaguely dotted with thousands of microscopic buildings and cars. No turning back now; those dots are about to get a whole lot bigger. Here's a fun fact: I'm horrified of heights.

There are a lot of opinions out there about the rise of stupid decision-making in my generation. In short, my age group tends to believe we're invincible, until that invincibility is challenged; we often live without the consideration of consequence.

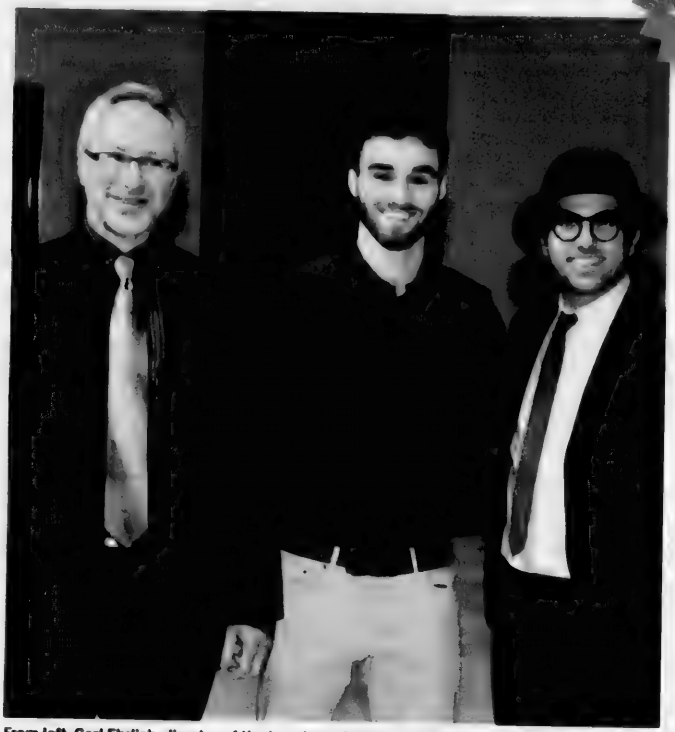
Before deciding whether or not I wanted to risk my life for the exhilarating experience of jumping out of a plane, I found myself contemplating what I would actually get out of it. My father, a charismatic personal injury lawyer, would not approve of such an "idiotic excursion." So why do it? Why would anyone dive face first off the edge of danger and harness their life to the hands of a complete stranger?

Maybe it's because of the media's glorification of the "adrenaline-junkie" lifestyle. Maybe it's a literal excuse for jumping out of our comfort zone. Perhaps the fear of death makes us feel more intensely alive. Whatever it is that made me do it, I'm glad I did.

In those 45 seconds of free-fall, as I darted through the sky, strapped tightly to Steve or Zeve or Zev, quickly nearing the great quilt of green and yellow patches, it felt as if I was flying. All terror ceased to exist and was replaced by absolute enthrallment. The earth below never seemed so spectacular. I felt on top of the world, and I was.

But it wasn't just that I was flying. I was flying in my homeland – over the coast of Dor Beach just outside Haifa, Israel.

After the parachute deployed, immersed in the sudden silence of being several hundred feet above ground, the instructor allowed me to take hold of the handles that controlled the direction we glided downward. It was almost like he was saying, "You trusted me, so now I trust you."



From left, Carl Ehrlich, director of the Israel and Golda Koschitsky Centre for Jewish Studies, Mitchell Consky and CJN editor Yoni Goldstein. CJN STAFF PHOTO

He taught me how to do it. Pulling one handle slightly down would make us veer to the opposite side. Pulling hard and forward would cause an immediate sharp turn. It was simple enough.

With a jumping heart, I maneuvered us over an immense body of blue water; it sparkled far below like billions of diamonds rolling for miles out. The beauty was overwhelming. It didn't feel real.

As I turned left and right, sailing over the magnificent land below, breathing in the crisp Mediterranean air, I asked him if he ever gets used to this place. I had heard so many different thoughts on what Israel means to different people.

"Not from up here," he told me.

I realized that it takes a change of perspective to appreciate beauty for what it really is. It's easy to get lost in old views, to see life the way we always have, but a change of sight can allow us to see so much more. Especially sights like this.

There are countless social perspectives, political outlooks and conflicting ideologies that spiral through the Middle East like a destructive tornado. But up here, there was one view that everyone could agree on: the world is small, and we are smaller.

Perhaps a view from up high can fuel insight below.

Such an elevated perspective carries a meaningful theme in Judaism – unravelling a level of selflessness, provoking an understanding that each life is merely a dot in a much bigger picture. I'm not saying we should forget our problems and attain thoughts of drowning existential insignificance; I'm saying we should live our lives knowing that our problems are not the only problems, that the world we see is not the entire world worth knowing.

The experience was more than an opportunity to see my planet in ways I never had; it was a reminder on how I want to live my life.

Skydiving is about letting go of everything you know, everything that makes you feel secure, taking the risk and surrendering to the pull of gravity. The only way to accomplish our greatest aspirations is to pursue that exact same mentality: push beyond the bounds of your life and have faith you don't end up a splattered yolk.

> *Whether you can't wait to jump out of a plane, or you view skydiving the way my dad does - we should all refuse to let fear control us.*

Whether you can't wait to jump out of a plane, or you view skydiving the way my dad does – we should all refuse to let fear control us. As it normally turns out, a little risk can be the appetizer to the main course. You never know what can be served.

With all this said, there is a difference between being adventurous and being reckless. It's important to remember that our decisions can define us, for good and for bad. Every choice we make has the terrifying ability to change our lives. This can be a blessing as much as a curse.

Travel the world. Learn to play an instrument. Tackle a new language. (Maybe submit to a writing contest.) Do something that scares you and look through the windows of new views. All you need to do is ignore what's holding you back and keep your eyes open.

And if you ever decide to jump out of a plane, take the time to learn the name of the person you're strapped to. ■

Mitchell Consky is a third-year English and film major at Wilfrid Laurier University, and editor of the opinion section for the university newspaper, The Cord.

Finding Judaism in rural Manitoba

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

SARAH CZOSNIAK

Sarah Czosniak with her proud parents by her side. CJN STAFF PHOTO

Like many students of my generation, I had difficulty finding a job after graduation. Applying for jobs in my field in the Greater Toronto Area was my full-time job for three months. But when I didn't receive so much as a call for an interview, I panicked and broadened my search to all of Canada. This led to me accepting the first job offered to me – with a school board in small town Manitoba, population approximately 1,200, and located 20 minutes away from the North Dakota border.

Coming from a graduate program in Montreal and having grown up in Thornhill, Ont., I experienced quite a bit of culture shock upon moving to Manitoba. The Jewish community in Winnipeg is quite large and strong. There are lots of synagogues, a kosher meat shop and a Jewish high school, not to mention the Asper name, which is all over town. But I wasn't in Winnipeg – I was about 300 kilometres to the south-east.

My new home was in a farming community, and I received several offers for a freshly butchered cow or chicken – neither of which were great options for a kosher vegetarian. I was also shocked by the casual attitude toward hunting and guns. Co-workers laughed at me when I inquired about calling the Children's Aid Society after a young student received a gun for Christmas. In my defence, in Toronto that would warrant a call to social services!

Being Jewish in my small town wasn't something I advertised, but it wasn't a secret either. In fact, it helped me bond with Mennonite friends, who spoke about their people's history of persecution in Europe. As the grandchild of Polish Jews, I know a thing or two about European oppression. It was also exciting when working with the Hutterite population of the area, who speak a dialect of German similar to Yiddish. As part of a routine assessment, I asked a young student, "What would you do if you went into a room, and it was dark?" He naturally replied, "Shluf."

Although I never encountered anti-Semitism, there were times when I felt a bit uncomfortable. I had only two vacation days a year, and I had to take both those days in September for Rosh Hashanah, since Jewish holidays aren't exactly recognized in rural Manitoba. It also became awkward explaining to people why I wasn't homesick over Thanksgiving weekend – it's just not a holiday my Jewish family formally celebrates. And I had a hard time defending to a friend why the casual use of "Christmas concert" and Easter art decorations bothered me. She saw a difference between Christmas and Easter as religious holidays and as secular holidays on the Canadian calendar, which I did not.

> *I knew that I wasn't, as I sometimes joked, the only Jew between Winnipeg and Regina.*

I knew that I wasn't, as I sometimes joked, the only Jew between Winnipeg and Regina. Brandon, the second-biggest town in Manitoba (population about 46,000) has a handful of Jewish people, including the most recent ex-mayor. But being three hours away from the closest synagogue could be isolating. That was why I was enthusiastic to learn about a less well-known story from Canadian Jewish history: the Jewish farm colonies.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, immigrants from certain backgrounds were settled in "block settlements," or villages, of one ethnicity, throughout Western Canada, including Mennonites, Hutterites, Ukrainians and, of course, Jews. Now that I was a rural prairie Jew myself, I took it upon myself to learn more about the Jewish colonies.

This led me first to Bender Hamlet, Man. After dragging friends down a dirt road off another dirt road, I found a grassy field, with a plaque commemorating the 19 families who built their homes, synagogue and school there, and stayed for 24 years. Apparently there are still some gravestones on the land, but out of fear of trespassing and of ticks, I didn't investigate farther.

More inspiring was the ghost town of Hirsch, Sask. Hirsch is a blink-and-you-miss-it collection of buildings along Highway 18. Apparently there are still some Jews living there (or were, as of a Sept. 16, 2010, article in *The CJN* entitled "Spotlight on old-timers in small-town Saskatchewan"), but I didn't see a soul.

A few kilometres down the road, however, marked with a simple "Point of Interest" road sign, is the surprisingly well-maintained Hirsch Community Jewish Cemetery. Seeing the rows of Jewish gravestones, in Yiddish, English and Hebrew, was enchanting. The bowl of pebbles to place on the stones was a connection to home miles away in Toronto.

Harsh winters, social isolation and poor farming conditions prompted the Jews of Bender Hamlet and Hirsch to leave their farming communities for bigger cities. And after two years in rural Manitoba, I too returned to the big city. But something keeps me coming back to small, fading Jewish communities.

This Yom Kippur, staying with my fiancé in Ireland, I attended shul, not at one of the three congregations in Dublin, but at the synagogue of the Hebrew Congregation of Cork – Jewish population nine, give or take one big-city Canadian visitor. ■

Sarah Czosniak is a speech language pathologist who is looking forward to getting married this May.

Israel: The outlier of aid in the Middle East

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

MICHAEL AARENAU

It would seem that whenever the topic of "Israeli foreign aid" comes up, it's too often an argument about how much Israel receives and rarely is it about how much they give. So let's recap.

When the destructive Typhoon Haiyan ripped its way through the Philippines in 2013 leaving over 4,000 people dead and countless others homeless and filled with despair, it was Israel who arrived on the scene almost immediately, with 150 IDF soldiers setting up field hospitals with over 100 tons of food and medical aid arriving with them.

Then in 2014 when countries in West Africa were struck by the deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus, it was the State of Israel that not only constructed field hospitals in the affected areas, but also contributed an additional $8.75 million to the cause, with the United Nations declaring that Israel was the top contributor per capita in the fight against Ebola. And finally, earlier this year when Nepal was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, it was Israel who sent a delegation of 260 personnel – more than the United Kingdom, the United States, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Italy and France combined – to set up field hospitals and administer aid to the thousands of Nepalese victims who were affected by the disaster.

And now the world is being forced to witness yet another tragedy, the half-decade long civil war in Syria. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, over 320,000 Syrian civilians have been killed and over 1.5 million have been wounded with no sign of President Assad's brutality ending any time soon. With this tragic and gruesome civil war comes millions of innocent civilians displaced from their homes, fleeing Syria and looking frantically for any sanctuary and support that they can find.

While the Arab world continues to point fingers at the West for not taking in enough Syrian refugees, perhaps it's best to look a little closer to home. While countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq have taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees, the wealthy gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have taken in zero refugees while simultaneously profiting from their suffering by selling arms to the rebel jihadist forces and fanning the flames of war (and with Iran taking in zero refugees as well but backing the Assad regime instead).

While the aforementioned nations continue to pad their pocketbooks with the collective pain of millions, it is the State of Israel that is taking action. While the relationship between Israel and Syria hasn't been a particularly happy one, with the two nations engaging in three major wars (the 1948 Arab Israeli War, the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War), Israel has once again risen to the occasion to help the helpless, with Israeli NGOs providing food, medicine and clothing to Syrian refugees residing in Jordan since 2013.

Additionally, the Israel Defence Forces have erected a field hospital on the Israel-Syria border and has begun treating any Syrian refugees who were lucky enough to escape their decimated homeland.

As if this was not enough, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gadi Eisenkot stated that the IDF would act in the vicinity of its border to defend Syrian refugees who were trying to escape the barbarity of Islamic State fighters and Syrian military forces.

> *The world is being forced to witness yet another tragedy.*

This truly shows the value that the State of Israel places on human life. Given Syria's history of mutual disdain, Israel has virtually no reason to show any compassion. However, the sentiment of "never again" and empathy towards the innocent rings true in the heart of most Israelis and so, once again, the nation is only too happy to lend its support. ■

Michael Aarenau is studying public affairs and policy management at Carleton University.

The CJN Prize Event

Gathered for food and cocktails before the awards ceremony are, clockwise from top right, MPP Gila Martow, MP Michael Levitt and CJN chief operating officer Tara Fainstein; CJN Prize winner Jasen Sagman with his mother; CJN reporter and event volunteer Sheri Shefa with marketing editor and event co-ordinator Rachel Oliver; and Carl Ehrlich, director of the Israel and Golda Koschitsky Centre for Jewish Studies with York Univesity professor Sara Horowotiz and keynote speaker Barbara Kay.

CJN STAFF PHOTO

A festive meal

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

SHOSHANAH MIRLAS

My family had already anticipated the Rosh Hashanah meal as the delicious smells from the cuisine enchanted the entire house while my mother cooked.

As we do annually, we had invited our cousins and other relatives to join us in the festive meal on the first night of the solemn holiday. When the evening of Rosh Hashanah had at last arrived, 25 people were seated round the long, rectangular table that extended across the dining room floor.

On the table was spread a fine, snow-coloured, silky tablecloth, patterned with an array of designs. It complimented the vibrancy of the napkins, which were painted with different themes of Rosh Hashanah: flowers and pomegranates framed the pictures of a shofar being blown in shul, a group of men doing Tashlich, and a family having their festive meal. The napkins were put at the right side of each plate, and on them were placed exclusive silver cutlery shining magnificently under the brilliance of the crystal chandelier. In addition to the water glasses, there were also tall Venetian Murano glasses for the Italian Chianti wine. These Venetian glasses were richly decorated with vivid leaves of every colour, giving the table an ostentatious sparkle, as well as a floral springtime liveliness.

We were very hungry and our stomachs showed their lack of patience by grumbling, so once everyone was seated my father began the meal with *Kiddush*. We then proceeded into the kitchen to wash our hands for the blessing of *Hamotzi*. There, our eyes wandered to the two lovely platters on which numerous pieces of *vazistolma* were neatly arranged, looking very impressive. *Vazistolma* is the Georgian name for vine leaves stuffed with spiced ground beef and rice. It is delicious with my grandmother's *tzo* – a spicy, sour sauce made of green plums, which is used like ketchup in the Georgian cuisine. But my little brother seemed to be looking in the direction of the enormous pot of potatoes, roasted to perfection, beautifully browned, and waiting to be eaten with *chakhokhbili* – spiced chicken cooked in tomato sauce. The kitchen that night was like a casino – drawing you in, and making you want to stay. Despite that, everyone eventually returned to the table where my father recited the blessing of *Hamotzi* on the large, round, majestic challah, proudly baked by my grandmother and still warm from the oven. Twenty-five impatient faces were watching my father tackle the challah with the knife as fast as he possibly could.

The dominating smells from the kichen made my mouth water. I began to taste the penetrating flavours of the *khalia* – a Georgian beef stew that marinates overnight in various seasonings, such as chopped onions and garlic, coriander, basil, oregano, black pepper, red chilli pepper, salt, tomato paste, and sour plums to deeply absorb the spicy flavours that characterize the dish. *Khalia* is served with *ghomi* – cornflower that has a sunny, golden shine when it is cooked in water. But while our noses feasted on the Georgian cuisine, we still had to restrain our appetites as we went through the customary tradition before the feast.

There are certain symbolic foods that we are accustomed to eat on the first night of Rosh Hashanah. For instance, the pomegranate implies that our merits should multiply like its seeds, and dates are eaten for their literal meaning – to go out on dates! The leeks as well as the beets symbolize the destruction of our enemies. As I passed the beets across the table, my cousin made a certain face that distinctly said, "I don't like beets!"

Next, there was the head of fish, which signifies that we should be like heads and not tails – the fish that was served was a pike caught by my brother in the French River, and stuffed with a secret recipe of my grandmother's. The apple and honey represented a sweet new year. The apple with honey was without a doubt the tastiest of all the signs. However, as delicious as it was, eating it on an empty stomach, while the captivating aromas tickled the appetite, felt like eating a stale cheese sandwich on dry old bread.

The meal was at last served, and we were finally able to satisfy our burning desires. The atmosphere in the room felt very warm and friendly, but under the deafening noises of the numerous guests, it was definitely not a relaxing atmosphere. Everyone at the table got lost in jolly conversation as we enjoyed each other's company while we ate. The discussions ranged from the wars in the Middle East to the university programs available at Ryerson.

My five-year-old cousin constantly entertained the company by providing background music like *Dip the Apple in the Honey*. My grandmother had no shortage of toasts, nor did my father have any shortage of old Soviet jokes. Looking at the adults, anyone could tell how immersed they were in their business chat.

At this point, my older brother blurted out, "Can this table get any more boring than it is?!" And off he went, only to return juggling five balls. The spirit of this table was something to be admired. But my mother's Georgian cuisine was definitely the highlight of the evening. ■

Shoshana Mirlas is currently taking a gap year in Israel where she is studying Torah and art in Jerusalem.

The CJN Prize Event

The menu was generously provided by Applause Catering

CJN STAFF PHOTOS

Sanctity of time

Runner Up Award for Excellence in Jewish Writing

JONAH SIMCHA CHAIM MUSKAT BROWN

Jonah Simcha Chaim Muskat Brown

The concept of time in Judaism is connected with holiness. In the first instance, the narrative of Genesis, God sanctifies time – He blesses the seventh day, the Sabbath, as an everlasting sanctuary of holiness within time. Many years later, as the Jewish nation prepares to leave Egypt, it is called on by God to initiate time – to sanctify the first moon, thereby blessing each forthcoming month and creating holiness transcendent of time. God creates linear time but offers the Jew the opportunity to take initiation and use his time in a holy manner.

Ecclesiastes best defines linear time as abiding with the order of nature. "A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth endures forever" (Eccles. 1:4-5); it is a continuum in which "there is nothing new under the sun."

As nature runs its course, God invites the Jew to take a few moments from his day or some time from his busy week to connect with Him in a realm of holiness – whether through prayer, celebration of the Sabbath, or some other prescribed ritual.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel writes in 1963, "Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things in space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time."

Godliness can only be experienced as a result of preparation, Rabbi Heschel writes, by saying, "Farewell to manual work and learn[ing] to understand that the world has already been created and will survive without the help of man."

The sanctification of the moon and the subsequent establishment of the Jewish calendar, by contrast, allow the Jew to reach even higher. Preparing to conclude more than two centuries of slavery – in which Egyptian society sets out to conquer time by building everlasting monuments of space – God teaches the Jewish nation that time does not have to be limited, that reality does not have remain stagnant in set motion.

> *On the Sabbath, Jews refrain from physical acts and focus on their essence.*

God invites the Jew to now be the one to bless time, as if to emphasize that a finite being can take control of his life: constantly growing, just as the moon never remains the same each night. On the Sabbath, God beckons the Jew into a private, intimate relationship with Him. On a monthly basis, and throughout the Jewish festival cycle, however, Jews invite God to dwell amongst them.

Both concepts of time are sacred. The former is constant, while the latter can be spontaneous and voluntary – because in life, individuals need structure and rules, but also opportunities to experience sanctity outside of prescribed everyday occurrences.

On the Sabbath, Jews refrain from physical acts and focus on their essence – their soul, which is metaphysical – because that is the essence of the day. Festivals, however, are called *mo'adim*, appointed times, because they are times when the Jew decides to invest his soul, his essences, into the days themselves, transforming mundane existence into sacred reality. Whereas on the Sabbath, a Jew becomes a vessel for a Sabbath reality, festivals transform ordinary weekdays into vessels for a new reality – that of sanctity.

Time is a blessing. It is an existence, unlike space, that cannot be altered. Time is a fact of life in which we know nothing of its origins, only that it is in constant motion, always progressing forward like a train with no emergency brake. No human can stop time, but can only choose how to articulate it. Time becomes sacred when utilized for purpose and towards meaning. Life can get busy – very busy at times – and it is through the Sabbath, through prayer, and through other means of detachment from physicality that we come to refocus and remind ourselves why we are acting and why we are living.

By contrast, we sometimes find ourselves with too much time, and with confusion about how to fill that time with meaningful pursuits to the extent that we begin making it, "subservient to space." We forget that space and time are separate entities and begin filling our time with space, by using physical, mundane matter to occupy our time.

But "we can only master time with time. The higher goal of spiritual living is not to amass a wealth of information, but to face sacred moments."

The festivals remind us that holiness is a *mo'ed* – an appointed time designated by a finite being. The sanctity of time is to be found, not in days like the Sabbath, which are blessings in their own right, but rather in mundane moments that human beings decide to elevate and use for holy expression.

Unlike Adam the First in Joseph Soloveitchik's *Lonely Man of Faith*, we cannot use nature to conquer time, but rather we must transcend scientific advancements and use time to experience holiness beyond time. Perhaps the challenge that so many experience is that they relied on others, on external realities, to provide a connection to holiness. What they fail to understand is that holiness is internal, that it must be created and sought out for. The Sabbath teaches us that holiness exists within the natural world; the festivals come to teach us that it is up to each individual to seek out sanctity. ■

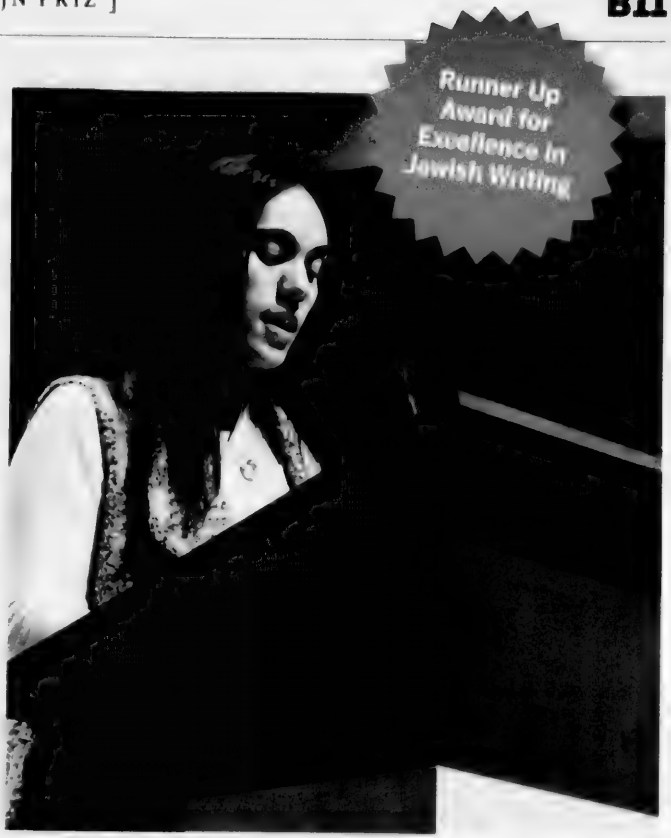
Jonah S. C. Muskat-Brown is a registered social worker residing in the GTA.

The CJN Prize Event

Guests and CJN staff mingle prior to the awards event.

CJN STAFF PHOTOS

The saga of the eastern European eshet chayil



Jessica Pollock reads from her essay. CJN STAFF PHOTO

JESSICA POLLOCK

Prior to Hitler's chancellery, approximately nine million Jews were living in the European countries that were subsequently occupied during the course of the war. An abundance of Jews were concentrated in eastern Europe in small villages otherwise known as shtetls.

Compared to thriving urban centres such as Budapest and Warsaw, Jewish shtetls were rather backward. In these remote villages, Jews were able to preserve their cultural and religious traditions and speak Yiddish as their native tongue.

On the Jewish Sabbath, Jews around the world routinely sing *Eshet Chayil* to the mothers of the family – a psalm from the Book of Proverbs. Eshet Chayil, which translates to a woman of valour, is the archetype of an ideal Jewish mother who is God-fearing, compassionate, tends to the home and is devoted to her husband and children. This portrayal succinctly describes Jewish mothers as the pillars of their communities in pre-Holocaust eastern Europe.

Notwithstanding women's traditional exclusion from the workforce in order to focus on their unpaid domestic tasks, Jewish men in eastern Europe gradually called upon their wives to assist them in earning enough money to sustain the family. In fact, during the 1930s, approximately one-third of Jewish women in Poland were employed outside their homes, constituting 20 per cent of the Jewish labour force.

By virtue of the economic decline following World War I, Jewish women progressively expanded their pious Eshet Chayil representation to include their utility as "seamstresses, storekeepers, peddlers, or even sellers of whiskey [to] keep food on their families' tables." As a result, the skills Jewish women fostered in the east were beneficial during the outset of the Holocaust.

As Hitler's threatening policies became realistic, many Jewish families in eastern Europe recognized the need to devise strategies to protect themselves from the pervasive Third Reich. For those eastern European Jewish women who did not emigrate in time, their fears were brought to fruition when Nazis began displacing them and their families from their homes and shtetls.

As early as October 1939, Jewish mothers were initially forced with their families to relocate to ghettos – city districts exclusively designed to concentrate Jewish people under miserable living conditions.

When being deported to ghettos, Dalia Ofer outlines "a phenomenon of 'uprootedness' that was [spawned once women] lost all they had and became refugees in their own city." This transition was one of the first events that jeopardized their ability to fulfil their role as Nashei Chayil – women of valour. Nevertheless, modes of resistance were frequent in ghettos across eastern Europe. Women who participated in organized resistance movements were typically couriers who "encouraged, organized, searched for safe sites, distributed newspapers… set up partisan bases, developed programs and obtained guns." Accordingly, many women participated in the momentous Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943.

During these times, Jewish mothers' identities were largely forged around their will to continue parenting. They ventured to maintain a semblance of normalcy for their children by providing them fundamental necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, cleanliness and a sense of Jewishness or Yiddishkeit. However, assuring that their families had the bare essentials became an increasingly daunting task as deportations to concentration camps accelerated.

As rumours spread around eastern Europe of the dreadful conditions in concentration camps, many mothers voluntarily sent their children to hide in non-Jewish homes, convents or with partisans in forests. In one case, a Jewish mother ordered for deportation with her four-year old son, shoved the young boy to his older brother who was bound for a "safer" camp, Buchenwald. Her young son, Yisrael Meir Lau, would later become the chief rabbi of Israel. In the direst of circumstances, Jewish mothers attempted to protect their children to the ultimate end, even if it jeopardized their own psychological well-being.

Nevertheless, Jewish women, many of whom were mothers, were susceptible to forms of torture that their male counterparts were not as frequently subjected to. Despite Rassenchande – race policy laws that forbade Nazis from engaging in sexual acts with Jewish women – many Nazi officials working in the camps regularly sexually assaulted female Jewish inmates. Upon entry into many camps around eastern Europe, Nazi soldiers would force women to strip naked in front of groups of men for extended periods of time, thus violating customs of Jewish modesty, and actively humiliating them in front of strangers. Women were forced to accept rape – oftentimes in public – in order to receive more food, privileges or save their children or family members from death. In Mauthausen, Auschwitz and Dachau, for instance, organized brothels were established whereby Jewish women were sexually enslaved. As a result, Jewish women who endured sexual violence in the ghettos and camps were ashamed and stigmatized after the Holocaust.

> *Jewish women, many of whom were mothers, were susceptible to forms of torture that their males counterparts were not.*

In concentration camps such as Ravensbruck and Auschwitz, pregnancies were forbidden. Since "women's sexuality and reproductive capabilities were integral to the Nazis' racist agenda to create and maintain an 'Aryan Race,'" pregnant Jews were generally sent to their death upon entry into concentration camps. Some pregnant women were exempt from death only to become subjects of Nazi medical experiments, undergoing internal mutilation, forced sterilizations and abortions. Jewish women were aware of these risks and many expectant inmates tried to conceal their pregnancies. Some Jewish women who did give birth while incarcerated in camps were impelled to kill their newborn within minutes to resist handing over their baby to the SS. It was circumstances and decisions like these that nearly destroyed the spirits of persecuted Nashei Chayil.

It should now be evident that Nazis consistently and unrelentingly attempted to diminish female inmates' identities as Jewish women and mothers by inhibiting their ability to fulfil their roles as Nashei Chayil. This essay elaborated upon practices and methods eastern European Jewish women employed to preserve their pre-Holocaust maternal spirit and epitomize true women of valour in the face of their Nazi oppressors. ■

Jessica Pollock graduated from Western University and Ryerson University where she completed her undergrad and master of professional communication respectively. She is currently working as a social media manager at the Yellow Pages.

Rat

YARDENA KATZ

We move like the mice. We scurry, we zigzag, we wander across the square, bumping into one another in our quest to nowhere. The plaza teems with panic and relief and desperation all at once. Men and women and children run in all directions, eastwards and backwards and into each other's reedy arms.

We all don the same stripes and have bare scalps. Our clothes smell of the flesh of the dead, though the dead and the living are the same here. The striped uniform rubs against your gentle skin, at first chafing it; but it quickly becomes a cherished garment, one that fends off cold and lets you bury your soul beneath it.

We see the trucks make their slow approach, and some of us tremble in anticipation. But I do not tremble. I feel no breath of liberation. No relief rolls through the iron gates of the camp and into my heart. My journey has numbed me to such sentiments. I see the soldiers, the "freedom bearers," and I know that no freedom is truly on my horizon. For, what lies beyond the fences? My universe has been tainted grey. The contortions of metal, with their electric contraptions and vines of jagged spikes, separate me from nothing.

I have been robbed of my brothers, my comrades and kin. The loneliness eats at the vestiges of my soul. No liberation can twine us back together.

We part like a sea for these trucks, these bearers of nothing. They champion through the vast square, toting soldiers who wave banners and flags. How little these fools know of redemption. Some of us charge towards them; some of us stare in empty indifference. They gape. Chocolates and breads and other fine things are distributed, but I crave no physical pleasures.

So I run. I muster the remnants of my will and I break from the masses. I desert the flock of baldheads, the cacophonous waves of skeletons who claw and charge towards the chariots of metal. I run barefoot across the numbing blanket of snow and fantasize crawling beneath it.

Days pass. Weeks pass.

I am placed on the Soviets' list of supposed survivors. I am sent to a camp for displaced persons. Its inhabitants are empty, as am I. I linger there for months.

I get sent to the port city of Marseilles. I wait for the boat for weeks on end. My life is a series of ticks on a watch. I board the SS Marseilles.

I roll, tremble, vomit, cower amidst the staggering waves like all the pathetic refugees. I befriend no one; I keep to myself. I arrive on Ellis Island.

I am met by the Jewish refugee organization. They hand me a spare pair of clothes and some pocket money. I feel like a thief.

I settle in a grimy one-bedroom apartment. It is shared with four other German refugees. I listen to them chant foreign Yiddish verses on the Sabbath.

I find work in a deli store in the Lower East Side.

I keep to myself. I speak little. Nobody knows me. Months pass. Years pass.

It is a chilly evening in January when the knock resounds from the door. I am signing bills, counting boxes, organizing shipments. I am sitting on a stool behind the counter of meat and sauerkraut. I shuffle towards the entrance. A man enters, sweeping in a terrible gust of cold.

"Ah, thank you. You are open now, yes?"

Though the hour is late, I nod. I lead him towards the musty counter. He removes his woolen hat and undrapes his thick scarf. In the dim light of the shop, his face comes into view and it is familiar. It chafes at my memory, but I cannot place his face. The man deliberates between pastrami and smoked meat.

"How much for a pound?" His accent is German. So familiar. A flicker of hope suddenly ignites itself, threatens to turn the ash in my heart into gorgeous flame. Could it be – a reunion of brothers, in a deli store miles from home? He looks up. Our eyes meet. I must ask him his name. But he opens his mouth first.

"You look so… so familiar… Where have we met before?"

He looks deeply into my face. My stiffened features relax. He is my kind. I speak:

"Is that you, my brother? From Auschwitz?"

At the utterance of "Auschwitz," his eyes refocus and lock on mine. He stares.

And then his face collapses in a painful contortion; his features warp into a mien of terror. He recoils and wails. And I immediately know I am right. We had met at Auschwitz. But he was no brother of mine.

I ravished his belongings, his children, his dignity. And then, I stole his story. In fear of "liberation" – I dressed like him, I burrowed like him, I scurried like him.

He is a dirty Jew. And I am a Nazi. ■

Yardena Katz is a first-year biology student at Stern College for Women in New York.

Thank you to the Sponsors of
THE CJN PRIZE

Israel and Golda Koschitzky
Centre for Jewish Studies
at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

Applause Catering
Elegant Kosher Cuisine

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MARCH 3, 2016 • 23 ADAR I, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com

Inside

McGill undergrads defeat BDS motion – again

Student body votes down latest boycott effort. **PAGE 14**

COMMENT PAGES 6, 10

Where are all the kosher chickens?

Two years into a process to select a new supplier, Ontario is still waiting. **PAGE 13**

Voyakhel

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:48 p.m.	6:52 p.m.
Montreal	5:28 p.m.	6:32 p.m.
Ottawa	5:36 p.m.	6:40 p.m.
Toronto	5:52 p.m.	6:55 p.m.
Winnipeg	5:58 p.m.	7:07 p.m.
Calgary	6:05 p.m.	7:15 p.m.
Vancouver	5:43 p.m.	6:51 p.m.

The cost of keeping kosher

As families struggle with rising prices, some are being forced to make tough decisions. **PAGES 8-9**

Embassy steps in to support concert

Israeli government agrees to sponsor Yom Ha'atzmaut event after JNF backs out. **PAGE 12**

Two rabbis walk into a synagogue...

Rabbi 2 Rabbi The tradition of using humour to educate dates back to talmudic times. **PAGE 4**

'Yid Army' enjoys a season for the ages

A Tottenham fan explains why his team's nickname isn't meant to offend. **PAGE 7**

RSC ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL
BEGINS JULY 5
416.872.1212 mirvish.com

Oberlander fights for citizenship, and an El Al passenger gives film two fists down

Death squad member wins reprieve

Ottawa will review the case of Nazi-era war-crimes suspect Helmut Oberlander, 92, who's been fighting to retain his citizenship since 1995. The Federal Court of Appeal sent the case back to the federal cabinet after it filed its third motion since 2001 to revoke his citizenship. The government alleges the Ukraine-born Oberlander failed to disclose his wartime service in a death squad that killed 23,000 people when he became a Canadian in 1960. In 2000, a judge agreed, and the cabinet revoked his citizenship three times. Twice it was restored by court rulings. The third revocation is being reviewed. Oberlander, of Waterloo, Ont., claims he was a low-level interpreter and would have been shot if he tried to escape.

Haredi El Al freakout

A haredi man on an El Al flight to Israel from Poland went on a rampage last week after complaining the in-flight movie was "immodest." The passenger, 36, from Beit Shemesh, damaged two viewing screens and attacked the cabin crew during his Feb. 24 freakout, the Hebrew-language news website *Walla* reported. Police, who were waiting for the man when the plane landed, took him into custody to question him. El Al told *Walla* that the company "is not prepared to accept violent behaviour of any kind during flights."

An 'immodest' film caused an uproar on El Al

Jude Law reads Shoah-era letter

British actor Jude Law read aloud a German-Jewish author's Holocaust-era letter at a Feb. 21 event to promote awareness of the challenges facing refugees in Europe. He read Lion Feuchtwanger's 1935 open letter to the Nazis occupying his Berlin home. Law, along with other British celebrities, was taking part in a live performance for 200 migrants at a 4,000-person refugee camp in Calais, France, that featured readings of letters about the plight of the refugees. Feuchtwanger, a prominent writer, was a vocal critic of the Nazis before they came to power in 1933. He moved to France after Hitler's election, and was jailed after the Nazi invasion. After escaping, he was granted asylum in the United States, where he died in 1958. ■

Gematria

3,400

The age in years of a statuette found by a seven-year-old boy on a hike with his father and friends in the Tel Rehov archeological park in Israel's Beit She'an Valley last week.

5

The number of buildings owned by pre-Shoah Jewish communities that will be returned to Jewish groups under new legislation in Latvia.

Quotable

We see support from the embassy and the consulate as strong messages that there is room for diversity both within Israel and within our community.

— Stephen Gaerber, chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, on the decision by the Israeli Embassy and Consulate in Toronto to sponsor a concert by a left-wing Israeli singer. Full story on p. 12.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	25	Parshah	35
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	32	Q&A	38
Cover Story	8	International	20	Social Scene	34	Backstory	39

COVER PHOTO BY PAUL LUNGEN

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG *Monuments*

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

How to fight BDS

Like other university graduates, I get many emails asking for donations. A few weeks ago, I was beginning to think it was about time to give something, but put everything on hold when I learned that the students at McMaster University had voted in one of those ill-informed boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns that have been sweeping university campuses. I was even more upset when I read that the president did little more than suggest to the press that the students' union did not represent the university. Is he really unaware that students are the raison d'être for a university?

Not only do I consider a McMaster BDS campaign to be an insult to the credibility of the university, I consider it to be an attack upon my heritage and upon me personally.

Although I consider it chutzpah to want to boycott me and ask for my money at the same time, I did decide to go ahead with a donation, but instead of sending it to the university, I sent it to McMaster Hillel. Until some semblance of sanity returns to academia, I would encourage other Jewish university alumni to do as I did.

Marvin Silbert
Toronto

I am extremely disappointed in NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's decision to vote against condemning the BDS movement. Doing so and encouraging the caucus to do so is an affront to Canadian values ("Anti-BDS motion supported by Liberal, Tory MPs," Feb. 25).

Mulcair is smart enough to know who the foreign funders of BDS are and about their desire to undermine Canadian values and laws. He should be smart enough to know what fate holds if this anti-democratic, anti-tolerance and anti-human rights movement grows anywhere in Canada or elsewhere.

David Nitkin
Toronto

For the third time in less than a year and a half, a BDS motion was presented at McGill University. However, this time students voted to pass the resolution (cjnews.com).

As students at McGill, we will not take this minor setback as a loss, but as a time to unite against discrimination.

We call on all McGill students and the wider community to voice their concerns and push for a campus-wide referendum. While we respect the decision made at the Students' Society of McGill University, of the 39,000-plus students who attend this institution, only 883 voted, representing a total of 2.2 per cent of the overall student body. In the middle of midterms, this is far too large of a decision to be made by so few students. The brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi at McGill condemn such a divisive and anti-democratic vote.

Alex Sirois, president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, Epsilon Chi Chapter
Montreal

In support of Nini

We, a group of Israeli-Canadians, urge the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver to honour the invitation to Achinoam Nini to perform in Vancouver for Yom Ha'atzmaut, despite pressure from JNF and a few, but loud, protesters from the community ("JNF Canada pulls event support over Noa performance," Feb. 25).

Nini is a remarkable artist with an exceptional musical career. However, we suspect that the resistance to inviting her may not be her musical achievements, but rather her personal views on peace and human rights.

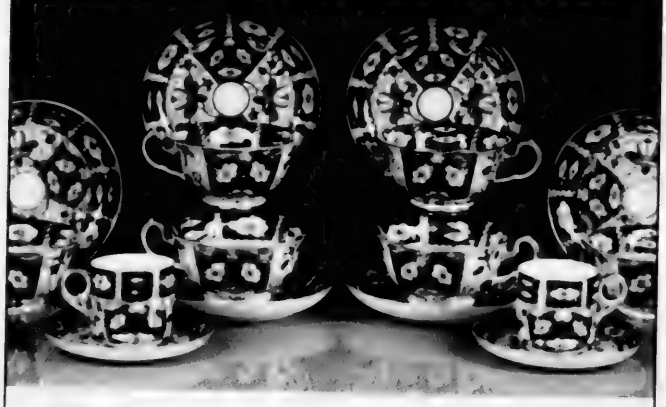
The fact that she is known in Israel for her progressive humanistic views and has been attacked as an "Israel hater" is not relevant to the decision whether to invite her to perform. Such views that value all human beings should not be considered extreme. Unfortunately, the current political climate in Israel condemns every person who advocates for peace and human rights, and campaigns, such as the recent one by Im Tirzu, and other similar extremist groups, single out progressive artists.

By cancelling the invitation, we will not only be missing the opportunity to experience a great musician, it will also mean taking a stand against everything Vancouver and Canada is proudly known for – our belief in tolerance, pluralism and human rights, the same values that are reflected in our Jewish heritage.

Tal Jarus-Hakak and 32 others
Vancouver

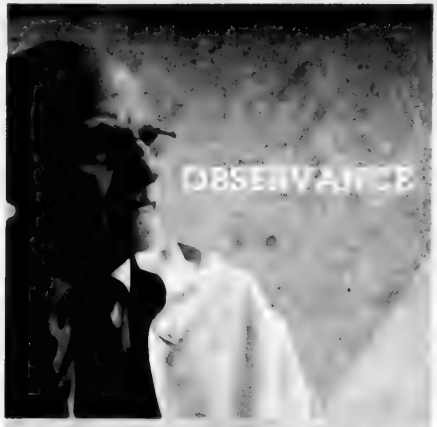
Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

DOWNSIZING?
Find Out What Your Things Are Worth



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.
Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.
Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com
A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS
299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
including all taxes
Book by March 4, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included on Family Rates, Excluding Air
March Break Mar. 10-21
Passover Apr. 19 – May 01
Summer July 03-14 / July 24 – Aug. 04 / Aug. 07-18 / Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Winter Break Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL THE HOLY LAND • One Week of Highlights
From $1,199USD All inclusive (Air, Hotels, Taxes and Most Meals)
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary
PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com



We are an Orthodox family, so when our father died, it was important to have a service that strictly observed Jewish law. We chose Benjamin's because of their superior care. They helped us fulfil every sacred rite, from Shmira to Shiva. Our father was never left alone, and neither were we. Thank you Benjamin's for keeping the light alive.

"They thought of everything."

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel

Through the generations ...a sacred trust

416-663-9060
We are here to help.

RABBI·2·RABBI

Two rabbis walk into a synagogue...

There's a misconception that Jewish scholars who use humour are seeking to entertain rather than educate, but it's a tradition that dates back to talmudic times

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Finegold: The inclusion of jokes in our previous column ("You know what happens when a 'yekke' marries a chassid? You have a wedding that starts exactly two hours late") is something I have been thinking about lately.

I was teaching a class on midrash recently and I found myself comparing the use of mashal (parables) in midrash to how rabbis will often use humour in their sermons. It is a trope, a common feature of the genre that people now understand and appreciate as a method of connecting the material to the listener.

I suppose that bringing up this topic is quite appropriate for Adar, and so I was wondering, do you use humour in sermons? In everyday life? To what purpose?

I find myself trying to be funny in my classes, partly because I think it is central to my persona and partly because I recognize the performative aspect of teaching. So in the hope of creating a new way of thinking about rabbinic humour I ask, brother, can you paradigm?

Rabbi Scheim: Funny you should ask. I am in the process of teaching a course on Jewish humour from rabbinic times to the present, focusing on humour as a survival tool, and as a means of making sense of an increasingly crazy and troubled world.

Many recent books have brought new light to this subject, especially Ruth Wisse's *No Joke: Making Jewish Humor*. This being the 100th yahrzeit year of Sholem Aleichem, I have used the opportunity to examine his writings and deepen my appreciation of his role in setting the stage (literally and figuratively) for today's Jewish comics. I do attempt, where appropriate, to use humour as a tool in sermons and teaching, but try to avoid the formulaic "opening joke" preferred by many rabbis, which can lead to the joke, more than the sermon itself, being remembered.

Many of my teachers in my seminary years hailed from the old world and were funny, though not always intentionally. Their unique sense of English syntax didn't always correspond to their impeccable grasp of talmudic text, which allowed for memorable classroom experiences, something today's students sadly are far less likely to experience. I frequently share stories about my teachers, because both their profound learning and their humour taught me a great deal about the nature of Jewish survival.

Rabbi Finegold: There seems to be a misconception that rabbis who use humour are seeking to entertain rather than educate, and that they see their role as that of a showman, someone who is irreverent, quite literally. But we have a long history of scholars and rabbis employing humour going all the way back to the Talmud. Rabbis were quite cutting in pointing out the shortcomings of their colleague's arguments, and sometimes even the colleagues themselves.

My favourite commentator, the medieval Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra, never misses an opportunity to take a jab at the other commentators, sometimes gratuitously. There is value in humour and wit in and of itself though, even beyond the classic joke during a sermon.

The Vilna Gaon points out that the name of our most solemn day – Yom Kippur – contains a play on words. Yom Hakippurim (its name in the Bible) is akin to Yom Ke'Purim, a day that is like Purim. He sees the day with the most levity as potentially greater than a day filled with prayer and repentance. Wit and joy are greater tools than fasting and chest beating when it comes to achieving closeness with God.

Rabbi Scheim: The vast Jewish over-representation in modern comedy seems to reflect a DNA-level Jewish instinct to find humour in even the darkest of circumstances.

We have used humour to mock our adversaries, to find laughter in our day-to-day struggles in times of poverty and persecution, and to find perspective in an ever-challenging and dangerous world. Humour has taught us humility in casting light on our foibles, idiosyncrasies, and quirks that can drive even those who love us to distraction.

Using humour appropriately and effectively offers a rabbi the opportunity to lift spirits in the context of meaningful Torah learning. Indeed laughter amid life's challenges may be one of our secrets to survival. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 9 (2,235)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

Conversion can raise acceptance issues for children

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

It's rare that babies born to Jewish mothers are available for adoption, since Jewish families are inclined to take care of their own orphans and reluctant to sever parental rights.

When Jewish families choose to adopt, therefore, the process almost always ends with a conversion for their adopted child.

But according to Toronto's Beth Tikvah Synagogue spiritual leader Rabbi Jarrod Grover, recognition of conversions for adopted children remains an issue in the Jewish community, just as it is for adults.

He explained that unless the conversion is done by an Orthodox beit din, a child's conversion, at birth or years later, could be challenged or deemed invalid if they choose to be bar or bat mitzvahed or married in an Orthodox ceremony.

"When you convert, you get a document, and the document outlines when the conversion happened. It has the names of the beit din – the panel of rabbis that supervise the conversion – and the document is only as valid… as the credibility of the rabbis on the panel," Rabbi Grover said.

In Toronto, the Vaad Harabonim is the only body that can perform Orthodox

Jan Silverman

conversions, and it rules that Conservative and Reform rabbis are unqualified to serve on a beit din for conversion, which "remains a major challenge in the Jewish community."

As a result, if a family chooses a Conservative or Reform conversion, there are complications that could arise should a child choose to marry into an Orthodox family or move to Israel.

"In my years as a rabbi in Toronto," Rabbi Grover said, "I have encountered dozens of cases of people coming to me saying, 'I was adopted… I always thought I was Jewish, I never had an issue. Suddenly [an Orthodox rabbi] asks for my papers and they tell me – surprise, the rabbi who converted you did not meet our standards.'"

Although it may seem that the best way to avoid any issues is to convert with the Orthodox beit din, many non-Orthodox couples are turned away by the Vaad Harabonim because of their level of observance.

"It's not easy, because the standard for Orthodox rabbis in Toronto is, I think, extremely stringent, and I respect them for that. But because of those stringencies, they make it basically impossible for many families who would like to adopt and have their child be recognized by the Orthodox community," Rabbi Grover said.

One Toronto Orthodox rabbi spoke to *The CJN* in 2014 anonymously, and said that some of the requirements go "well beyond what the Halachah requires" and "are not reflective of more modern Orthodoxy."

Rabbi Grover said some of the requirements include that the family be strictly shomer Shabbat and that the child attend an Orthodox Jewish school.

He said he has met many couples who come to him after being rejected by the Orthodox beit din.

"I'm not happy to do those conversions because part of the reason they go to an Orthodox rabbi first is because they know that it will be most recognized by an Orthodox rabbi. They may even attend an Orthodox synagogue themselves, and now they have to leave because I tell them their child will not be able to have a bar mitzvah in an Orthodox shul," he said, adding that he performs about five conversions a year for adopted children.

Jan Silverman, an infertility counsellor who adopted two children when they were both just days old, recalled being rejected after seeking an Orthodox conversion about three decades ago.

"Someone gave me the name of [the late] Rabbi [Gedalia] Felder. I told him that I adopted a child and wanted to have her converted and he said, 'Are you Orthodox?' I said, 'I'm not, but I'm identified, it's a big part of my life. I'm a regular shul-goer, but I'm not Orthodox.' And he said, 'I can't do it, but I can send you to one of my Orthodox colleagues. His reputation is not quite what mine is, but he'll do it.'"

Offended by this offer, she declined.

Silverman, who calls herself a "card-carrying" Reconstructionist Jew, went the Reconstructionist route to convert her children.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

ONLINE JEWISH EDUCATION
FOR TEENS!
FULLY ACCREDITED
Earn an Ontario high school credit with the completion of each course.
BLENDED LEARNING
An option to combine online learning with dynamic classroom experiences.
GET AHEAD ONLINE
Learn without limitations of time or location while using your computer or mobile device.
JEWISH VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL
Learn Wherever. Whenever. Forever.
Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education
Get Started Now! Go to jvhighschool.com or call 905-761-6279 x245

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital Head Office 1750 Steeles Ave W., Ste 218, Concord Ont L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergio **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Teaching the violin

Maurice Solway (1906-2001) was a violinist, music teacher, composer, author and actor who lived and worked for most of his life in Toronto. Although he was highly respected as a musician in Toronto, his greatest fame came to him later in life as an actor in the Academy Award nominated NFB short film *The Violin*. He is pictured here with one of his students in Sarnia, Ont., in 1977.

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

SeeJN | Mission accomplished

More than 50 participants in UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual Israel Engagement Mission gather after an exceptional day of learning about Israel and Jewish Peoplehood at the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv in late January. Participants included lay and professional representatives of 30 Jewish institutions who travel to Israel to choose shinshinim for the following year.

From Yoni's Desk

Is the BDS movement losing steam?

There was palpable sense of relief within the greater Canadian Jewish community late last week when the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) voted to nullify a motion that would have seen the Montreal university's undergraduate association join the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. As reporter Janice Arnold explains in this week's *CJN*, the motion passed its first test earlier in the week at the SSMU's general assembly, but ultimately failed when it was put to a ratification vote among the entire undergraduate population (for more on this story, see page 14).

Adding salt to the wounds of the defeated pro-BDS camp at McGill, after the final tally was made public, the university's principal and vice-chancellor, Suzanne Fortier, issued a public statement asserting that BDS "flies in the face of the tolerance and respect we cherish as values fundamental to a university. It proposes actions that are contrary to the principles of academic freedom, equity, inclusiveness and the exchange of views and ideas in responsible, open discourse."

The latest defeat of BDS at McGill, the third in a year and a half, and the fifth since 2010, follows two other major recent victories for the anti-BDS movement in Canada. In late January, University of Waterloo students voted against a BDS motion, and less than two weeks ago, a Conservative-sponsored motion rejecting BDS passed in the House of Commons by a margin of 229 to 51. (The governing Liberal party and Prime Minster Justin Trudeau overwhelmingly supported the motion, though some Liberal members of Parliament voted against it, while others were not present for the vote. The New Democratic Party, meanwhile, voted against the motion, arguing it would infringe on Canadians' freedom of speech, a move that left many wondering what exactly NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair meant when he told *The CJN* during last year's election campaign, "I think [the BDS movement is] absurd, and I disagree with it.")

It appears BDS has been losing some steam of late, and not only in Canada. A number of American states have passed anti-BDS measures in recent months, while the British Parliament has made public plans to outlaw the boycott movement, and Paris' City Council recently adopted a pair of anti-BDS resolutions. True, BDS remains a concern on many university campuses, including York University in Toronto, where the York Federation of Students passed a resolution endorsing BDS three years ago this month. But even at York, pro-BDS students have recently taken to couching their movement within the effort to force the university to divest from arms manufacturers, perhaps indicating that BDSers are being forced to resort to even sneakier efforts to target Israel. Or maybe it's a tacit admission that the greater student body is simply not buying the anti-Israel message they are selling.

Even so, it seems unlikely that BDS will go away any time soon. Hardworking pro-Israel organizations and indefatigable student groups can still expect to battle for the hearts and minds of students at McGill and York, among other Canadian universities. It's a fight they would surely rather not have to wage. But if they must, recent trends – on campus, in Ottawa and beyond – should at the very least buoy their spirits. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

A memorable season for England's 'Yid Army'

Michael Coren

The English soccer team Tottenham Hotspur, also known as Spurs, is currently experiencing its best season since 1961. The team may well win the Premiership – the top English soccer league and arguably the best in the world – and are considered by experts to be one of the most exciting sides currently playing. They've always been a big, wealthy, North London club, but this year's run to the top of the table is something exceptional. As such, they are on live television almost every week, watched by hundreds of millions of people in every continent.

But what most people don't realize is that Tottenham is known as "The Jewish team," and if you listen carefully, you will hear their fans chanting, "Yids, Yids" or "Yid Army, Yid Army" during their team's matches.

Offensive? Anti-Semitic? Outrageous? Well, just hold on one moment.

I've been a fan of the team for 50 years, largely because my Jewish father was born nearby. Tottenham always had a large number of Jewish supporters, because the catchment area for the club has a sizeable Jewish community. Yet until relatively recently, there were no Jewish owners of the team, and over the years, there has been only one Jewish manager (or coach) and perhaps three or four Jewish players. The latter isn't surprising, in that there are very Jewish managers anyway, and until Israelis started joining European leagues, not many Jews played first-class soccer. But Spurs was always considered Jewish, and from the 1970s, the identification became rigid, for friends as well as enemies.

The point of transition is layered in irony and centres around a television show called *Till Death Us Do Part*, the inspiration for the American comedy *All In The Family*. The anti-hero was the character Alf Garnett, a racist and a bigot who followed east London's West Ham United team and disliked almost everyone, including Tottenham and "the Jews up at Spurs." So popular was the show that the Spurs as a Jewish club idea became glued to the wider culture. Garnett, of course, was the symbol of all that was wrong, stupid and undesirable, but nevertheless, his opinions had a certain appeal to some. The irony was that Alf Garnett was played, superbly, by the Jewish actor and lifelong Tottenham fan Warren Mitchell.

A Tottenham Hotspur fan poses with an unofficial club banner. FACEBOOK PHOTO

Suddenly what was beneath the surface became more visible, even acceptable. Tottenham's main local rival has always been Arsenal, which is the other London team followed by the Jewish community (in fact, there could very well be more Jewish Arsenal fans than Spurs fans). But Arsenal supporters took up the "Jewish Tottenham" theme as well, and soon Spurs were known as "The Yids." With Arsenal, it was often mere banter and provocation – some of the Arsenal fans using the epithet were themselves Jewish. But with two other London teams, the motivation was more sinister.

In the 1970s, the far right in Britain made a concerted attempt to recruit among soccer hooligans. Groups such as the National Front and British Movement, always small and never a genuine political threat, nevertheless caused trouble and were vocal and visible. At Chelsea and West Ham, they had some success. At Chelsea, in particular, there was an organized fascist minority, and when they shouted, "Yids, Yids," they meant it. Worse, they also sang, "We've never felt more like gassing the Jews," and even during a Spurs game against Chelsea made hissing sounds that were supposed to indicate the noise of Nazi gas chambers.

Such obscenities have been illegal for some years, and, anyway, the far right dribbled away and such a hateful culture, always the preserve of a fringe extreme, simply doesn't exist anymore in English soccer. So now it's almost unheard of for anybody else in a stadium other than Tottenham supporters to chant "Yids." Spurs fans have owned the word, taken possession of it and refused to give it up. They have even occasionally waved Israeli flags. (This phenomenon is not, by the way, confined to England, and it's particularly common in the Netherlands, where the famous Ajax of Amsterdam in considered a Jewish team.)

It's all rather contrived and artificial, and nothing like as visceral and political as the Glasgow division between overwhelmingly Protestant Rangers and Catholic Celtic, but it still divides opinion. There are many people, including the Premiership officials, who would prefer if the word "Yid" was never heard again, and there have even been moves to arrest people who use it. But it would be impossible to stop 10,000 or 20,000 people from chanting a word, and the greater the attempt to expunge it, the louder the fans will sing.

I'm sure that many Canadians reading this will be incredulous, but as someone who is deeply sensitive to anti-Semitism, I can say with confidence that I haven't considered the Tottenham chants to be linked to anything racist in almost 30 years. Remember, sport – and certainly soccer in Europe – is far more tribal than in North America and also more working-class. It can't be too regulated and probably shouldn't be too regulated.

The problem now is not England but the Continent. Small groups of ultra-rightist thugs have attacked Tottenham fans in Italy, for example, because they assume that the people they are fighting are Jewish. In actual fact, in all of these incidents, that hasn't been the case.

The next couple of years will be fascinating. The seating capacity of Tottenham's stadium is to be almost doubled, the England national team will be one-third composed of Spurs players, and we can only hope that the team lives up to expectations and becomes truly great. At that point, the pressure to change what is said and sung might be insurmountable. But I wouldn't count on that happening. I really wouldn't. ■

mcoren@sympatico.ca

IF 5 TO 10% OF YOUR ASSET MIX IS IN FIRST MORTGAGES WITH US, PREPARE TO DO SOME ANNUAL REBALANCING.

With a 49-year history of capital preservation and consistent returns, our commercial mortgage fund is ideal for accredited investors, foundations, endowments and pension funds seeking a low-volatility asset that performs like anything but. To discuss your investment of $150,000 or more:
Dianna Price diannaprice@romspen.com | 416 928 5106

Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

YEAR	NET RETURN	YEAR	NET RETURN
2005	9.9%	2010	8.7%
2006	10.3%	2011	8.2%
2007	10.5%	2012	7.7%
2008	9.9%	2013	7.4%
2009	8.7%	2014	7.8%

Results from January 1, 1995 to January 16, 2008 are those of a pool of individually syndicated mortgages managed by the manager of Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund (the "Fund"). The indicated rates of return are historical returns calculated on a cash-on-cash basis, after fees, and the annual compounded net returns assume a monthly reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not take into account income taxes, changes in unit values, third-party expenses or redemption charges that would have reduced returns. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy units of the Fund, which are offered to investors who meet eligibility requirements under applicable securities laws. Fund units are offered only by offering memorandum, which contains important information about the Fund's fees, objectives, and risk factors, and which should be read before investing. Consult your financial advisor. The Fund's returns are not guaranteed, unit values may change, and past performance may not be repeated.

ROMSPEN

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 3, 2016

As food prices rise, kosher consumers are struggling

Shoppers are being more cautious at the supermarket, while high costs are forcing some to compromise on their adherence to kashrut

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Economic data can sometimes be impenetrable to the average person, especially when it refers to items like consumer surplus or foreign exchange rates. But consumer surplus and the value of the Canadian dollar can have a real-world impact on the daily lives of people when they roll their shopping carts down the kosher aisle and are confronted with prices that never seem to go down.

If you do any shopping, you'll notice that food prices have taken a jump in recent months, beyond what veteran shoppers might have noticed in the last five years.

It's not just kosher consumers who are affected. Everyone is paying more, as recent data compiled by Statistics Canada reveal.

Looking at the year that ended in January, the federal agency reported that food prices were up by four per cent, but that certain items, such as fresh vegetables, jumped by 18.2 per cent.

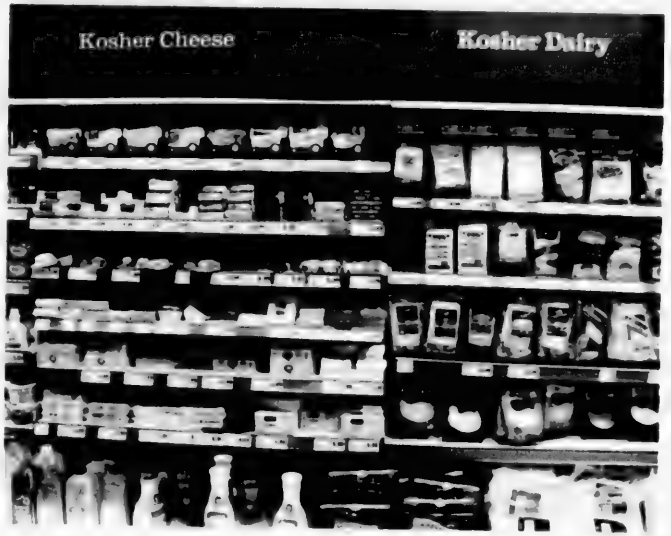
In a more detailed report that looked at average retail prices for a variety of consumer products, including meat, vegetables, fruit and household items, Statistics Canada reported that from December 2014 to December 2015, the cost of a kilogram of sirloin steak, not a kosher cut, rose by 14.3 per cent. Prime rib, which can be a kosher cut, rose by 12 per cent. Ground beef went up by six per cent and stewing beef by 6.8 per cent.

Even lowly macaroni, a staple for families, rose by 12.5 per cent in the year.

Vegans and vegetarians are feeling the pinch even more. The price of carrots rose by 13.8 per cent in the last year. Onions were up by 16.6 per cent; potatoes by 13.7 per cent; mushrooms by 7.2 per cent; and celery rose in price by a whopping 46.3 per cent in just one year.

So what can kosher consumers do?

Avi Moyal is a price-conscious shopper who picks up the groceries for his family of six every week or so. He makes a point of shopping at stores that price-match the competition and he uses a handy smartphone app, called Flipp, to get the best prices.



Jewish families are finding it hard to deal with increased food costs. PAUL LUNGEN PHOTOS

With Flipp, he said, you can download grocers' weekly flyers and present the best price to supermarkets such as Walmart, No Frills and Superstore, which match prices. He figures he saves about $30 on a weekly grocery bill of $250, and it helps avoid the need to drive from store to store to get the best price.

Moyal, a Toronto real estate agent, enjoys purchasing groceries and has been doing it ever since he was a kid accompanying his mom on shopping expeditions. He's noticed a big jump in price in recent months.

A couple of years ago, you could find kosher feta cheese for around $6 a pound. A few months ago the price was around $7, and now it's in the $10 range. "We can do without it," he said, substituting shredded cheese instead.

A couple of weeks ago, he spotted a particular kosher cheese on sale for $3.50, down from its regular price of $5, so he bought three packages.

"You're not eliminating anything," he said. "You just have to be more cautious."

The family still eats beef and a lot of fish, though chicken is no longer a big part of their menu.

"From what I've seen, it's not just kosher where the price has gone up," he said. "Beef and chicken have always been expensive. If you've been buying it for years, you're used to it."

Alison Finkelstein does the shopping for her family of seven. "I'm on a tight budget, so I should be price conscious. I try my best to only buy things that are on sale or less expensive," the Toronto-area resident said.

You'll find a couple of packages of chopped meat and two chickens in her shopping cart every week. Red meat has gone up substantially. She's paying $13 for the same package of beef that cost $10 only a few months ago. "I couldn't believe it – $13 for one package of chopped meat," she said.

Finkelstein was in Florida recently and noticed that groceries are a lot cheaper there and the selection is better.

A big box of Fruit Loops cereal – a special treat for her kids – cost $10 in Toronto, but only $5 in Florida.

"Things are generally more in Canada," she said, but she was "shocked" by the jump in price in only the last few months.

"I haven't changed my shopping habits, with five growing kids. You can't cut back too much," she added.

Institutional shoppers are feeling the pinch as well.

Gina Carvalho, director of food and nutrition services at Baycrest, which operates the Toronto Jewish community's largest seniors residence, said that "Baycrest's annual nutritional budget review process from fiscal year 2014-15 to 2015-16 saw an average increase of 18 per cent on the price of kosher meat.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Allan Newman,
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Greg Newman,
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
HELPING OUR CLIENTS
PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH
We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca
416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
The Newman Group
ScotiaMcLeod®

"Kosher produce also increased significantly that year. As such, we built our 2016-17 food budget around these predictors. However, so far we are not seeing the same increase in the cost of kosher meat for 2016-17.

"Our suppliers have also been very supportive of our needs, helping us mitigate kosher food costs, some through volume discounts due to our size and because of who we are and the care we give to members of the community."

Fran Chodak, co-ordinator of Jewish Family & Child Services' STEP (Striving to End Poverty) project in Toronto, has seen the impact of rising food prices on some of the more vulnerable members of the Jewish community.

"From our experience, observations and conversations with clients and colleagues, families are struggling with the increase of food costs," Chodak said.

"Food is the prerequisite to health, and it is well documented that poverty is linked to higher rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and some forms of cancers.

"When food costs are high, people are less likely to invite friends and family to dinner, and this exacerbates social exclusion – an unfortunate impact of poverty," she said.

"The high cost of kosher food, in some cases, means people are having to compromise their adherence to the laws of kashrut, and this may be a very difficult ethical, moral and spiritual decision, causing feelings of guilt and shame. Some clients have told me that, due to the cost, they only buy kosher meat for Shabbat. Some only buy kosher meat for holidays. Some are forgoing kosher altogether.

"With Passover around the corner, I suspect it is going to be especially hard this year due to the low Canadian dollar and packaged kosher for Passover foods coming from the United States," she said.

Susan Karpman shares the same concerns in Montreal. As chief program officer for Agence Ometz, which provides social services to the Jewish community, she's seen the number of people served by the agency increase. She's also noticed that more lower middle class, middle class and even some well-to-do people who are "struggling with food costs," are seeking the agency's help.

The agency has experience in helping people plan their budget to prioritize their spending, she said.

There is also an increased demand for community resources, such as food baskets and assistance, and clients are seeking the agency's assistance to help plan their holiday shopping.

The agency is seeing "more dramatic cultural changes in what people are eating," she said. As an example, she pointed to some Sephardi families' Shabbat meals, which can be extensive, with lots of courses and dishes. "People are having to pare that down," she said.

Dave Wilkes of the Retail Council of Canada confirms the impact of the currency on prices of all U.S. imports.

"The primary driver of the increasing cost is the Canadian dollar," he said. "As the dollar has depreciated, you are seeing the purchasing power of Canadian grocers affected."

About 80 per cent of the produce in supermarkets is imported "and those contracts are in U.S. dollars. Because they're fresh, the fluctuating dollar will have an almost immediate effect on our prices. It affects kosher and non-kosher [imports]."

As for the rising cost of beef, Wilkes said "a lot relates to the feed and the costs associated with that." Shortages in feed, thanks in part to strong demand for it internationally, made it more expensive, thus driving up the cost of producing beef, he said.

> *When food costs are high, people are less likely to invite friends and family to dinner, and this exacerbates social exclusion.*

Joseph Bitton, president of Gaton's Foods, a kosher distribution company in Toronto, said that on some products – such as grape juice – the price of kosher brands has been held in check because of the growth in the number of Canadian distributors. Other consumer items, like kosher beef, will be more expensive than non-kosher equivalents because of the added costs associated with kashrut.

Bitton said that 10 years ago, there were only three or four companies that "controlled kosher, and they worked on very large profit margins. Now there is a lot more competition, and the profit margins went down." Today there are nine kosher product distributors, "and that does not include manufacturers who sell directly."

He pointed to two brands of grape juice – Kedem and Nature's Own – as an example. Because they're brought in by competitors, their prices closely match the non-kosher brands, he said.

Some kosher products, however, will be more expensive because of the added costs associated with making sure they meet kosher standards. One is canned tuna, a product Bitton distributes in Toronto.

There are added costs of flying a mashgiach (kashrut supervisor) from New York to fishing vessels in the Far East. They remain there for weeks, supervising the cooking of the tuna on board.

Other products, such as beef and chicken, also require "more intensive supervision" so it would be unfair to compare them to non-kosher equivalents. "You're not comparing the same process," he said.

Richard Rabkin, spokesperson for the Toronto-based Kashruth Council of Canada, which administers the COR hechsher, said "much of the increased cost of food is a result of weaker Canadian dollar, which effectively adds approximately 30 per cent to the cost of food imported from the United States. This is likely the chief reason for the increased costs, as many of the specialty kosher brands and items are manufactured in the United States, such as cheese, chalav yisrael dairy products, prepared/frozen foods and the like."

As for the cost of meat, Rabkin stated that the Kashruth Council does not prohibit outside kosher meat from entering the city, but that "many of these sources originate from the United States, which are subject to fluctuations in the Canadian dollar."

MK, Montreal's kosher certification agency, agreed that, "There have been various increases in the price of cattle, which have resulted in the increased cost of meat, in general... Non-Kosher meat prices have also increased substantially."

Asked if MK was concerned that this may lead some people to avoid kosher food, the agency responded: "We are always concerned about consumers not purchasing kosher food products and are therefore always encouraging the reduction of prices across the board and meeting with producers to see how this can be achieved.

"Consumers should contact the local suppliers on a constant basis, urging them to be competitive and reduce prices, wherever possible," the agency added. ■

Why we need a legal response to BDS

Aidan Fishman

On Feb. 22, McGill University's undergraduate student union endorsed the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel at its annual general meeting, before failing to ratify it online by a 60 to 40 per cent margin. About a month ago, a similar initiative was rejected in a student referendum at the University of Waterloo by 55 to 45 per cent.

Waterloo is widely considered one of Canada's most apolitical universities, hardly conducive to the sort of far-left activism that typically drives BDS offensives. And yet, almost half of student voters supported an initiative to sever exchange and research ties between Waterloo and Israeli tech giants such as the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, which would have directly harmed Waterloo students.

Meanwhile, last week's events at McGill marked the third time in 18 months that anti-Israel fanatics tried to pass a BDS motion. All these efforts failed by narrow margins, due to the heroic efforts of Jewish student organizers. But in such an atmosphere, it seemed inevitable that BDS devotees would eke out a victory. Most worryingly, the McGill branch of the NDP joined other so-called progressive student groups in backing BDS. (Last week, the NDP caucus in the House of Commons voted against a motion to condemn BDS.)

Of course, there are other problematic Canadian universities, including York, Concordia and McMaster, where the fight over Israel has already been lost, triggering a struggle to safeguard Jewish campus life in any form. At York, in particular, the situation has deteriorated to the point where at least one Jewish donor felt compelled to withdraw his support, and blatantly anti-Semitic claims of a "Jewish conspiracy" are part and parcel of student politics.

So in the face of these threats, what can we do as a Jewish community?

We should take a hint from Britain, where the government recently announced its intention to ban public bodies such as student unions, labour unions and municipalities from boycotting Israel. After all, similar legislation is already on the books here in Canada. Ontario and Manitoba both have a *Discriminatory Business Practices Act*, which makes it illegal for any person or corporation to refuse to do business with a second person or corporation on account of race, creed, nationality or even geographical location. In fact, this legislation was enacted in Ontario in 1971 specifically to combat the Arab League boycott of Israel, the spiritual predecessor of the modern BDS movement. The act applies both to wholesale boycotts of Israel as well as more limited efforts aimed at Israelis living in the West Bank, and describes fines of up to $25,000 against individual violators and $100,000 against offending corporations.

Further, most Canadian student and labour unions incorporate broad anti-discrimination clauses into their by-laws or constitutions. Often, these clauses include prohibitions against discrimination by nationality, which is practically the definition of BDS. They serve both to illustrate the hypocrisy of these Israel-boycotting groups and expose them to legal liability stemming from their own governing documents. Indeed, the constitution of McGill's undergraduate student union contains just such an anti-discrimination clause.

It's puzzling that no Canadian Jewish organization has chosen to sue labour unions and student groups engaging in anti-Israel discrimination. While opponents will claim legal action undermines democratic endorsements of BDS, it should be noted that neither labour nor student unions are typically shining examples of democracy in action, as their members will tell you.

But more importantly, litigation by minority groups is not in principle anti-democratic – on the contrary, it is the hallmark of a properly calibrated liberal democracy. Just as other minorities such as African-Canadians, the LGBTQ community and First Nations have used the courts to make their voices heard, Canadian Jews must take full advantage of legal opportunities to rescue our youth from the deteriorating atmosphere of harassment and discrimination on campus. ■

Aidan Fishman is a first-year law student at the University of Toronto.

If the price were lower, would they come?

Daniel Held

We are blessed with remarkable Jewish day schools. Schools that offer Jewish studies that empower youth with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and aptitudes to lead active Jewish lives. Schools with stellar general studies that prepare students for entrance into the toughest university programs. Schools that offer athletics and arts, extracurriculars and guidance, special education and enrichment, cutting-edge technology and competitive facilities.

As the people of the Book, a people that has been sustained by a commitment to education, these are the schools that we should build and sustain. But it is expensive. Precisely because it is remarkable, it is expensive.

The question that dogs me day in and day out is how do we create remarkable schools – schools to which we want to send our children – that are less expensive?

The starting point to answering this question is an examination of the cost structure of schools.

Across Jewish day schools – and, in truth, across most schools – 80 per cent of costs are devoted to human resources: the teachers, support workers, principals and curriculum designers who we charge with educating our children. Any sea change in the cost of schooling will be the result of changes to human resources.

Two types of new lower-cost schools have emerged, but each raises questions.

The first is a school that returns to basics. Today's schools offer a significantly lower staff to student ratio than schools of the past. Not only are classes smaller, but more administrators, specialists, teaching aids and other adults serve students. The result is that each of today's students is carrying a higher proportion of a full-time salary. New back-to-basics schools maximize the staff to student ratio, often foregoing what is perceived as non-core areas of schooling such as co-curricular activities, guidance, etc.

The second type of school offers disruptive new models of teaching and learning.

For generations, the model of school has not changed significantly. It takes one teacher 10 months to teach a year's curriculum to a group of 18 to 30 students. While we have progressed from the one-room schoolhouse to multi-classroom schools, modified methodologies and integrated technology, the core cost structure of schools has not changed.

Increasingly, schools that look and feel different are being developed. Blended learning schools that mix online learning with traditional brick-and-mortar classes, work-experience-based schools that structure curriculum around internships to prepare students for the "real" world, and schools designed around team teaching and team learning that turn the 30-student classroom on its head are all models of innovative education that offer both 21st-century models of teaching and learning while significantly changing the cost structure of education.

So what's the problem? What do we have to weigh for our schools to transition to these newer models?

While the theory behind each of these innovations is compelling, quality educational research is longitudinal, requiring a multi-year evaluation of the impact on students' knowledge and skill development. It is because of this long view that education is inherently conservative, shirking change in favour of tried and tested models.

While I might buy into the theory, am I willing to risk my child's education to a school that's experimental, where the methodologies have not been tested and proven over long periods of time?

We can create Jewish day schools at a significantly lower price. Doing so, however, will create schools that look and feel different than today's offerings, and may in fact not offer as many services, and so I ask: if we lower the price, will they come? How do we create remarkable schools, schools to which we want to send our children and which are less expensive? ■

Daniel Held is executive director of the Julia and Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

A sense of wonder at the Kotel

Jean M. Gerber

Following years of violence against mixed-gender and all-female prayer groups at the Western Wall – experienced by some of my Vancouver friends – it seems that an agreement has been reached. Egalitarian prayer groups will be accorded a significant prayer place at the Kotel.

Women who wanted to pray in all-female or mixed minyanim, even separated from the main area, were often spat on, had trash thrown on them.

The main plaza became less and less accessible, even to those of us who would use the Orthodox women's section. We were admonished, not gently, if we appeared without "modest" dress. Once, I inadvertently stood with my foot up against the stone to brace me, and in a flash, I was hit on the shoulder and warned. The spot was sacred.

Come on. Herod's dying slaves built that spot, for goodness sake. Their sad deaths may make it holy, but in itself it is stone and dust.

Holiness: we attach it to many things, despite being told that our actions make us and those around us holy, not the stone and wood of our physical world.

But I digress. Today we celebrate.

Since the day I saw the Kotel from a dirty little alleyway between houses and the Wall (1964), and then saw it years later from the Israeli side (1971), not yet cleared of rubble but already opening its arms to welcome its children back, that spot has been for me a place of wonder.

When confronted with, when drawn inexorably toward the Kotel, I felt – what? Awe that it still stood, after 2,000 years, as testimony to the time when all Israel turned towards it in awe? A deep sense of historical connection to this spot? The place where 2,000 years ago the People of Israel felt touched by the sacred?

Wonder: both atheist Oliver Sachs and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel agreed that the sense of wonder should pervade us.

> *We can, I know, find in everyday prayer a sense of touching something outside ourselves.*

For Sachs, wonder was to be found within the human brain. There, he found sublime content. While in a moving essay written just before his death, he recalled his family home (a bitter-sweet memory) and the meaning he felt in celebrating Shabbat with his Orthodox family in Israel, still, the Creator was not a source of wonder for him, but the creation.

For Rabbi Heschel, Judaism is a religion of time, time in which we can experience wonder. He differed with Sachs. "The sense of wonder for His creation," he writes in *The Prophets*, "is common to all men." For Jews, however, it derives from the reaching out of God to us, and from us to God.

If we can stand in a place so fraught with life and death as the walls around the Temple Mount, then in whatever space we stand, we stand in a place of wonder.

It has been many years since I felt those emotions that gripped me the first times I davened at the Kotel. So when I next get to stand there, mindful of the ordinary 2,000-year-old street on which a platform will be raised, ready for prayer, I hope to achieve what Rabbi Heschel advises: "Prayer takes the mind out of the narrowness of self-interest and enables us to see the world in the mirror of the holy… Prayer teaches us what to aspire for… Prayer implants in us the ideals we ought to cherish."

We can, I know, find in everyday prayer a sense of touching something outside ourselves. Maybe only occasionally, but when it happens we know it. How much more so at this Wall.

So – at the Kotel is it because we stand in wonder where ordinary people walked so long ago or plied their trade? Or is it because we can almost touch in wonder the place where Israel celebrated its festivals? Because it is a fraught moment of prayer?

It's all of these – sheer wonder. ■

Israel blamed as Hamas' tunnel vision hurts Gazans

Paul Michaels

Last month, Hamas bragged about how much progress it was making digging tunnels from Gaza into Israel.

Senior Hamas official Mahmoud Zahar claimed "the tunnels reach deep into the territory occupied in 1948," his way of referring to all of Israel as "occupied" Palestinian land.

In the 2014 Gaza war, Israel uncovered 32 tunnels, many reaching as far as Israeli kibbutzim and villages near the Gaza border. All of them posed a grave threat to Israeli security – not only to IDF soldiers, but also to Israeli civilians who are vulnerable to kidnapping or murder.

While it was reported that the IDF destroyed the tunnels discovered during the war, in fact, they were not entirely demolished, with just major parts, like entry and exit points and some elements in between, destroyed. Hamas has been busy since then both reconstructing these tunnels and building new ones.

The prospect of yet more Hamas tunnels intruding into Israel to be used in the next round of fighting is unnerving to Israelis, hence the recent stern Israeli government warnings to Hamas.

With the Iron Dome anti-missile defence system, the IDF was able during the last war to intercept almost all missiles fired from Gaza that posed a threat to civilian centres, but Israel had no such high-tech system for discovering tunnels.

And it appears, almost two years later, that it still lacks such a system. In the first week of February, Israel's State Comptroller criticized the IDF for "gaps and failures, some severe, in the readiness for the tunnel threat."

IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot responded to the criticism by explaining that the army was indeed working on the problem – mostly in secret – and was in possession of what he termed "advanced capabilities."

Israel's Channel 2 TV recently reported that, for over a decade, the IDF has invested $250 million (US) in tunnel-detection technology. Other reports have pointed to joint Israel-U.S. research projects aimed at tunnel detection.

Some analysts believe Hamas has been racing ahead with tunnel construction in order to beat these detection efforts, assuming that once completed and thus "silent," the tunnels won't be detectable. If, however, the underground defence system Israel is developing proves capable of sensing even completed tunnels, Hamas will have lost its advantage – foremost, its reliance on the element of surprise.

Amid heated rhetoric between Israel and Hamas, and speculation about the possibility of renewed conflict – including calls from highly respected Israeli military analysts like Amos Yadlin for a pre-emptive strike on the tunnels – western media have started to pay more attention to this story.

What has not been noted, however, is the cost borne by Gaza's 1.8 million residents, many of whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the 2014 war – a conflict started by Hamas. These homes were supposed to have been repaired or rebuilt, ironically using cement Israel shipped into Gaza under "strict international supervision" to avoid diversion of the cement to tunnels.

As it turns out, virtually no civilian structures have been rebuilt. The owners sold their allotted cement on the "black market," which means to Hamas for tunnel construction.

It has been calculated that Hamas used 1.5 million tons of cement for the military tunnels and bunkers in existence during the 2014 war, enough cement to have built an above-ground city for Gaza's people.

Meanwhile, Israel receives no credit for its humanitarian measures, including daily supplies to Gaza of tons of food, medicine, fuel and other necessities. Instead, Israel's efforts to keep rockets and other weapons out of the hands of Hamas and other terrorist organizations are typically depicted in the West as the Jewish state's punitive, grossly unfair blockade.

Hamas was elected to look after the needs of Gaza's civilians. Instead, Hamas callously ignores them in pursuit of its obsessive, self-destructive anti-Israel campaign.

Gaza's economy suffers because of Hamas' policy. Israel is blamed. It's an old story. ■

News

Embassy to sponsor Noa concert after JNF pulls support

DANIEL KOREN
dkoren@thecjn.ca

After JNF Canada withdrew support for an upcoming Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration it co-sponsors with the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (JFGV) every year over the appearance of left-wing Israeli singer Achinoam Nini, the Israeli Embassy and the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto have stepped in to support the event.

"As official representatives of the State of Israel, we see support from the embassy and the consulate as strong messages that there is room for diversity both within Israel and within our community," said JFGV board chair Stephen Gaerber.

More than 50 Jewish community groups will take part in the May 11 event at Vancouver's Chan Centre.

JNF Canada cited the participation of Nini – known as Noa – as its reason for cancelling. "The entertainer that has been hired does not reflect nor correspond to the mandate and values of the Jewish National Fund of Canada," CEO Josh Cooper said in a statement last month.

The decision followed a *Jerusalem Post* article, since taken down, that reported Vancouver Jews were "outraged" over Nini's performance, alleging that she supports the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. An online petition titled "Stop Achinoam Nini from performing at our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration" had 418 signatures as of last week.

The group Vancouver United with Israel denounced Nini for her support of B'Tselem, a group that monitors human rights in the West Bank, and Breaking the Silence, a left-wing NGO that criticizes the IDF.

Nini denies being a supporter of BDS, which, in a Facebook post earlier this month, she said is "a hypocritical movement full of contradictions that will not bring peace to Israel nor help the Palestinians achieve their goals."

Israel's Foreign Ministry said last week that "Israel sees great importance in having Jewish communities around the world mark and celebrate the State of Israel's Independence Day. As the official representatives of the State of Israel, the embassy and consulate work constantly to promote the unity of the Jewish People and the Canadian Jewish community's ties with the State of Israel."

In a Feb. 24 open letter to Cooper, geriatrician Mark Clarfield, a Canadian oleh and professor of medicine at Ben-Gurion University, urged JNF to reconsider.

"Not only is the JNF decision ill-founded, but… it is based on a totally false accusation about [Nini's] supposed support for BDS. Now that it is clear to the JNF that its decision was based on inaccurate information, the menschlich thing to do would be to apologize for the misunderstanding and renew the support for her performance," he wrote. "Not taking this step will make us all wonder about JNF Canada's true motivation which to the outsider appears to be a very narrow right-wing attack on a true artist and patriot."

On Feb. 25, JNF released a new statement from Cooper and JNF Canada president Jerry Werger, in which they said they were "concerned" Nini had been chosen, because she's "generated divisiveness both in Israel and throughout [the] Diaspora."

Achinoam Nini

"We consulted with Keren Keyemeth Leisrael senior staff, JNF Canada and JNF Pacific region leadership to discuss our responsibility to our constituency, many of whom had expressed discomfort with the artist's views and organizational affiliations. At no time did we claim that the artist supported BDS. We contacted JFGV and agreed to disagree on the choice of entertainment, and respectfully decided to take a one-year hiatus from sponsorship of the event," they wrote.

"We want to be absolutely clear that JNF Canada is not protesting, boycotting, delegitimizing or censoring this event. After hearing from so many of our donors, we simply are not comfortable using charitable funds to support this particular artist."

They added: "Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations and other community events should be inclusive," and said JNF has "demonstrated that this is not a position only addressing one side of the political spectrum."

They were alluding to a controversy over JNF's invitation to ex-Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mike Huckabee to speak at Ottawa's 2015 Negev Dinner, which raised the ire of LGBTQ groups and some Jews over his comments about transgender people.

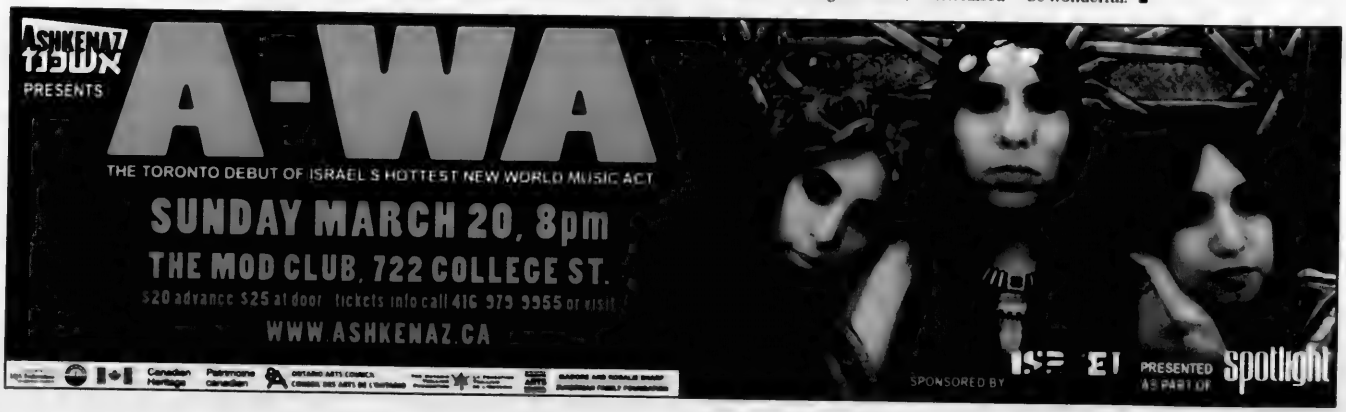
"Last year, we had contracted a guest speaker who represented the right side of the political spectrum. Subsequently, his comments caused a division within the local Jewish community. Once this became apparent, we cancelled the contracted speaker and brought in a different presenter who appealed to a substantially wider audience," they said.

"JNF respects Judaism's rich tradition of debate and dissent. Nevertheless, we hold Jewish community harmony as our utmost priority. We want to make it clear that while we have had disagreement around one choice of entertainment for an event, we look forward to continue working with federations from coast to coast, especially celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut together in Vancouver in 2017."

In a letter of support to the JFGV, Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said "there are many different opinions and strident arguments about the road to peace. But in no way can we allow for differences of opinion to undermine those core values which unite us in our desire for a strong Jewish future with a strong Jewish democratic Israel at the centre," he said

He added, that "in these turbulent days, when enemies on the outside strive to delegitimize Israel, there must be a place within for a broad range of views" and said he's "often had the pleasure of enjoying Noa's outstanding voice and spectacular talent."

"I applaud the Vancouver federation and I know your Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations will be wonderful. "■


ASHKENAZ
PRESENTS
A-WA
THE TORONTO DEBUT OF ISRAEL'S HOTTEST NEW WORLD MUSIC ACT
SUNDAY MARCH 20, 8pm
THE MOD CLUB, 722 COLLEGE ST.
$20 advance $25 at door tickets info call 416 979 9955 or visit
WWW.ASHKENAZ.CA
SPONSORED BY
PRESENTED AS PART OF
spotlight

Consumers still waiting for Ontario kosher chickens

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

If you visit the website of the Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO), one of the first items you'll see is a slide show titled, "Meeting Consumer Market Needs."

It's a claim that might come as a surprise to Ontario consumers of kosher chickens, who have been waiting for a year and a half for the CFO to pick a winner in the kosher chicken sweepstakes.

Since the demise of Chai Poultry in May 2013, the Jewish community has faced shortages of kosher chickens and voiced complaints over the quality of poultry imported into the province by Marvid, a supplier based in Quebec.

Those concerns have been heard at the CFO, a producers' group that regulates the provincial poultry quota with authority from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture.

Nearly two years ago, the CFO invited bids for a substantial allotment of kosher chickens – about 50,000 birds a week – and Michael Edmonds, director of communications and government relations for the CFO, stated at the time that consumers could expect Ontario kosher chickens by the end of 2014.

But in the nearly two years since bids were solicited, the agency still has not chosen a kosher chicken supplier. Seven groups were part of the initial bid, and three were finalists, but all three have withdrawn. Two new groups are now being considered, and the CFO has turned to Deloitte, a consulting firm, for assistance in choosing the best bid.

As consumers wait for a resolution to the issue, representatives of two of the three original finalists spoke to *The CJN* and described a process they say was unfair and destined to result in gridlock. Questions were also raised about the role of the Kashruth Council of Canada, known as COR, which they say was collaborating with the CFO to ensure that only groups using their kashrut certification would be acceptable to the CFO.

Contacted by *The CJN* and asked to respond to several detailed questions, Edmonds responded: "CFO has engaged Deloitte to review all new applications from a business and economic perspective. We are following a disciplined fact-based review process, and as such, we are not in a position to make further comments at this time."

For its part, COR said it recognizes the need for an Ontario-based provider of kosher chickens, and it has advocated "aggressively" so that approvals will be granted.

Montreal's Marvid is still the only supplier, two years into process to find a local one.

"This process has indeed been a long one, and we have assisted the CFO whenever asked... The CFO is the sole decision maker as to which party it will grant the quota for kosher processing, and they have advised us that the parties which they selected to present their proposals in the final round were successful based on the strength of their business plans and for no other reason," COR's Richard Rabkin said in a statement.

"With respect to granting exclusivity, COR never made any such commitment to anyone and any assertion to the contrary is entirely false," Rabkin added.

Morley Rand, a former employee of COR who has faced off against the kashrut certifier in a number of court cases related to employment issues, has asked the Competition Bureau of Canada to look into the relationship between COR and the CFO.

The Competition Bureau acknowledged it has received Rand's complaint, but, citing confidentiality, said it would not discuss specifics. However, in an email to Rand, the bureau said it has appointed an officer to look into the claim.

Avi Kraman was a member of one of the initial groups that applied to the CFO to obtain an allotment of chickens for the kosher market. Danny Diena was part of a second group. The third finalist included Danny Soberano from Allseas Fisheries.

Based on conversations with senior personnel at the CFO and on the nature of the questions his group was asked to address at a presentation before the organization's board, Kraman believes the CFO was co-operating with COR to ensure the successful applicant employed COR for its kashrut supervision.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NEW EINSTEIN LEGACY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Bernard Persiko & Darren Kendal Merit Student Scholarship
The Yale Pilz Memorial Student Scholarship
The Faye & Max Warshafsky Medical Research Scholarship
The Pi Lambda Phi Student Scholarship

By Participating In Our

2016 NATIONAL ALUMNI ONLINE MADNESS TOURNAMENTS

Registration Now Open for CFHU's 22ND Annual March Madness Tournament go to **www.cfhumadness.com**

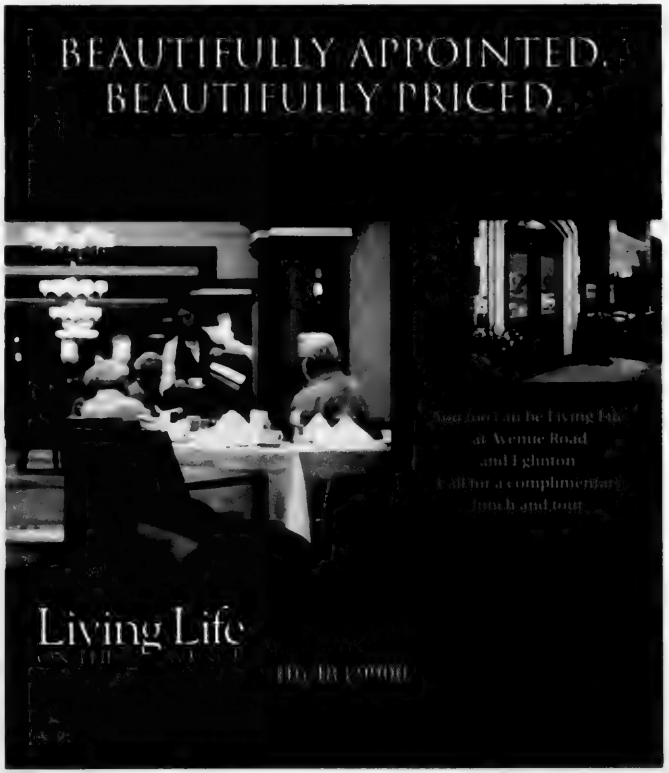
MARCH MADNESS

HOCKEY MADNESS
ONLINE TOURNAMENT
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 28TH

FOOTBALL MADNESS

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

For more information, contact Esther Schlesinger, Alumni Relations, CFHU at esthers@cfhu.org. 416.485.8000



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 3, 2016

McGill BDS motion defeated in student-wide vote

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

McGill University undergraduates have rejected a boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) motion that was approved last week at a general assembly of their student association, and the university administration issued an unequivocal repudiation of the anti-Israel campaign.

Members of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU), members voted 2,819-2,119, with 68 abstentions, online over three days last week, nullifying the motion put forward by the McGill BDS Action Network at the SSMU winter general assembly on Feb. 22. At that time, the motion passed 512-357, with 14 abstentions, in secret balloting.

SSMU rules require that all motions carried at general assemblies must be ratified by the membership at large, with a quorum of 10 per cent.

The SSMU represents the approximately 22,000 undergraduates at McGill's main downtown campus.

Immediately after the results were released Feb. 27, McGill principal and vice-chancellor Suzanne Fortier issued a statement that the university administration "steadfastly oppose[s]" the BDS campaign.

It was the third time in less than 1-1/2 years that pro-BDS students have failed to have a motion adopted. The latest was a general endorsement of the aims of the worldwide campaign launched in 2005 and included a specific demand that McGill divest its holdings in three companies the Network claims are "profiting from violations of Palestinians' human rights" due to their alleged complicity in Israel's occupation.

The No side worked actively to get students to vote against the BDS motion.

This was the fifth attempt to get BDS support on the student record since 2010.

With 57 per cent of SSMU voters refusing to ratify the motion, Fortier stated: "The university as an institution has not commented publicly until now out of respect for the student governance process. Students respect our governance process. We do not interfere with theirs, or their right to put such motions within the context of their affairs…

"[W]hile we respect the freedom of expression of all members of our community, the administration of the university will have no part of the BDS movement."

She said the campaign's call for universities to cut ties with Israeli universities "flies in the face of the tolerance and respect we cherish as values fundamental to a university. It proposes actions that are contrary to the principles of academic freedom, equity, inclusiveness and the exchange of views and ideas in responsible, open discourse."

McGill has extensive academic relations with Israeli institutions going back many years.

The ratification failure and the university administration's strong position on the issue of BDS were hailed by Jewish groups.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) termed it "the victory of reason over hate."

CIJA Quebec co-chair Rabbi Reuben Poupko said the defeat of the motion "demonstrates that McGill students reject BDS and value intellectual freedom and the right to healthy and constructive debate. McGill students have clearly indicated, for the third time in 18 months, that BDS is unwelcome on their campus because it stigmatizes people for holding a different point of view."

Some pro-Israel students reported experiencing insulting and hostile remarks, particularly on social media, since the motion was first proposed at the beginning of February.

B'nai Brith Canada said pro-Israel students at McGill have felt "targeted and unsafe" and "fear reprisals for speaking out," in the words of Toronto-based CEO Michael Mostyn.

"The boycott organizers have bullied students over the course of three years, continuously raising the issue and intimidating dissenters until the motion was passed," he said.

"BDS is an incessant and relentless attack against the national liberation movement of the Jewish People in its promotion of the belief that Jews are the only people in the world who do not deserve their own homeland," said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"While it is to the credit of the undergraduate body that they have once again rejected this discriminatory campaign, the level of hate directed at Jewish students, including comments referencing 'little Zionist Jewboys' on social media following the original student motion in favour of BDS, demonstrates how entrenched anti-Semitism on our university campuses has become."

President Evan Feldman and CEO Deborah Corber of Montreal's Federation CJA congratulated the "around-the-clock" effort, "often in a hostile environment," of pro-Israel students to mobilize their peers to vote down the motion.

They conceded that the battle is not over, however. "[T]he fight against BDS will require a sustained effort on the part of the community," including "combat[ing] any instance of harassment and anti-Semitism" students may encounter in defending Israel.

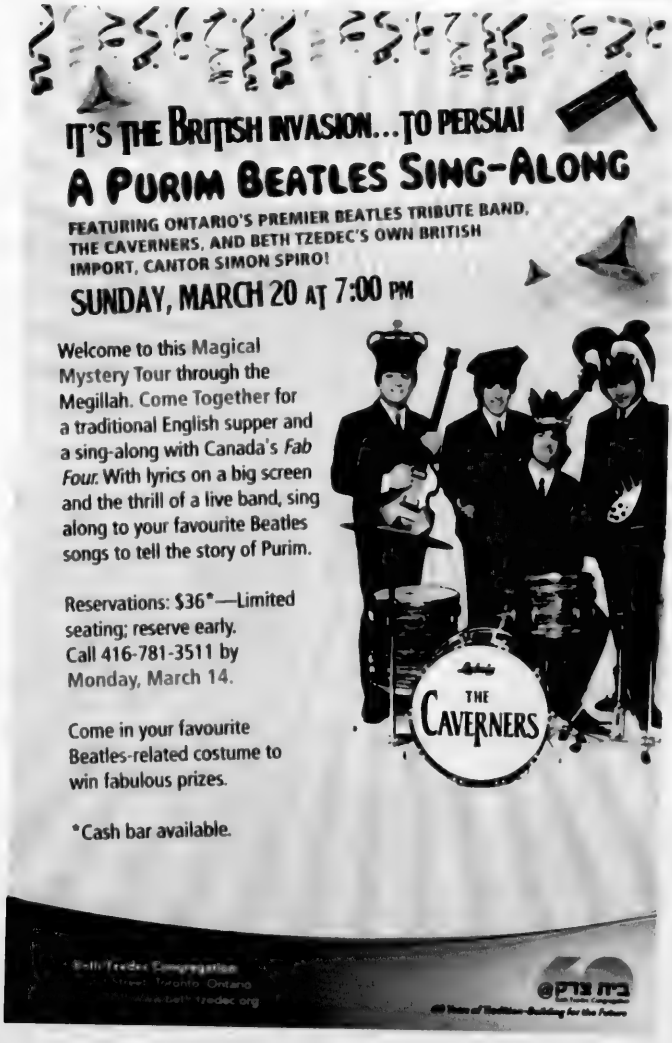
In a Feb. 25 statement, the pro-BDS Network, which claims the endorsement of 19 student clubs and campus organizations, "acknowledge[d] the concerns that have been raised about anti-Semitism on campus, and recognize[d] that this is a reality for many Jewish students."

The following day, it "strongly condemned the active campaigning efforts and tactics used by various students, professors and student groups" opposed to the motion, which it said violated SSMU rules against campaigning during the ratification process.

The violations it said it documented consist of "intimidation" and the use of "external organizations… to disseminate misinformation," including professional public relations firms.

Specifically, the Network said "fraudulent" Reddit and Instagram accounts were created with its name and logo, and it dissociated itself from their content.

The original motion was passed by the SSMU general assembly the same day the House of Commons passed a motion formally condemning BDS. The parliamentary motion passed by a vote of 229-51. It calls on the Canadian government to "condemn any and all attempts by Canadian organizations, groups, or individuals to promote the BDS movement, both here at home, and abroad." ■


IT'S THE BRITISH INVASION...TO PERSIA!
A PURIM BEATLES SING-ALONG
FEATURING ONTARIO'S PREMIER BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND, THE CAVERNERS, AND BETH TZEDEC'S OWN BRITISH IMPORT, CANTOR SIMON SPIRO!
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 7:00 PM
Welcome to this Magical Mystery Tour through the Megillah. Come Together for a traditional English supper and a sing-along with Canada's Fab Four. With lyrics on a big screen and the thrill of a live band, sing along to your favourite Beatles songs to tell the story of Purim.
Reservations: $36*—Limited seating; reserve early. Call 416-781-3511 by Monday, March 14.
Come in your favourite Beatles-related costume to win fabulous prizes.
*Cash bar available.
THE CAVERNERS

Ex-Toronto day school head arrested for child porn

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The one-time director of Leo Baeck School in Toronto was arrested in California earlier this month on child pornography charges.

David Prashker, 60, was charged Feb. 22 with possession and distribution of child pornography and attempting to destroy evidence.

Prashker served as director of Leo Baeck School from 2004 to 2008, when he resigned over violent and sexually explicit poetry he wrote and posted online.

On Feb. 18, members of the Contra Costa Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, northeast of San Francisco, attempted to serve Prashker with a search warrant at his home in Lafayette.

According to local reports, Prashker fled to the rear of the house and threw a laptop from a second storey into the backyard. Investigators discovered that the computer's hard drive contained evidence of child pornography.

Prashker's bail was set at $205,000. He did not post bail, and he remained in custody as of last week.

In an email to *The CJN*, Jordan Sanders, the deputy district attorney assigned to the case, said Prashker pleaded not guilty at an arraignment Feb. 23. The defence requested he be released on his own recognizance with a GPS ankle monitor.

"I objected to the release based on the defendant's potential flight risk and the seriousness of the charges," Sanders wrote. "The judge denied the release from custody."

Prashker's preliminary hearing was scheduled for March 3.

Prashker made headlines in Toronto in 2008 when his poetry was found to contain graphic allusions to sex and murder.

In one poem, *Voluntary Admission*, he wrote, "I raped her lust I confess," while in another, he described "the first act of killing [as] the hardest… and the second time is remarkably straightforward."

Another verse spoke of an "earth-shaking, messianic orgasm."

Prashker tendered his resignation in August, 2008 after parents complained that the poetry was inappropriate and that posting it online reflected poor judgment. Parents were alerted to the poems via an anonymous email.

A native of London, England, Prashker was recruited in 2004 to run Leo Baeck, Canada's only Reform day school. Its two campuses have about 800 students from kindergarten through Grade 8.

He most recently worked as a substitute teacher at two private schools in central Contra Costa County, according to the local CBS affiliate, KPIX.

David Prashker

California investigators said the schools where Prashker taught have been notified and there is no evidence at this point that he engaged in any crimes involving students of either school.

Officials at Leo Baeck were "appalled" to hear the news about Prashker, head of school Eric Petersiel told *The CJN* via email.

But they have had "no contact with Mr. Prashker in the eight years since he and the school parted ways. As I am sure you can understand, the interests and security of our students is paramount in everything we do as a school," Petersiel stated.

KPIX reported that in California, Prashker continued to be "a Jewish community leader and fundraiser, and has apparently spent the past few years working to build BibleNet, an educational online encyclopedia regarding the Jewish and Christian scriptures."

He faces a maximum penalty of 44 months in prison and fines if convicted on all charges. ■

Former teacher facing new sex assault charges

CJN STAFF

Stephen Joseph Schacter, a former teacher at two Toronto-area Jewish day schools, was re-arrested last week in connection with several new sexual offences.

Schacter, 55, was charged with one count of gross indecency, one count of sexual interference, one count of sexual exploitation and two counts of sexual assault.

Police say the charges date to the 1980s and early 1990s.

Schacter still faces a charge of possessing child pornography, for which he was arrested in December.

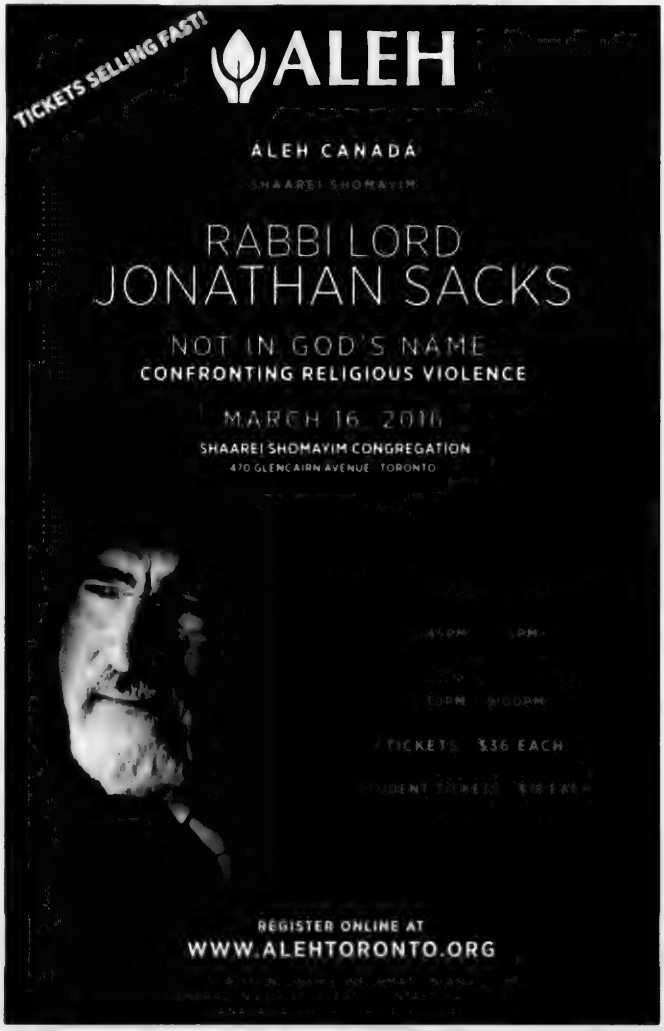
Stephen Joseph Schacter

Schacter was a teacher at Eitz Chaim Schools between 1986 and 2004, an office administrator and supply teacher at United Synagogue Day School (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) between 2005 and 2009, and a private tutor from 2009 until 2011.

At a bail hearing last week on the new charges, the judge ordered a publication ban to prevent the identification of witnesses and to preserve Schacter's right to a fair trial.

Bail was set at $10,000. Schacter was released into the custody of his mother. Under the bail conditions, he cannot have contact with minors, among several restrictions. He is permitted to attend synagogue in the company of three adults.

He's scheduled to return to court on March 17. ■



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 3, 2016

Limmud day of learning catching on in Toronto

SHLOMO KAPUSTIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

After years of fits and starts, one of the hottest brands in global Jewish education is gaining traction in Toronto with conferences in back-to-back years.

"There's definitely been an appetite," said Alana Kayfetz, co-chair of Limmud Toronto. "Last year's conference whetted the appetite of Torontonians to take ownership and step up to create an authentic, unique Toronto Limmud. It has snowballed a little bit. Last year was a skeletal volunteer team, this year is a very robust volunteer team."

Limmud 2016 will take place March 6 at the Sun Life Financial Tower on King Street West, with capacity for 800 people. Sessions will tackle topics related to Israel, local Jewish ethnography, Bible and Jewish thought.

"You'll see an expansive conversation," Kayfetz said, "ranging from the Jewish response to the Syrian refugee crisis to Jay Michaelson, a global LGBTQ thought leader. We deal with everything. There really isn't a lot that hasn't been upturned. There's something for virtually everyone.

"The challenge we gave to our programming team was that when people make their schedule for the day, they should have a tough time deciding where to go. There should be multiple things that each person will find interesting every hour on the hour."

Alana Kayfetz, co-chair of Limmud Toronto.

Founded in 2004 by U.K.-expat Peter Sevitt, Limmud Toronto was initially slated to run every two years. But after conferences in 2007 and 2009, the event flagged. In 2014, a new leadership team revived it and planned last year's program.

Among the changes this year are enhanced children's programming – "not babysitting," Kayfetz said, but "real Jewish content" – that includes Purim mask-making, team games and a Jewish magic show. Tickets are heavily discounted at $5.

In addition to praise for their programming, Limmuds worldwide have also drawn applause for their grassroots diversity.

"What makes Limmud so special is what happens in the hallways," Kayfetz said. "You could in essence be in riveting programs all day, anything from krav maga to Jewish comedy. But you can also just take a breath of fresh air and engage with someone in the hallway. It's a really unique community-building, networking opportunity."

The roughly 80 Limmuds around the world generally feature a Shabbaton-type atmosphere. Often set outside the city, the multi-day festivals encourage informal bonding alongside scheduled discussions.

Organizers hope Toronto will eventually embrace the idea of a "residential" event where people stay for the weekend. In the meantime, in what they believe is a Limmud first, they've created Limmud Café to fill the void.

"It gives people the opportunity to have a candid conversation with a variety of presenters. For example, Sara Ivry, the editor of *Tablet*: you could book in a 15-minute coffee date with her, and there could be six other people at the coffee date. It's like unplugged – a very candid conversation with people who have interesting things to talk about."

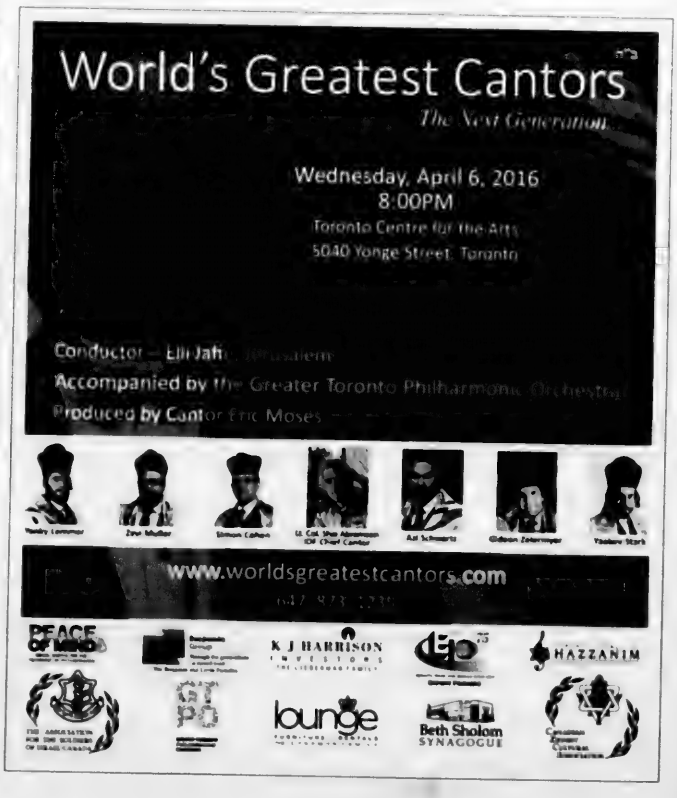
Limmud's diversity does have limits, Kayfetz acknowledged.

"If we had someone in a shtreiml present, we would be totally jazzed about that," she said. "From what I can tell, that's just not the reality. One may argue that at the end of the day, people who are really, really frum might not see anything in Limmud that mattered to them, and perhaps Limmud is more for people who are disengaged with Judaism and haven't really been involved at all, and maybe this is an entryway of outreach on topics that are interesting to anyone."

Still, last year she saw Jews from all denominations, from Reconstructionist to modern Orthodox. "Someone remarked last year that they had never seen so many people with a kippah."

The organization is famed for its do-it-yourself ethos. With no paid staff, its success depends on a core team of around 40 volunteers. Seventy additional volunteer spots are available. "I've never had the opportunity to work with a more diverse group of people," said Kayfetz, who is also director of Genesis, at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Centre for Jewish Innovation.

"That sort of ingathering of Jews from every walk of life makes it very special, and I think because it's completely volunteer led, there's that level of passion and leadership and dedication that comes from everyday people that you wouldn't normally see." ■



Housing key for people with disabilities, panel agrees

From left, panelists Rob Cressman, Jijian Voronka, Remo Agostino, Nancy Singer, Bryan Keshen and Adam Vaughan LOUIS THOMAS PHOTO

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Affordable housing is a key starting point for improving the lives of low-income people and those with disabilities.

That was the key message from six speakers at an affordable housing panel event held Feb. 25 at the Al Green Theatre.

The event was one of many that took place during Toronto's inaugural Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, hosted in February by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

The panelists – representing the private, non-profit and government sectors – addressed the current landscape of affordable housing in Toronto, and the challenges and best practices in providing affordable and accessible housing to people who need it.

The discussion was moderated by Alex Bozikovic, architecture critic for the *Globe and Mail*.

All of the speakers emphasized the need to provide people with disabilities affordable places to live that are modified to meet their needs and integrated into the community.

Rob Cressman, director of social housing for the City of Toronto, said the need for affordable housing in Toronto far outstrips the city's current stock of units.

The municipality has about 94,000 social housing units, but only about 2,000 have been modified to support people with physical disabilities.

"Our wait list for social housing in Toronto is about 95,000 households, and of that, about 600 households are specifically waiting for units modified for wheelchairs," he said.

The city has been working to remedy this, but "we can't do this alone," Cressman said, adding it requires a commitment from all levels of government.

Adam Vaughan, MP for Spadina-Fort York, said Ottawa no longer approaches the issue of affordable housing as a "crisis," but as "the solution."

"Housing is the most effective tool we have to get at a range of challenges all governments face, be it health care, poverty, social marginalization, people with disabilities, aging, refugees," he said.

And while the Liberal government is committed to investing $20 billion in social infrastructure over the next decade, much of which Vaughan said will go to housing, he argued there should be a charter of rights for people with disabilities at the federal level.

The conditions people with physical, developmental and psychiatric disabilities are often forced to live in should be considered a major factor in their overall quality of life, said Jijian Voronka, national peer lead of the *At Home/Chez Soi* project, a study from the Mental Health Commission of Canada that aimed to determine whether a "housing first" approach – in which people are first provided a place to live, then offered other supports to meet their individual needs – works.

She and her brother became homeless as teenagers, she said, and she feels that acquiring a subsidized housing unit saved her life. Her brother, however, committed suicide at age 21, a tragedy she largely attributes to his poor living conditions in a halfway house.

People with disabilities must be consulted by policymakers, and more effectively, Voronka stressed.

"Now they consult [them] when they already have a road map... laid out... People in power have to learn from people with disabilities, and [the latter] have to understand the knowledge policymakers are sitting on," she said.

> *Housing is the most effective tool we have to get at a range of challenges... be it health care, poverty, social marginalization, people with disabilities, aging, refugees*

Bryan Keshen is CEO of the non-profit agency Reena, which promotes inclusivity and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

It operates a community residence and purchases units in buildings to accommodate some of its clients with disabilities, but Keshen said the non-profit sector shouldn't be the only one providing this type of housing.

"We tend to be better landlords because we consult people with disabilities. But we don't want to be property managers... We need more options," he said. ■

SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
INSTITUTE שלום הרטמן

Join us for an evening of conversation with
Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman and Rabbi Yael Splansky on:

PUTTING GOD SECOND

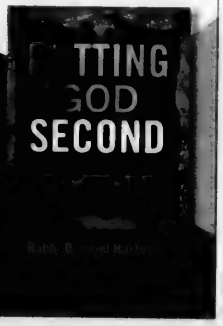
How to Save Religion From Itself

In his latest book, *Putting God Second*, Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman tackles one of modern life's most urgent and vexing questions:

Why are the great monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—chronically unable to fulfill their own self-professed goal of creating individuals infused with moral sensitivity and societies governed by the highest ethical standards?

Join us for a book talk and conversation between Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and Rabbi Yael Splansky, senior rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
7:00 pm
Free Registration
Aga Kahn Museum
77 Wynford Drive, Toronto



For more information and to RSVP
shalomhartman.org/PuttingGodSecond

Status issues can cause uncertainty for children

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"I heard, 'Oh, but if your child wants to marry someone who is Orthodox you should be giving them an Orthodox conversion.' I did a lot of soul searching, and I thought, 'I am proudly and comfortably not Orthodox. I will raise my children with respect for Judaism, with the traditions… If it is ever important for them to marry [Orthodox], they can re-convert and go through another process, but I'm going to be true to who I am," she said, adding that her kids identify "very clearly" as Jewish.

For Montreal-based mother Tanya Margolese who has four children – one biological, two step-children and one daughter, 10, who was adopted from an orphanage in Ukraine, the conversion process was nothing more than a formality.

"It was simple because we are modern Orthodox, so basically, we had to have three rabbis. We brought her to the mikvah, they said a few prayers and she is now considered Jewish," Margolese said.

"She went to shul the first week and literally fit in. I can't even explain it. She loved it so much and wanted to be a part of the community so badly that she was. And immediately people took her in and were great with her and with us," she said.

> *We need to stop making it so hard for families who adopt older youth to have their children converted*

"I found that everyone embraced her from the minute she came home. She also embraced everybody."

For Aviva Zukerman Schure, who has volunteered for the Adoption Council of Ontario and Adopt4Life since she adopted her now 20-year-old daughter about two years ago, the process was a little more complicated.

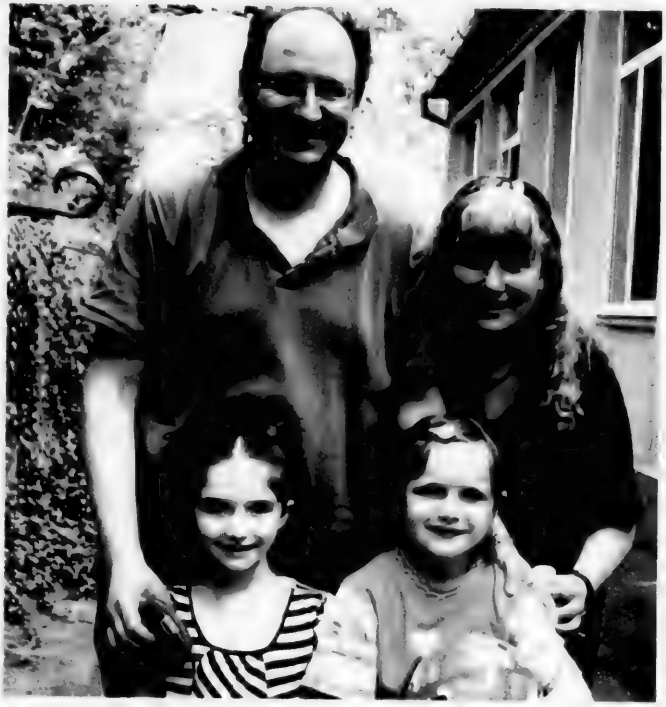
When her daughter, who is Korean, expressed interest in converting, to "be the same as the rest of [her] family," they moved ahead with the process.

"They wanted her to go to classes, go in front of a board, discuss things. I said, 'My child has already spent her life in front of people making decisions for her and it doesn't matter if we adopted her when she was born or at 18. She's our child. We're not marrying her. So her conversion should be instant in the way that a newborn's is,'" Schure said.

"I think the Jewish community has to catch up when it comes to converting older youth who are adopted… We need to stop making it so hard for families who adopt older youth to have their children converted."

In the end, Schure's daughter went though a Reform conversion, during which she went to a mikvah and made a verbal commitment to honour the values of Judaism.

"Because she's not white… it's one of the reasons we wanted her to have that certificate… No one will ever ask my sons for their certificates of Judaism. It's because she doesn't look like us that I wanted her to have that piece of paper so that no one could ever deny her that right as the child of Jewish parents," she said, adding that her family has only experienced "appreciation and understanding in the community."



Howard and Tanya Margolese, with their daughters Eryn, left, and Alexandra

Elissa Gamus, a Toronto-based family lawyer, who adopted her son Joseph, 7, from birth and converted him to Judaism through an Orthodox conversion when he was six weeks old, said the process wasn't difficult, but expressed concern about how he'll be accepted in the Jewish community when he's old enough to date.

"Joseph is visibly black, and his personality, like the way he walks, his interest in certain things – he connects both with the Jewish community and with the black community," Gamus said.

She said her son had no issue identifying with the Jewish community "because we're Jewish."

But, she added, "As much as he is welcomed by all his friends… what happens when he gets older and wants to date one of them?" She worries about whether their parents will be accepting of that.

Silverman feels the same uncertainty. "In the Orthodox community, it is not easy in terms of what is accepted and what isn't accepted. Are [her children] marriageable? When you start fixing your kids up, are they less than?" she said. "My son is not married and there are times when someone will talk about a single daughter and I'll stay out of it at this point of my life. I always perceived this, 'Oh, but what's his background? Is he really [Jewish]?'" ■

Orthodox Vaad promotes power of attorney on health care

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Vaad Harabonim of Toronto – the city's Orthodox rabbinic council – is urging members of the community to obtain and sign a power of attorney for personal care and statutory declaration to be used in case they become incapacitated and can't make decisions about their medical care.

The Vaad is distributing a sample document in synagogues and public places frequented by the Orthodox, and is distributing it digitally as well. The council is taking the step because of developments in Canadian law on the issue of assisted suicide and to ensure that Orthodox patients and their families can influence their fates in accordance with Jewish law, said Rabbi Dovid Schochet, a spokesperson for the Vaad.

"There is a change in the law now on assisted suicide," Rabbi Schochet said. "The government needs empty beds in hospitals, and when a person is on life support or critically ill, and there is little chance of surviving, there is pressure to hasten the process."

Rabbi Schochet said the document was distributed recently as a public service to inform the community about their options in cases of severe illness. With the document in hand, families have the right to influence health care providers so that medical treatment does not violate Jewish law.

In addition to containing a blank power of attorney for personal care and statutory declaration, which would give people the right to make medical decisions on behalf of incapacitated family members, it includes a cover letter containing an "urgent message."

Document aims to ensure patients can influence their fates according to Halachah.

The message cites a two-year-old Supreme Court of Canada decision in which the head of critical care at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto wanted to disconnect a critically ill patient from life support.

The court ruled the doctors should have applied for permission to do so from the Consent and Capacity Board, a provincial panel appointed under the Health Consent Act.

The board is empowered to "determine what the patient would have chosen themselves, in their present condition, given quality of life, pain, etc.," the Vaad quotes the court as saying.

"Based on the stated desire of some doctors to go ahead and terminate the life of a number of patients in the past few months, the power of attorney…form was prepared."

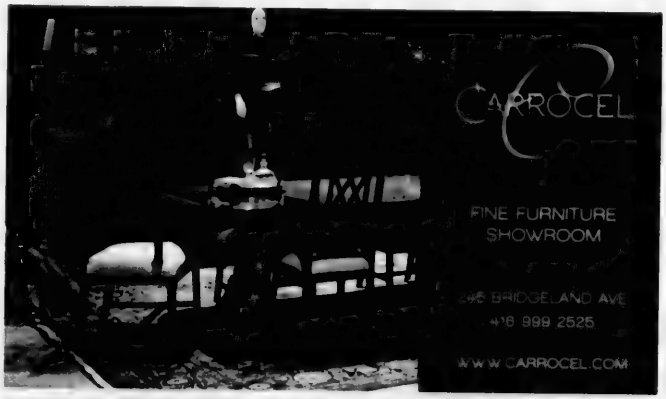
Rabbi Kalman Ochs of Torah Emeth Jewish Centre said the document was prepared after consulting with doctors, lawyers and others close to the issue. "The document began because there's been a trend in the medical system, in almost all hospitals, that once people are over 80 or are deathly ill, they don't have quality of life, and living is about quality of life, so there's no point prolonging their lives," Rabbi Ochs said.

The document, he continued, "addresses the view of Judaism that life is an eternal, intrinsic value. In Judaism, we value life itself. This [document] conveys to doctors the wish of the Jewish person to preserve their lives."

Besides including a power of attorney form, it includes a blank form allowing the user to appoint a consulting rabbi to assist in the determination of the pertinent Jewish law.

It also includes a statutory declaration in which the individual asserts their "desire that all health care decisions be made for me in accordance with Jewish religious law and custom as determined in accordance with strict Orthodox Jewish interpretation and tradition should any uncertainty arise as to my wishes. I fully subscribe to the values and beliefs of Judaism that every moment of life is of infinite value. I therefore direct that, unless determined by my rabbinic advisor that such actions would be contrary to Jewish law, my life be prolonged for as long as possible by any means medically available."

In its message to the community, the Vaad notes that even if the document is completed, it "brings no guarantees. It must be stressed that the Supreme Court decision is dangerous to our principle of preserving life and has taken you and your families' right to decide on end of life issues out of your hands. This document, even at its best, can only serve as a means of influencing the Consent and Capacity Board to understand how you would decide, if you could, with regard to termination of your life. As such, it cannot guarantee the result you would want to see, but it is the best that can be done in this onerous environment." ■



JUDAISM 101

An entry level seminar exploring the essential ideas and practices of Judaism

with Rabbi Michael Skobac

Topics include:
• Judaism on One Foot
• Basics of Jewish Belief & Philosophy
• Ethics of Interpersonal Relationships
• Life Cycle: From Cradle to Grave
• The Jewish Home: Decor and Diet
• Special Days: Shabbat & Holidays

Six Consecutive Tuesday Evenings
March 8 to April 12, 2016 • 8:00 PM
BAYCREST TERRACE SYNAGOGUE
55 Ameer Avenue • Admission: FREE
Registration required: 416-789-0020
or E: toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca

UJA Federation OF GREATER TORONTO

jewsforjudaism.ca
KEEPING JEWS JEWISH

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN Giveaways

Sing for CHILDREN

British, Yiddish and Kiddush!

2 LUCKY READERS will win 1 PAIR OF TICKETS to Chai Lifeline's "SING FOR THE CHILDREN"
(total value $220 per pair)
Monday, April 11, 7:30 pm, Roy Thompson Hall

To be eligible to win click on "Events" at www.cjnews.com and email us your name, address and daytime phone number or mail/fax us the information. All entries received by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29 at 3 p.m. are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected at The CJN offices on Wednesday, March 30th. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person.

The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.

Email your information to "contest@thecjn.ca" Re: "SING" Contest, or mail to: The Canadian Jewish News, 1750 Steeles Ave. W. Suite 218, Concord, ON L4K 2L7 or fax to: 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The CJN, Canadian Primedia, Chai Lifeline are not eligible to enter.

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

On Gaza seaport, Israel navigates between Egypt and Hamas

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

The co-ordinator of the Israeli government's activities in the Palestinian territories, Maj.-Gen. Yoav Mordechai, was quoted at length last weekend saying that there have been no talks over the establishment of a seaport for Gaza.

In comments quoted by the Saudi-linked news site *Elaph*, Mordechai said that should such negotiations take place in the future, they would be conducted only vis-à-vis the Palestinian Authority (PA) – not the Hamas rulers of Gaza.

It was a surprising statement, in light of the positive approach among some Israeli ministers, along with members of the IDF's top brass, to the idea of such a seaport.

And it's likely that the statement was directed not at Israel or Gaza, but Egypt.

The *Times of Israel* has learned that Israeli officials are still speaking favourably of the seaport idea, even after Cairo demanded that Jerusalem issue clarifications about its détente talks with Turkey and the option of establishing a port for Gaza in Cyprus or on an artificial island.

It's no secret that the Egyptian government is vehemently opposed to the establishment of a seaport to serve the Gaza Strip so long as Hamas, which is allied with its enemy the Muslim Brotherhood, remains in power. The Egyptians led the opposition to the removal of the blockade on Gaza in the wake of the war there in the summer of 2014, and Cairo has been consistently opposed to opening the Rafah crossing between the Strip and Egypt's Sinai to Palestinian travellers.

Egypt's demands are unequivocal: Rafah will be open only once control of the border crossings is handed over to the PA. The Egyptians apply the same principle to the idea of a seaport, which they will only countenance if the PA, not Hamas, governs the passage of goods into the Strip.

Amid reports regarding the option of putting Gaza's port on an artificial island or in Cyprus, Egypt held talks on the matter with the PA, which is also opposed to such a move.

In the wake of those talks, Cairo signalled to Jerusalem its opposition to establishing a seaport anywhere while Hamas is still in control of the Strip.

Mordechai recently met with commanders of the PA security forces, according to Palestinian media. It's certainly possible that the issue of the seaport came up in that meeting.

A Palestinian fisherman works on the coast in Gaza City during a rainy day in winter. Egypt is strongly opposed to the establishment of a seaport in Gaza. EMAD NASSAR/FLASH90 PHOTO

Azzam al-Ahmad, one of the leaders of the Palestinian Fatah party, made the PA's opposition to the establishment of a seaport clear last Friday Feb. 26, asserting that Ramallah could stymie any such initiative.

Meanwhile, Hamas' leaders have been waxing combative about Gaza's need for a seaport while at the same time signalling that they have no desire for another round of hostilities with Israel.

"The Strip needs and wants a seaport, and that issue has also been conveyed to the Turks – their siege on Gaza will not be lifted without the establishment of a seaport," senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said Feb. 26.

Another of the group's top officials told the pan-Arab newspaper *Al-Hayat* last week that there has been significant progress in talks between Turkey and Israel, especially regarding the option of erecting a seaport.

Analysts in Gaza told *The Times of Israel* that they are under the impression Hamas has been trying to inspire hope for real change among the residents of the impoverished enclave.

However, they warned, if Hamas fails to deliver on its promises, pressure will mount on it to take action, even if that means more war. ■

Times of Israel / Timesofisrael.com

Israeli envoy to Egypt says shoe-throwing won't deter him

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Haim Koren, the Israeli ambassador to Cairo whose recent meeting with an Egyptian lawmaker sparked a shoe-throwing protest in parliament on Feb. 28 says the incident has not deterred him from strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

"I meet with [Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah] Sissi and members of his government regularly," Koren told Israel's Channel 10 television last Sunday evening. "Both countries have a shared interest in fighting terror organizations like the Islamic State and Hamas."

Koren went on to tell the TV station that bilateral meetings between Israeli and Egyptian officials aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries would proceed, despite the scuffle in parliament earlier in the day.

"I can say that relations with Egypt are very good," Koren added.

Egypt has full diplomatic relations with Israel, but directly dealing with the Jewish state remains deeply taboo in Egyptian society.

Egyptian MP Tawfiq Okasha has been engulfed in controversy after posting a picture on the embassy's Facebook page of him with Koren last week, Egypt's state-run news agency said. Koren and Okasha reportedly discussed politics, trade and agricultural co-operation between Israel and Egypt.

On Feb. 28, an urgent parliamentary session convened to investigate Okasha's meeting, during which MP Kamel Ahmed hurled his shoe at Okasha in protest, the MENA agency reported.

But Ahmed was not the only legislator outraged by the consultation. During Sunday's session, one MP called the initiative "political prostitution," while another hundred members of the legislature called for an emergency session to discuss the meeting.

Okasha, Ahmed said, "deserves 90 million shoes," according to a translation of his remarks by the Hebrew-language *Ynet* news website. "I want to shoot him. What I did reflects the nation's opinion. I did what I did because I am an MP and a representative of the people. Every time I see him, I'll hit him with a shoe."

Okasha swung back at critics, saying he extended the invitation to Koren in hopes of recruiting Israel to help mediate Egypt's dispute with Ethiopia over the latter's Grand Renaissance Dam, a project Cairo fears will limit its share of Nile River water, the *Egyptian Independent* reported.

He cited the 1979 peace treaty signed between Israel and Egypt, and expressed hope Israel could play a constructive role in settling the ongoing dispute, the report said.

Official relations between Jerusalem and Cairo have been relatively warm since Sissi became president of Egypt in July 2013.

In the unrest that followed the ouster of the previous president, the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, Israel reduced the number of its diplomatic staff posted to Cairo. However, it began building up its presence in the city more recently in light of the relative calm. In September 2015, Israel reopened its embassy in Egypt after being shuttered for four years.

In February, Egypt's new ambassador to Israel, Hazem Khairat, hailed the increased bilateral relations, expressing hope that the two countries' "constructive" relationship would bring peace to the region.

Khairat is Cairo's first senior emissary to Israel since 2012. ■

OPINION

OK God, now it's Your turn!

Sagi Melamed

"Sagi, are you sitting down?" my friend Yael asked when I called her to touch base. After several years in a senior Israel-Diaspora position, Yael had decided it was time to seek new challenges.

This is Yael's inspiring story:

"I left my job and decided to give myself a year to search for a new job, think and explore options. I spent quality time with my family and friends, as well as with myself. I met scores of people, consulted head-hunters, went to interviews and received job offers. But none felt 'right' or excited me. I refused to compromise and kept searching.

"Then one day I suddenly realized what I wanted to do. I sat down with my husband in our kitchen, and over a cup of coffee, I told him, 'I've got it! I want to do – matchmaking!'

"He smiled and said, 'Why not? Go for it! But what exactly are you going to do and how will you make a living from this?'

"'I'm not sure, but that's what I want to do.'

"Having received my spouse's blessing, I had a personal discussion with the Creator. 'God,' I said, 'I've done my part. I examined, I searched, and I discovered how I can add my modest contribution to make Your world a little better. Now it's Your turn!'

"Less than one week later, a "wanted" ad on Facebook caught my attention: 'Seeking CEO for Hiburim – an organization that helps people find their match.' My eyes lit up and I sent them my resume. The next day, I got an email inviting me for an interview. But there was a catch: they warned me that the salary was low.

"At first I thought I would simply delete the email and continue searching, because I wasn't willing to work without appropriate compensation. Then I said to myself, 'Yael, God answered your request immediately, and you're going to just delete the answer?'

"So I went to the interview. From there on, things moved quickly – the chemistry was right, we wanted the same thing, we reached a fair compromise on the salary, and today I manage a groundbreaking new matchmaking enterprise."

Yael's story is inspiring. Although our prayers are not always answered so promptly and completely, belief is supremely important when seeking work and career, as I know from the "The Next Step" initiative run in my community, Hoshaya.

I founded The Next Step about 18 months ago, together with a team of volunteers from Hoshaya, who have a variety of critical skill sets in employment: in industry, employment law, human resources, pensions, etc. When a member of Hoshaya is searching for a job, being laid off, considering a career change, or facing another employment-related challenge, the team helps with legal advice, resume-writing, networking, interview training, presentation skills, and so on.

I have learned that beyond the priceless skills, education and training, faith is the determining factor in searching for a job and identifying "the next step."

What do I mean by "faith"?

Faith in oneself – that one has the skills, energy and commitment to bring value to one's next employer, and that the match is in both your interests.

Faith in the path – even if you meet obstacles, frustrations and disappointments on the way, at the end of the path is the right job with the right organization.

Faith that everything is for the best – that even if you receive a negative answer from what you thought was your dream job, it is still for the best – when one window closes, another door opens.

And last, but not least – like Yael, faith in a higher power. The faith that if you do your part, God will do God's part. As it says in Grace After Meals: "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen a righteous man abandoned nor his offspring begging for bread." ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Subscription Rates

❑ 1 YEAR $60.00*
❑ 2 YEARS $114.00*
❑ 1 YEAR DIGITAL (eCJN) $33.84*

*TAXES INCLUDED Delivery made only to Canadian Addresses

How to Subscribe

Log on to:
bit.ly/cjnsrvc

Mail this form to:
PO Box 1324, Stn Main, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Call us:
416-932-5095 or 1-866-849-0864

❑ **YES,** I would like a subscription to The CJN

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY PROV POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE EMAIL

✔ **Payment:** $_____

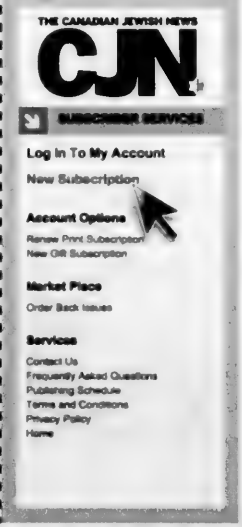
❑ Cheque Enclosed Charge my ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Amex

CARD NUMBER CVC EXPIRY
SIGNATURE

Doc key: S16PHCJN S16WMCJN

It's easy to subscribe online

bit.ly/cjnsrvc



Canadian Holocaust survivors testify in Nazi trial

DANIEL KOREN
dkoren@thecjn.ca

William Glied was only 13 years old when he was deported, along with his parents and sister, from his home in Subotica, Serbia to Auschwitz-Birkenau in April 1944. A year later, after being transferred to Dachau to work as a slave labourer, he was liberated by the U.S. Army.

He was the only member of his family to survive.

Glied, who came to Canada as an orphan in 1947, was in the German town of Detmold earlier this month for the trial of 94-year-old Reinhold Hanning, a former Nazi SS guard. Hanning, who served in Auschwitz from January 1943 to June, 1944 is accused of being an accessory to the murder of at least 170,000 people.

Glied is one of three Canadian Holocaust survivors who testified as civil parties on the context of Hanning's crimes, alongside Max Eisen, also of Toronto, and Judith Kalman of Montreal. Approximately 40 survivors or their relatives have joined the trial as co-plaintiffs.

Glied, Kalman and Eisen also testified at the April 2015 trial of the "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz" Oskar Groening, convicted of being an accessory to the murder of at least 300,000 Jews.

Before the trial of former Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, trying such guards was an arduous task for German prosecutors, as they had to prove they were directly responsible for a victim's death. Demjanjuk's conviction set a new precedent in 2011, however, allowing members of staff who worked in concentration camps to be tried as accessories to murder, even if they did not directly kill their victims.

For Glied, 85, the precedent is significant, as it demands those who contributed to the mass genocide of Jews and other minorities during the Holocaust to finally be held accountable, some 70 years later.

"I feel that there can be no time limit in prosecuting those who committed such horrible crimes during the Holocaust," Glied told *The CJN* from Detmold. "While I feel some compassion for Hanning because of his age and health, the world must know about these unspeakable crimes, not only from the few survivors who remain, but from the monsters who committed them. It will forever remain a black mark on the postwar German government that only some 50 SS guards were convicted from the 8,600 who served in Auschwitz-Birkenau."

Max Eisen, left, with William Glied and his wife Marika, right, in court MATTHEW SHOYCHET PHOTO

> *I feel that there can be no time limit in prosecuting those who committed such horrible crimes during the Holocaust*

Efraim Zuroff, head Nazi hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told the *Associated Press* that there's no question there were "some serious failures by the German judicial system in the past," but "that doesn't in any way change the validity of what's happening now."

"In a certain sense, you could say these people had the bad luck to live a long life," he said from Jerusalem. "If they had died five years ago, they would never have been going to trial."

Hanning allegedly guarded Jews during the "selection process" at Auschwitz, jurors were told, where some were sent for labour and others to the gas chambers. During the period in which he served, the bloodiest in the camp's history, less than 25 per cent of its inmates were chosen for work. Hanning's attorney, Johannes Salmen, says that his client admits to serving at the Auschwitz I section of the camp, but denies serving at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau section, where the majority of the camp's victims were murdered.

According to Nazi hunter Thomas Walther, who served as both Eisen's and Glied's attorney, the trial is the first time "in history" that an indictment speaks about an accused being involved in the organized mass genocide at Auschwitz as a crime of murder.

"I hope to prove that everybody who worked at Auschwitz, this place of real hell on earth, is guilty of being an accessory to murder," he told *The CJN*. "No special duty was necessary. Working at Auschwitz is the absolute border that nobody should pass. Auschwitz was the one place on earth where even participation was enough. Participation in anything there means 'guilty.'"

Despite Hanning's age and the time lapse between his crimes and now, Glied said his trial is important, because it can teach a younger generation about the Shoah. "There are a lot of people in this world who still claim that the Holocaust never happened," he said. "The conviction of as many of the perpetrators as possible will surely disprove these terrible lies."

For Glied, the path to atonement is through education. "We must never forget the six million of us lost in the Shoah," he says. "We must be vigilant and stamp out falsehoods such as those proclaimed by the Iranian government, and we must work toward having Holocaust studies included in every Canadian school's curriculum."

Hanning's case is one of approximately 30 involving former Auschwitz guards currently under investigation by German prosecutors. Two other cases are also likely to go to trial this year: a 93-year-old woman charged with 260,000 counts of being an accessory to murder, and a 94-year-old man who reportedly served as a guard.

"All members of the SS were assigned the task to make mass murder possible," Walther said. "Altogether, Auschwitz was a place with only this one specific purpose in mind." ■

BE PART OF OUR SPECIAL SECTIONS

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

Contact your sales representative 416-922-3605 | ads@thecjnsales.com

This Passover, don't *pass over* The CJN...

We need your support! Your Passover ads and greetings are like "manna from heaven".

Share good wishes with the community and help sustain The CJN.

The Canadian Jewish News is a not-for-profit organization with a small staff dedicated to providing Canadian Jews with trustworthy community news. To many living in isolation, The CJN is their only connection to the Jewish community. Committed to providing a voice for Canadian Jewry, The CJN is the go-to source for perspective on our community. We are dependent on subscription and advertising revenue to sustain us in our mission. At this time of year, we ask for your support. If you already subscribe, please consider a Passover greeting. **Call or email now. A personal greeting can be purchased for as little as $70.00.***

We appreciate your support.

BOOK NOW!

416-922-3605 | ads@thecjnsales.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

*Before taxes.

SPONSOR CONTENT

Starkmans provides products to people of all ages

What began as Starkman's Chemists on Bloor Street in 1929 has evolved into the recognized provider of quality medical supplies. Now located on Bathurst Street at Davenport Road, Starkmans Health Care Depot's reputation as the leader in the field is due to responding to the needs of their customers by offering a variety of products to suit each customer's taste and budget.

Their products are extensive and cover a wide range including supports, bath aids, compression stockings, pillows, ostomy and wound care, and they are pleased to have increased their visibility in other age groups by opening a new maternity and child-care department. Over the years, they have been a major supplier of therapy and healing products and have added a new exercise department that is popular among physical and occupational therapists as well as exercise enthusiasts. They also have many products for rent including hospital beds, wheelchairs, daylights and tens machines.

Along with their excellent store salespeople, the office has staff on the order desk to take your order over the phone. They offer free delivery on orders over $25 to addresses in Toronto, and orders outside those borders are shipped via courier. And if they don't stock a product you are looking for, please ask! They are happy to order something in for you!

Starkmans is easily accessible. They purchased the adjacent lot (formerly a gas station) and converted it into a free parking lot for customers. They have wheelchair parking and are wheelchair accessible. The store is easily accessible using public transportation by taking the Bathurst 7 bus north or south which stops at Davenport. While you are in the store shopping, there are chairs throughout offering comfortable seating. They also have free coffee for all customers!

Expanding your business is exciting. But taking it to the next level can be daunting. Starkmans has successfully transitioned to an online presence with their website www.starkmans.com and attracts many customers, both out of town and local customers. Their website is now a fundamental part of their business, providing an easy way of ordering for pharmacies, camps, schools and retail customers alike.

Despite its longevity Starkmans has been ushered into the current era. Like Barneys before it Starkmans has long since lost its apostrophe and modernized its image. They now have huge Customer Appreciation days several times a year where everything in the store is on sale. They provide beef tenderloin, hamburgers and hotdogs to all customers as well as fresh pancakes, coffee, juice and cookies. These sales are very exciting and provide customers the opportunity to engage with sales representatives from major companies who are there to provide information about their products. ■

If you are not on their mailing list please contact them at orders@starkmans.com or 416-534-8411. The next Customer Appreciation sale is Thursday April 7th. You won't want to miss it!

Thornhill Naturopathic HEALTH CLINIC

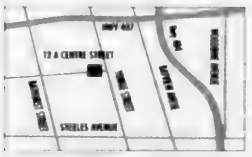
Caring for your health and wellness, naturally.

Conditions treated:

- Chronic Pain
- Fatigue
- Digestive Conditions
- Allergies
- ADHD
- Environmental Illness
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Diabetes
- Neurological Conditions
- Cold and Flu
- Skin Conditions
- Weight Management
- Stress Management
- Depression/Anxiety
- Smoking Cessation
- Pediatric Health concerns
- Women's/Men's Health

and more...

Naturopathic Medicine is covered under most group benefit health plans



Dr. Betty Rozendaal BES, MA, RAc, ND
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine
Registered Acupuncturist

Thornhill Naturopathic Health Clinic
12 A Centre Street
Thornhill, Ontario
L4J 1E9

New Patients Welcome.
Ask for your FREE 15 minute consultation.
FREE Parking

www.thornhillnaturopathic.ca
Phone: 905-707-2001 Fax: 905-707-2004
Toll Free: 1(855) DrBetty

One Whole Year.
One Great Price.
Unlimited Laser Hair Removal

Esthetics LASER CLINIC
www.Qesthetics.com

Toronto 416.599.1788 | 24 Bellair St.
Thornhill 905.761.5156 | 800 Steeles Ave. W
Mississauga 905.855.8200 | 802 Southdown Rd.

Offer ends March 31st 2016, some restrictions apply

Jewish Life

Drawing by Benjamin Brown, 1929

Photograph, 1929

Google Street View, today

Illustration by Daniel Rotsztain

New exhibit focuses on architect Benjamin Brown

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

"Location, location, location," they say, are the three most important things in real estate. If so, the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) has scored a wonderful coup by securing the Urbanspace Gallery in the majestic loft building at 401 Richmond St. W. as the venue for an exhibition in homage to Jewish architect Benjamin Brown.

Some three decades after former OJA director Stephen Speisman secured a large collection of Brown's aging architectural drawings and blueprints, current OJA director Dara Solomon has raised $75,000 to restore Brown's crumbling paper legacy and to mount this happy exhibition in situ along the Spadina garment district corridor where Brown's bricks-and-mortar legacy is most evident.

Just around the corner from the gallery, for example, is the Balfour Building, arguably one of Brown's most important commissions, which, along with his Tower Building across the street, is considered an architectural "gateway" to the garment district. Built for the Shiffer-Hillman clothing company and completed in 1930, the Balfour Building amply demonstrates Brown's superlative sense of scale and proportion – as cited by several experts in an eight-minute looping video that accompanies the show.

Toronto's first accredited Jewish architect, Brown graduated from the architectural school at the University of Toronto in 1913. Excluded from the WASP-ish old-boys' network of architects that then prevailed, he attained commissions from a circle of wealthy Jewish businessmen – with names like Gelber, Dunkelman, Cherry, Greisman and Pomerantz – who became his champions. His career reached its zenith in the 1930s. Most conversant in art deco and art nouveau styles, he also utilized more traditional elements from Georgian, Gothic, Tudor, Romanesque and other styles.

"One of the major goals of the exhibition is to position Benjamin Brown as an important early architect in Toronto," Solomon said. "He built so many buildings all around the city that are still standing, yet little is known about him. He's not in the history books."

Benjamin Brown: Architect highlights many landmark structures, from his addition to the Hermant Building in Dundas Square (soon to be plaqued by Heritage Toronto) to the St. George Street home of Mendel Granatstein (no longer standing). Besides the grand loft buildings that accommodated both factories and showrooms, he designed numerous Jewish communal buildings of note, including the Primrose Club on Willcocks Street (now the U of T's Faculty Club); the former Beth Jacob Synagogue on Henry Street (now a church) and the Brunswick Avenue Talmud Torah.

He also crafted many residences for wealthy Jewish patrons as well as more mundane stores, commercial structures and warehouses. He was so prolific that dozens of dots – a veritable blizzard of them – mark his various projects on a large city map designed for the show by artist Daniel Rotsztain. His work presents a tidy cross section of where Jewish Torontonians lived, worked, learned, worshipped and played.

Visitors to *Benjamin Brown, Architect* would do well to stroll around the neighbourhood beforehand or afterwards to view the various local examples of his work, including the seven-storey New Textile Building built for the Gelber Brothers at 205 Richmond St. W. These familiar structures still brilliantly hold their own amidst the forest of much higher buildings that have sprung up all around, and help the district retain its historic character and definition.

Before departing this once vibrantly Jewish neighbourhood in which Yiddish was the primary language spoken on the street, you may wish to visit the thriving What A Bagel restaurant on the west side of Spadina near Adelaide. How nice to nosh on a freshly baked bagel on Spadina once again, as in the storied days of old. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 3, 2016

Two Jewish literary awards provide more opportunities

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Norman and Lillian Glowinsky

Helen and Stan Vine

> *We're really delighted that there's so much support and opportunity out there for Canadian Jewish writers*

Fourteen months after declaring that the venerable Canadian Jewish Book Awards would go on a year-long hiatus, the Koffler Centre of the Arts announced last week the formation of a "prestigious" and far more lucrative apparatus for literary prizes, the Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature.

The previous awards featured nine to 12 categories that only occasionally were attached to monetary prizes, usually $500 to $1,000. By comparison, the Vine Awards will hand out four $10,000 awards each year in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, history and young adult/children's literature, with an additional fifth prize worth $10,000 bestowed every three years for poetry.

Benefactors Lillian and Norman Glowinsky have generously committed $100,000 annually for the awards, which were named in honour of Lillian's parents, Helen and Stan Vine. What doesn't flow out in prizes will be used for administration, according to Koffler literary director Natalie Kertes.

Whereas the awards ceremony was previously open to all, the Vine Awards will be a more exclusive and glitzy Giller-type affair meant to generate media attention and book sales, Kertes said.

"It won't be a big public gala. It will be a more intimate evening involving the press, the writers and their publishers, and other stakeholders. It will be a much smaller event than it used to be. We're looking to really engage the press, and we want to do something targeted at them. We want to make sure that these books get the attention they deserve."

The Koffler Centre has indicated it will make up for the skipped year by accepting submissions published in both 2014 and 2015. It will also consider digital publications for the first time. (It has yet to name its intended three jurors, but they will certainly have their work cut out for them, since they will likely have to read dozens of submissions in a matter of months.)

Submission deadline is June 3, and a short list of winners will be announced in August 2016. The gala event will likely be held in September in a venue that's yet to be determined.

No longer is the book awards ceremony anchored to the annual Toronto Jewish Book Fair as it was in recent years. Instead, the Koffler is planning a Vine Awards reading series featuring the award-winners and "other writers in the Canadian Jewish canon," Kertes said.

Remarkably, with the arrival of the newly constituted Vine Awards, there are now two sets of annual Jewish book awards being given out in Canada, at least for the time being. That's because, despite Koffler's announced hiatus, half of the juror pool decided to stage the awards independently last year. Nine book prizes were awarded at a well-attended public ceremony of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards at York University last fall, very much in keeping with the tradition that the late Adam Fuerstenberg founded about 1988.

Hosted by York's Jewish studies program, the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards is inviting submissions in nine categories this year and has scheduled its awards ceremony for October.

"They sort of sprung out of our hiatus," Kertes said, acknowledging that no attempt at consultation or co-ordination with the renegade group was made in planning the Vine Awards. "They wanted to stick with a more traditional program, and we're doing something very different than what they're doing... We're really delighted that there's so much support and opportunity out there for Canadian Jewish writers."

Writers and publishers should be thrilled by the largesse of the Vine Awards, which would certainly help to shine the media spotlight on winning titles.

On the other hand, with two independent Canadian Jewish book awards currently in operation, the cost of submitting books for consideration has doubled. It costs $40 to enter a title in each of the Vine Awards and the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards, and each requires five hard copies of titles being submitted. ■

Canadian Council of Conservative Synagogues
Building Community

Executive Officers
2016-2018

President **Stephen Werger** (Beth Emeth)
Executive Vice-President **Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum** (Adath Israel)
Vice President / Treasurer **Robert Weill** (Beth Tikvah)
Secretary **Ephraim Fiksel** (Beth Torah)
Immediate Past President **Allan Cheskes** (Beth Sholom)

For contact **Linda Schwartz, Administrator 416.635.5354**

canadianccs.org

In Memory Of
YAEL GISELA SPIER COHEN, Z"L

The Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, extends sincerest condolences to the Spier, Cohen, Viereck and Bartholomew families on the passing of Yael, z"l, a Holocaust survivor and longtime volunteer speaker at our Centre who was dedicated to Holocaust education and remembrance.

MAY HER MEMORY BE A BLESSING
AND COMFORT TO THE FAMILY.

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre

An imaginative, moving portrait of King David

MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

David – the shepherd, psalmist-poet, musician, warrior and king – is one of the most complex figures in biblical history. The Bible chronicles his life in unsparing detail of both praise and censure. We are introduced to David in Samuel 1, Chapter 16. His death is abruptly yet poignantly recorded 41 chapters later in the second chapter of Kings 1.

The extent and particularity of the record in the biblical recounting of David's story attests to the man's pre-eminence not only for every generation of Jews that has lived since the canonization of the Bible, but, through the Messiah theology, for the very unfolding of western civilization as well.

Through 3,000 years of displacement, exile, wandering and powerlessness, the Jewish People looked back with rhapsody and longing to King David. Indeed, during those same years, we also looked forward with prayer and hope to the wondrous day when a descendant of his would arise to heal the fractures of the world and bring peace, finally, to the Jewish People.

King David's story is rich in drama and spectacle, a veritable magnet attracting the imaginations of countless artists, each one striving to add to the robust detail of the Bible.

The most recent artist to reimagine the life of the poet-warrior-king is the Pulitzer Prize-winning Geraldine Brooks. Brooks brings her prodigious skills as an experienced journalist, foreign correspondent and masterful writer of historical fiction to the task.

The Secret Chord is bold and brazen, creative and adventurous, at times tender and always affecting. Brooks remarkably recreates the feel and the sense of life – always precarious – around the year 1000 BCE in the land of Israel. The Hebrew tribes often contended among themselves even as they attempted to stave off the marauding ways of the powerhouse Philistines who ruled the coastal plain along the Mediterranean.

For example, Brooks fleshes out with gritty and graphic detail many of the battles mentioned in the Bible. Whereas the biblical account of the death of David's son Absalom is a curt narrative statement of fact that we quickly travel across and note sadly in our minds, Brooks' account is expanded, arresting and grim. It is impossible not to stop and reflect upon its full import.

With the striking array of colours in the biblical story as her base, Brooks' deep artist's palette paints a captivating, moving landscape of vivid characters. Part of Brooks' success is in her use of the prophet Nathan as the narrator. His perceptions

The Secret Chord
by Geraldine Brooks
(Viking Press, 2015)

are the brush that fills in the canvas of David's life. He provides the reader with an episodic history of David's life. Thus we read, mostly in flashback, of the key events in David's life as told in the Bible with elaborate, embellished detail that springs from the questing mind and well-researched files of the author.

This can be seen after David conquers the city of Yevus, makes it the capital of a united country and accompanies the procession of the Holy Ark into the city's precincts.

The scene is described in Samuel II (JPS 1999 traditional version): "David whirled with all his might before the Lord; David was girt with a linen ephod. Thus David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts and with blasts of the horn."

With stylish sweeping of her writer's brush, Brooks considerably enhances the biblical description. A short excerpt from the three pages she wrote of the bringing of the Ark to the City of David conveys the breadth of her abilities.

"Soon, the procession was in the valley, the curtain that shielded the Ark rippling in the warm wind… David, standing just in front of me, could not keep still. He held his arms out from his sides, his fingers stretching down to the earth, quivering as if some great energy were passing up and through them. He was breathing fast and deep. Suddenly, he raised his chin and gave a cry – like a paean, but higher, sweeter – rich notes that filled every heart with gladness. Then he was loping down the hill, as wild as a boy, as ardent as a lover, sprinting toward the Ark. When he reached it, he cast himself down in full prostration, his arms stretched out as if in the widest embrace. It was a lover's moment, between him and the Name, the great One *who had blessed him, kept him and brought him to this moment*. I knew how he prayed: I had felt its ardency. Now all his people felt it. I could hear the sighs and the cries all around me as the power of it moved and stirred the crowd. When David rose to his feet, he did so as if lifted by strong and tender arms. Then he began to dance."

As the above passage also shows in the italicized words how Brooks telescopes biblical or liturgical quotations throughout the book. Here she foreshadows the fuller text of the traditional blessing of gratitude.

Because of its many openly sensual passages and speculative, revealing portraits of biblically revered individuals, the book may offend individuals who read this portion of the Bible literally. But for readers who view their faith as an expression also of collective memory, of shared history, Brooks' imagined portrait of King David would be intriguing as well as moving.

Brooks acknowledges that the book's title, *The Secret Chord*, is a tip of the hat to Leonard Cohen's line in his wildly popular and powerful song *Hallelujah*. The astute reader will also notice an additional reference from Cohen's song when David tries to explain to Nathan how he felt when he first saw Bathsheba bathing on the roof. "There was something about the moonlight on her shoulders, the tumble of her hair… I tell you Nathan, for all your iron discipline – even you would have been *overthrown*."

Very effectively, Brooks closes the story with a delicate, moving reference to "one sustained, sublime, entirely glorious chord" that we assume accompanies David's final moment on earth – a secret chord no longer, but shared with us for eternity. ■

JPL

Call for Submissions

J.I. Segal Awards 2016

Competition in 9 categories

Made possible by the J.I. Segal Foundation founded by Hirsh and Dvora Rosenfeld

I.	Dr. Hirsh and Dvora Rosenfeld Award for Yiddish[1] and Hebrew Literature[2]	$1,000 $500
II.	Mona Elaine Adilman English Fiction and Poetry Award on a Jewish Theme[3]	$500
III.	English Non-Fiction Award on a Jewish Theme[3]	$500
IV.	Shulamis Yelin French Literature Award on a Jewish Theme[3]	$500
V.	Rosa and the late David Finestone Canadian Jewish Studies Award for Best Book in English or French[3]	$500
VI.	Concordia University Azrieli Institute Award for Best Book in Israel Studies in English or French[1]	$500
VII.	Translation Award for a Book on a Jewish Theme[4]	$500
VIII.	Michael Moskovitz Award for a Film on a Jewish Theme[5]	$500
IX.	Yaacov Zipper Award in Education[6]	$500

1. The author may reside anywhere in the world.
2. The author of the Hebrew work must reside in North America.
3. Author must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident residing in Canada.
4. Translator must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident residing in Canada. The translation must be into English or French.
5. Film must be submitted on DVD/NTSC in English or French. Director and/or Producer must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident residing in Canada. The film must be produced in Canada.
6. Presented to a Montreal educator who has made an outstanding contribution to Jewish formal or informal education. Nominations in this category must be submitted in accordance with guidelines that are available at the Jewish Public Library or at www.jewishpubliclibrary.org

> Self-published books are ineligible (except for Yiddish books).
> Books must be published or films produced between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015.
> Please note that nominees need **not** be Jewish.
> Submissions for the literary awards MUST include three (3) copies of the book.
> Submissions for the Film Award MUST include two (2) copies of the film.
> All submissions remain the property of the Jewish Public Library.

Submissions for all nine categories must be received by April 30, 2016.

The Awards Gala will take place on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

J.I. Segal Awards Committee | Jewish Public Library
1, Cummings Square | Montreal, QC H3W 1M6 | Tel: (514) 345-2627ext. 3038 | Fax: (514) 345-6477
Email: isolde.dyson@plmontreal.org

www.jewishpubliclibrary.org

At 95, menswear retailer almost ready to retire

CYNTHIA GASNER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Samuel's Clothing store on Queen Street West in 1942 and Sam Warner

After almost three-quarters of a century in the men's clothing business in Toronto, Sam Warner wants to retire.

The 95-year-old Warner still exudes his love of the retail men's clothing business, but says at his age, with some trouble walking and seeing, "it is time to move on.

"But I can't retire yet because I still have an inventory of men's clothing that I have in my home and I have to sell."

As a young child, Warner, one of six children, had polio, which left him with muscle atrophy. He nevertheless went on to ride a bicycle, and he played baseball and tennis until two years ago.

As a child living through the Depression, Warner sold newspapers. He attended Harbord Collegiate, graduating in 1938. In 1942, after working in a hat factory for four years and saving $800, he decided to open his own menswear business.

His first store, located at 225 Queen St. W., was known as Samuel's Clothing. After moving to a few different locations on Queen Street, he changed the name of the business to Hollywood Clothing Jobbers.

"The area went from a dump with dirty bookstores and bookies everywhere to a trendy street," Warner said.

When the property was sold, he took in a partner and moved to John Street, near the Art Gallery of Ontario. When his partner retired eight years ago, Warner closed the business, giving part of the stock to charity and moving the rest to his home.

Warner continued to go on buying trips and said he still gives his personal service to his customers.

In an interview with *The CJN*, the articulate nonagenarian looked back to the war years when new merchandise was difficult to obtain, as it was directed to the armed forces. For the duration of the war, his business sold second-hand merchandise, he said.

"After the war, we could purchase new merchandise, and I was able to buy out special deals."

With joie de vivre, Warner recalled many of the colourful events that happened in his business, such as the time three men came into his store and bought clothing. "I later found out that they were prisoners of war and had escaped."

He also told of an obese man who ordered a suit and came back and bought 135 suits. His clientele included, among others, lawyers and government officials, and he provided costumes for many theatrical productions.

"About half of my clientele today are haredim from Lakewood, N.J., who come for black suits and designer white shirts."

He has supported a synagogue and charities in Cuba and travelled to Cuba annually for many years

Warner has three children, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He was accompanied to the interview by his daughter, Ellen Warner, an oncologist at Sunnybrook Hospital.

"Probably, one of the most important things my father taught me," his daughter said, "is just because everyone believes something, it doesn't mean it is correct. Therefore, I'm a researcher and I do not take things at face value. I look at how people are being treated and find out how we can improve what we are doing.

"My father is passionate about social justice and he is the least materialistic person I know. He is totally unselfish and he has always been devoted to his family, his customers and the world." ■

JEWISH & INTERFAITH
WEDDINGS
OFFICIATED BY
CANTOR DEBORAH STAIMAN
416-483-9532
www.jewishlifecycles.ca

LAKE KALAMALKA
HATIKVAH
EST 1937
Senior Staff Wanted

We are looking to add to our incredible group of senior staff this summer. If you are an enthusiastic person who loves kids, camp and the idea of spending your summer in the sun, this might be the job for you! We also have exciting internship positions available in your field in May and June.

Please email your resume to admin@camphatikvah.com or call

604-263-1200!

THE TORONTO PARTNERSHIP MINYAN

Setting in motion a shift towards greater spirituality and openness within the confines of halachah, through participatory prayer, study and communal religious life.

CELEBRATE, PRAY AND LEARN WITH TPM

Shabbat March 5, 2016 - 9:00 AM
TPM North - 927 Clark Ave W.
ELANA SZTOKMAN
Founder, The Center for Jewish Feminism
Former E.D. of JOFA
On Feminism, Men's Inclusion and the Dynamics of Single-Sex Spaces

Monday, March 7, 2016 - 8:00 PM
NCJW - 4700 Bathurst St.
RABBI LILA KAGEDAN
Graduate of Yeshivat Maharat
Shalom Hartman Institute RLI fellow
Rabbi Rabba Maharat Morateinu: Orthodox Women Breaking New Ground in Jewish Religious Leadership

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 - 7:45 PM
501 Clark Avenue W.
CELEBRATE PURIM WITH TPM AND DANI
Maariv and Megilla
Purim celebration a light supper to follow.

Shabbat, April 2, 2016
TPM North - 927 Clark Ave W.
TPM is delighted to welcome back
RABBI MARTY LOCKSHIN
as our Scholar-in-Residence
www.torontopartnershipminyan.com
torontopartnershipminyan@gmail.com

Want to eat kosher in Vancouver? No problem

Eran Rozen and Suzy Siegel at Nava

Efrem Rappaport of Omnitzky Deli

Simon Kahlon of Sabra LAUREN KRAMER PHOTOS

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT

If you're a kosher visitor to Vancouver, there's an excellent chance you won't starve or lose weight – unless you're climbing Grouse Mountain or repeatedly jogging around Stanley Park between meals.

The good news is you have five choices for eating out in a kosher environment, a selection of restaurants that ranges from delis to ultra-casual cafes with one semi-fine dining eatery thrown into the mix. Several of them sell food you can take with you, such as frozen Israeli prepared foods, complete frozen meals, smoked and other cold meats, hummus and dry foods. Here's the lowdown on where to go for good kosher grub.

Sabra Glatt Kosher Restaurant & Bakery: Simon Kahlon, a Libyan Jew who speaks fluent Italian and learned to bake in Israel in 1968, opened shop on Oak Street in 1993, starting with a deli and adding a modest restaurant soon after. It seats 40, serving shwarma, falafel, bagels, sandwiches, salads, knishes, burgers and wholesome Jewish baked goods, including challahs.

There's a special menu for kosher Chinese food if you're feeling so inclined, and a pizza oven where chalav yisrael pizza is baked to-go – everything under the halachic supervision of BC Kosher.

The restaurant serves meat and pareve dishes made fresh in the restaurant kitchen – "no preservatives whatsoever," Kahlon says proudly.

If you're from Toronto you might know one of the two Bali Laffa locations there, owned by Pini Kahlon, Simon's son.

Omnitsky Kosher Deli is further south on Oak Street, a delicatessen serving salads and smoked meats, with a small sit-down restaurant that accommodates 26 for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Efrem Rappaport, fondly known as "Eppy" to Vancouverites, was studying sociology in Manitoba when William Omnitsky approached him with the opportunity to buy the deli. At 25 he became the owner, moved to Vancouver ("it was a younger, more vibrant community," he says) and opened up shop.

"I'm told my smoked meats are way better than anywhere else," says Eppy, who taught himself how to smoke meats and has a full processing facility on Annacis Island from which he supplies wholesale kosher food to grocery stores, prisons, airlines and hospitals.

The day we stopped in, it had noodle salad, pickled beets, potato salad, chopped liver, fried rice and ready-to-go wings behind the deli counter.

With Omnitskys' move from Cambie to Oak Street 18 months ago, the restaurant menu has tripled in size. Offerings today include hamburgers, knishes, tossed salads, hot dogs, soups and egg dishes for breakfast. Meals run from $2.95 for a basic hot dog (extra if you want to add Winnipeg chili to the order!) to $14.95 for a pastrami sandwich or roast beef au jus.

Nava is the café at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and a natural gathering point for hungry locals scrambling between kid pickups, fitness classes and brief social get-togethers. This cozy dairy/pareve eatery belongs to Suzy Siegel, a Mexican Jew who arrived in Vancouver via Israel in 1991 and has long been one of the city's most beloved caterers.

"We're all about comfort food here, food as simple and as homemade as possible," she says, gesturing at the wraps, yogurt parfaits, sushi and vegetarian chili behind the glass display case.

The day we visited, the tofu teriyaki salad ($7.50) looked fabulous, as did the beet salad. There's lots of quintessential West Coast fare at Nava's: Cajun salmon burgers, sushi, muesli seed cookies and curried lentil soup that took the chill right out of a cold winter's day. Siegel and her team, headed by chef Eran Rozen, feed a few hundred people a day and cater for meals ranging from one or two for Shabbat up to several hundred for weddings.

Shuk Eat + Play is the newest player on the city's kosher restaurant scene, headed by Alon Volodarsky and chef Evy Swissa. Located on Oak and 41st streets, Shuk offers borekas, labneh, chatzilim, shakshuka, Moroccan fish and fabulous house-made hummus.

The "play" portion of the eatery's name comes from the large seating space in the back of the house where there's play equipment that will keep kids from six months through four years old busy long enough for their parents to eat the food they ordered. Shuk gets my vote for attention to detail, with lots of little extras. For example, my shakshuka ($14.50) arrived on a skillet, presented on a wooden board accompanied by French fries in a neat stainless steel basket. It was served with hummus and Israeli-style pita. Swissa's za'atar focaccia looked wonderful, and other diners I chatted with raved about the Persian fish balls and the flatbread with caramelized onion, goat cheese and pesto. If you have a sweet tooth, try the tahini ice cream for dessert. You're unlikely to find it anywhere else in the city.

Maple Grill is the closest you'll get to kosher fine dining in Vancouver. Open weekdays for dinner only, its entrees are more sophisticated dishes such as flame-grilled lamb chops ($36), honey-miso glazed sablefish ($29) and slow-braised beef brisket ($29).

If you're on a tighter budget, there are a few more casual plates, including chicken burgers, steak or salmon sandwiches and soups and salads.

Inside, the restaurant feels dressier (though there's no dress code – this is, after all, Vancouver, where jeans, sneakers and a North Face jacket are always appropriate). There are no white tablecloths, but there's no deli case for take-out either. So if you're in the mood for a more formal kosher dining experience, this is the place. The only place. ■

SICILY ADVENTURE TOUR
JEWISH HIGHLIGHTS
10 DAY TOUR $3,000
MAY 13TH TO 23RD / OCT 14TH TO 24TH
WWW.JEWISHSICILIAN.COM CONTACT BILL GENOVA
416-367-0380 billgenova@rogers.com

Rabbi Eva Goldfinger
Rabbi & Psychotherapist
Meaningful Personal Ceremonies
Jewish, Interfaith, Secular Humanistic and Same Sex
Baby Namings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings,
Funerals/Memorials, Unveilings, Conversions
Professional Counselling & Therapy
416 494 7450 www.oraynu.org

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

Who knows what you learned last summer?

Chaimie and Leizer

Every winter, the Yiddish students of the world look forward to the summer when, let loose from the dreary halls of academe, they can roam the globe studying the mamaloshen. Thankfully, the Yiddish academic blog InGeveb has done the legwork to compile a list for said students and Yiddish seekers that aggregates some of the best the globe has to offer.

These include Yiddishkayt's Helix Program in eastern Europe, the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in New York City, and the Ot Azoy! Summer Yiddish Program in London, among many global others. But, being ever the pessimistic ones in perpetual YidLife Crisis, and truly in the business of the real pleasure in life, which clearly is avoiding painful experiences (again, YOU'RE WELCOME), we did the research to find the worst or most questionable Yiddish programs on the planet. Again, this is just what we do, and we must repeat, that there is no need to thank us. (But we're not saying a card wouldn't be nice…)

1. For those who crave grim-but-historically-accurate, full-bodied experiences, Ukraine's "Yiddish Summer in Darkness" program offers an immersion in Yiddish in the sewers of Lemberg (today, L'viv).

The program is appropriate for all levels. Some discomfort mandatory. Rickets optional. Program lasts from two months to two years (whenever the Red Army arrives and ends the program).

2. YiddishPharma is your traditional Yiddish pharmaceutical summer program, traditional in that you must dress modestly in the clean room. Students work to produce high-grade pharmaceuticals and are required to pay for the privilege. Special courses offered in inflationary drug pricing.

Basic knowledge of organic chemistry preferred. Housing: corrugated tin hovel (tin optional). Tuition: $7,999 (exclusive of transportation).

3. Under the slogan "We bring the Magic Mountain to Moyshe," this summer program in the High Tatras combines a number of successful models of Yiddish summer programming: European travel, bucolic landscapes, incomprehensible teachers and severe bodily distress. Join the inmates of Medem Sanatorium 2016 for a not-so-restful stay in a classic consumption sanatorium. Sing traditional anarchist songs, have daily sputum checks, mourn your non-existent childhood.

Disclaimer: risk of contracting tuberculosis from other students is more likely than recovery. Tuition: $1,400 (but, to be fair, BYOW – bring your own wine).

> *We did the research to find the worst or most questionable Yiddish programs on the planet.*

4. So many books, so little space. Spend this summer helping create green solutions in Yiddish book waste management. Ever wonder what happens to the volumes of Yiddish books that are too worn out or mouldy for reading? Join a cadre of Yiddish students to find out on the Shredder Yiddish Summer.

Appropriate for all levels. Non-disclosure agreements must be signed and notarized before the start date.

5. Given the success of Yiddish programs housing participants in yurts in barren wildernesses, it's no surprise there are students who want to go off the grid with a wandering band of spiritual seekers. This year's trip looks at the collective history of Jews who fled to Central Asia and lived alongside various nomadic groups in rural Kazakhstan.

Must read and write using 1930s Soviet Yiddish orthography. Some experience in sheep pasturing is a plus, as is the mastery of fretless lute-like instruments.

6. "A fiddler on the roof, sounds crazy, no?" No, not at all actually. A team of architects, ethnomusicologists, and acrobats take students throughout Poland to play music on rooftops throughout the land.

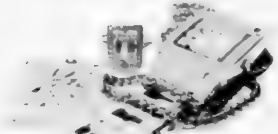
Perfect for all Yiddish students who wish to combine their love of traditional Jewish ornamentation in architecture and music. Good sense of balance an asset. Good sense of music a strong asset. Anatevkan roots strongly preferred.

• • •

In all seriousness (or let's at least say more seriousness), there really are all sorts of Yiddish classes, in the *fleish* and on the *veb*, that can allow you to refine your skills in the Yiddish language and immerse you in Yiddish culture. You just have to have the curiosity and the drive to go out and find them. ■

Chaimie and Leizer are Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the world's first online Yiddish sitcom YidLife Crisis.

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— *or* —
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD
JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement
CJN
We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.
They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.
Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.
E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA..... 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

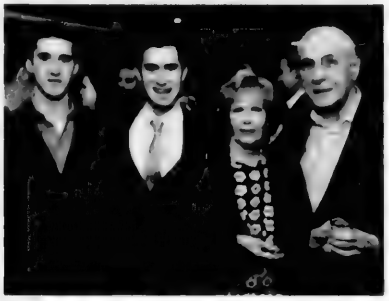
The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Jonathan Goodman, Alice and Joel Raby

Gala co-chairs Lorne Wiseman and Debra Margles

Ariel and Naomi Kincler, Dida Berku and ORT graduate Jacob Kincler



Lucas Wise, Greg Wise, Arlene Wise and Morris Goodman

Allan and Sylvie Vosko

ORT Montreal

Sugar Sammy, outstanding comedian, actor and Montreal native, brought light and laughter to attendees of ORT Montreal's Ted Wise Benefit Gala honouring community leaders Alice and Joel Raby. The gala raised $1.3 million that will go to support ORT activities around the world and provide much needed funds to several local 2015 gala partner schools and programs. ■ – *The Socialite*

Abe and Barbara Rogozinsky

Jeff, Matthew and Geraldine Hart

Selena and Ross Paperman

Harvey and Roslyn Wolfe, Robert and Rhoda Vineberg

ORT graduate Mayer and Anne Ghodoussi

Gale Wiseman, Mark Caplan, Jonathan Goodman and Dana Caplan-Goodman

David and Stella Gelerman

HOWARD KEY PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining CoR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MARCH 3 - MARCH 10

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, March 3

HOPE INTO PRACTICE
Author **Penny Rosenwasser** discusses her book *Hope into Practice: Jewish Women Choosing Justice Despite our Fears*, 7 p.m., Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St. Sponsored by the United Jewish People's Order-Toronto. PWYC.

YIDDISH VINKL
Yiddish Vinkl presents Yiddish songs and humour, noon. Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20 (includes lunch). RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

THE THREAT OF THE ISLAMIC STATE
Jonathan Halevi discusses "How the Islamic State threatens Canada and the West," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Sponsored by Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.

Sunday, March 6

KIDS MEGA CHALLAH BAKE
Chabad centres across Toronto host a challah bake for children in grades 1-6, Riviera Parque banquet hall, Concord, 2:30 -4 p.m. For tickets, www.megachallah.com or 905-731-7000. $20.

SPINATHON
A spinathon to benefit Camp AIM will be held at Harmony Fitness, 6-B Tippett Rd. Registration at 9:30 a.m. To register or sponsor a rider, visit www.campaim.ca/spinathon or call 647-965-1246.

PURIM FESTIVAL
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism holds a Purim festival, 10 a.m., with separate programs for adults, St. Andrew's Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. $4/$8 with a $20 family maximum. 416-385-3910.

Monday, March 7

SAYING NO TO TEENS
Jennifer Kolari discusses "Parenting teens: saying 'no' when the world says 'yes,'" 7:30 p.m., Leo Baeck Day School, North Campus, 36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill. RSVP leobaeck.ca/kolari

CURRENT ISSUES IN JEWISH LAW
Yedida Eisenstat discusses "Jewish law: history philosophy and current issues." Tonight, life support; March 14, homosexuality, 7 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES
Harold Troper discusses "Canadian Jews and immigration and refugee policy," Temple Sinai 7 p.m.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of March 17 is March 7. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Helping the homeless

Members of the Jewish Youth Network's Teens For the Community program hit the streets of downtown Toronto in January to distribute hats, gloves, scarves, hot soup and coffee to the homeless. Back row, from left, Zev Icyk, Kylie Shulman, Julia Freedman, Julia Fine, Ashley Bly, Britney Kerbel and Gillian Wynn; second row, Emily Freeman, Michelle Schneeweiss, Judy Walters, Andie Blankenstein and Lindsay Lyons; front, Jordy Goldenberg, Noa Cowley, Adina Librach, Sydney Bly and Nikki Klaiman.

Tuesday, March 8

TUESDAYS WITH LARRY
Beth Tikvah Synagogue shows the film *When Comedy Went to School*, 1:30 p.m. Screening includes commentary with **Larry Anklewicz.** $5.

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB
Israel Stamp Club discusses "Palestine mandate air mails to South and Central America and the Caribbean," Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr., 7 p.m. 416-226-2050.

ISLAM VS ISLAMISTS
Tarek Fatah discusses "Islam vs Islamists," 7:30 p.m., Temple Har Zion.

JEWS OF BRAZIL
Sandra Merovic discusses "Jews of Brazil," 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Penny Krowitz discusses "Dispelling myths and stereotypes of domestic abuse in our community," with Na'amat Canada at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $10/$15. 416-636-5425.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM
Jews for Judaism presents 6 lectures about Judaism. Tonight, "Judaism on one foot," 8 p.m., Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP 416-789-0020.

A TASTE OF ISRAELI WINE
Learn about Israeli wines, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $10/$15.

Thursday, March 10

DESERT ISLAND TEXTS
Rabbis Yael Splansky and **Mark Fishman** along with *The CJN*'s **Yoni Goldstein** discuss "Desert island texts," 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

ZUMBA
Eva Aroosi leads a zumba class, 8 p.m., Temple Har Zion. $5 for non-members.

Coming Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings to March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy**, 416-225-2112, ext. 204

SCOTCH TASTING
Beth Emeth Synagogue's men's club holds an evening of scotch tasting. March 9, 7 p.m. RSVP by March 4, 416-633-3838.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
The Legal Information Service of Act to End Violence Against Women assists Jewish women who have experienced abuse to navigate the family law legal system in Ontario. Call 905-695-5374.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

JF&CS

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call **Beth Feffer**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155
Bring your own lunch and learn day, March 3: Enjoy a facilitated discussion of *Second Person Singular* by **Sayed Kashua**, 11 a.m.; Nutritionist **Trish Krause** discusses "Is organic food better for you?" at 1:30 p.m.

Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio. No partners or experience needed. Offered Tuesdays to March 8. Dance lesson at 11 a.m.; social dance at noon.

Dr. Randy McIntosh discusses the world's first virtual brain, March 10, 1 p.m.

Celebrate Purim and enjoy a new play from the Smile Theatre company, March 24, 1:30 p.m. Register at ext. 0.

◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526.

Sandra Bruton discusses digestive health, March 3, noon.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. March 8, **Rosalin Krieger** discusses "Lee J. Cobb: The actor's actor," 10 a.m. Archeology course on "Ancient Near Eastern Art," with **David Lipovitch** continues Thursdays at 1 p.m. to March 17. Book club meets Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

◗ **National Council of Jewish Women.** 416-633-5100. Aviva Club is looking for new mature members to join discussion. Email reception@ncjwctoronto.org

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama March 16; barber/hairdresser March 17, 10 a.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.

◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.

◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.

◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.

Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com

◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue.** Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.

◗ **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.

◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. **Amy**, 416-633-6224, ext. 134.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ Passover family cooking workshop, April 11, 5:30 p.m.

◗ Yoga for young adults with an intellectual disability starts April 5, 7 p.m.

◗ Children's programs, including cooking, science and art begin the first week of April.

◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants They entertain throughout the GTA. Reading music not required. Mondays, 2 p.m.

◗ Yiddish conversation, Mondays, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong, Wednesdays to March 30, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.

◗ Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," March 2-23, 1 p.m.

◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa**, "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," March 8-22, 1 p.m.

◗ Glass fusion workshop with **Marcela Rosemberg**. Make a salad bowl, seder plate or cake stand, March 8, 7 p.m.

◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ Spring registration for pottery, Hebrew classes, aquatics, fitness and more is open for members, opens for non-members March 9.

◗ *Dreamland: after Mark Twain in the Holy Land*. Photographer **Motty Levy** follows in the footsteps of Mark Twain, on display at the gallery March 2-30.

◗ Toronto Israeli Film Festival. March 12, *Summer's End*, 8 p.m.; March 13, *Little Heroes*, 12 p.m.; March 13, *The Farewell Party*, 4 p.m.; March 13, *The Band's Visit*, 7:30 p.m. All films in Hebrew with English subtitles. For information, 905-764-7817.

◗ Accessible yoga for people of all abilities, Sundays to March 13, 1 p.m.

◗ **Iain Scott** teaches 4 sessions on "Opera appreciation: All in the family," starting March 21, 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi** discusses "A psychological look into Arab and Jewish relationships," March 15, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Purim festival, March 20, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

◗ The Varsity Jews A Capella hold their annual fundraising concert, this year in support of JIAS, March 27, 4 p.m.

◗ **Rabbis Yoel Glick** and **John Moscowitz**, in conversation, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Opera workshop with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez**. Sing your favourite opera choruses, ongoing Wednesdays to April 13, 1 p.m.; Thursdays to April 14, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Living with dementia: caring and coping, a 10-week program, starts April 14. Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca

◗ Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.

◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing. 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ "Is your child a picky eater?" Strategies for parents with **Carolyn Hay** and **Jordana Schwarz**, March 3, 7 p.m.

◗ The J Singles 50+ group meets for a social painting night, March 6, 7 p.m.

◗ Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani**, April 7, 7 p.m.

◗ PJ Plus, hands-on Jewish fun for parents and tots, runs March 27-May 15.

◗ Gourmet hamantashen workshop, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

◗ Inclusion programs for children with autism run April 2-June 18.

◗ Digital photography course starts April 5; new session of ceramics starts April 6.

◗ Screening of the film *Rock in the Red Zone*, April 4, 7:30 p.m. ■

Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
Cuisinart
PerfecTemp 10 Cup
Brushed Stainless
Powerful 1500 Watt
Cordless Jug Kettle
Choose from 6 Preset Programmed Temperatures for the Perfect Temp for your Favourite Beverage.
Smart Power Automatically puts Kettle into an Energy Saving Mode if not use for 5 minutes.
3 Year Warranty
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016
Lowest Price In Ontario
8.99
Compare at 119.99
Save 25%
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat-Sun 10-6
BRIDAL REGISTRY

MARRIED WITH KIDS

Mother's Day – as I see it

Lauren Kramer

The Mother's Day ads will be out soon, and every year they make my stomach turn.

"I don't need a Mother's Day present, so please don't get me one," I tell my kids. And honestly, I don't. Unless it's handmade, a letter or card they've created themselves and carefully written. We don't head out for lavish Mother's Day brunches, and if there's one day of the year I *really* don't want flowers or chocolates, it's Mother's Day. Valentine's Day would be a very close second.

What I really despise is the commercialization of the concept of Mother's Day, the extent to which it's been turned into a spending spree where a mother's value is measured in how much you spend on her, from the meal out to the kinds of gifts she's supposed to receive. Does your mother inspire you? Then shower her with expensive jewelry, we're told. Buy her chocolates. Treat her to a meal out. Spend, spend, spend. If you don't, the subtext reads, you really don't love her all that much.

My Mother's Day sentiments are strongly aligned with those of Anna Jarvis, a West Virginian who founded the concept back in 1908 and campaigned to make it a recognized holiday in the United States. She was on a mission to honour her own mother, who had cared for wounded Civil War soldiers before she died in 1905. Backed by John Wanamaker and H.J. Heinz, Jarvis wrote letters and launched promotional campaigns. By 1914, she had her way. That year, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation creating Mother's Day as a national holiday to honour mothers on the second Sunday in May.

For Jarvis, things went south from there. Shops, florists and restaurants recognized an opportunity for profit, and Hallmark Cards and its industry rivals were selling Mother's Day cards by the early 1920s.

Embittered by this exploitation of her pure intentions, Jarvis even tried to rescind the concept she'd worked so hard to create. It was supposed to be about sentiment, not profit, she protested. She'd wanted people to show appreciation, love and gratitude for their mothers by writing personal letters by hand, not buying gifts and pre-made cards. Fighter that she was, Jarvis refused to go down quietly. She organized boycotts and threatened lawsuits, trying to stop the commercialization. In 1923, she crashed a candymakers convention in Philadelphia, and in 1925, she was arrested for disturbing the peace when she protested at a confab of the American War Mothers, which raised money by selling carnations.

I agree wholeheartedly with Jarvis, who declared that purchased greeting cards were "maudlin, insincere, meaning nothing except that you're too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone else in the world." My protest against Mother's Day is on a much smaller scale than hers, however.

I protest by resisting purchased cards, rejecting anything but a handmade gift, and doing my best to boycott restaurants on Mother's Day. When the second Sunday in May rolls around, I ask my family for just two things that I don't usually receive. One is a day without sibling rivalry, just one full day when I don't have to mitigate arguments between my children. The other is that I get to choose how we spend time together that day.

In years past, we've done hikes in the rainforest or a family bike ride to the river, with a picnic on the banks. My spouse will make dinner that night, putting in more effort than usual to prepare the foods I like – which means we won't get plates of omelets or processed food. And if I'm lucky, I'll get a handwritten card from my kids, one that fills my heart with love and makes me feel I'm doing something right in this world. That, for me, is the ultimate Mother's Day. I think it's one Anna Jarvis would applaud, too. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Mazel tov to the Steinberg family on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Tahari Koi.

Mazel tov to Nat & Sonia Gampel, on their 65th anniversary March 4. With love and good health from your children, Mark, Deborah, and Alan and Jo-Ann.

Mazel tov to retired pharmacist Gerry Aronson who celebrates his 102nd birthday this week, from Lynne, Jerome and families, plus your friends at Castel Royal.

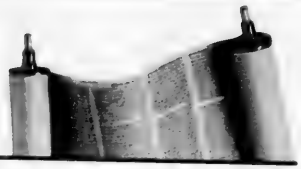
Happy 95th birthday to Regina Spiler, our shining example of a survivor. We treasure our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, true friend. We love you forever.

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Parshah

Vayakhel | Exodus 35:1-38:20



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier explains how some mitzvot help us build a better Jewish community
Rabbi Denise Handlarski considers the relationship between communal space and communal identity
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen says we can't consider ourselves complete unless we are prepared to unite with all Jews

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised when a student recently told me, "I know, being Jewish is just being a good person and being kind to others." I've heard this statement many times, and it is supported by commandments such as respecting parents, taking care of those less fortunate, etc.

Of course, the young student sought to feel validated, in that the universal lessons she learns from school and society are backed by the Torah.

Yet, how do we explain this week's parshah –Vayakhel – with laws about Shabbat and serving God? Can these mitzvot, too, make us better people?

The parshah begins with Moses gathering the entire community. First, he gives them the laws of Shabbat, and then he gives them the laws about contributing to the building of the Tabernacle. The sense of community seems important here.

Recently, I participated in two "siyum" initiatives. A siyum is a ceremony that marks the completion of a Torah text, either by individuals or a group of people. One siyum marked the completion of the Book of Psalms by a group of friends, as an expression of support for a mutual friend; the other was the completion of the entire Talmud by women around the world, as an expression of pride in advanced women's Torah study.

What struck me as the essential component of each siyum was the sense of community it created. We needed each other to complete the task. What brought meaning and motivation to the experience was the knowledge that by studying a text in my own home, I was spiritually and intellectually connecting with a community of learners.

In many places, the mitzvot of the Torah teach us to be kind. At the same time, there are mitzvot – like for Shabbat and the Tabernacle – that serve to create a space of communal worship and engagement, which ultimately serves to strengthen every part of our personal and religious lives. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

What is the relationship between communal space and communal identity? Parshat Vayakhel is completely concerned with setting up the Tabernacle and readying the priests as the previous chapters have outlined. The details, when one reads the parshah, can be overwhelming.

What I like to notice, however, is not so much the details about what must be included, but rather the communal sense of building something together. The people must come together to contribute to the Tabernacle's construction. In doing so, they both create the place that will help solidify them as a people, and solidify themselves as a people by co-creating their sacred place.

The Tabernacle is meant to be set up with great precision, including being adorned with jewels, gems and other things. Artists contribute what they can, women contribute their weaving, and what is really being constructed and woven together is community through space.

Another detail in the parshah that excites me is that Moses has to tell the people to stop giving, so enthusiastic are they in their contributions. To me, this captures the spirit of Jewish generosity. When we are at our best, we are a people who really rally around what is needed. Someone needs a place for Shabbat or a Pesach seder? We have room at our tables. Someone needs donations of clothing or food? Our families and communities hear the call.

I love the idea that every time there was a need for donations or contributions, we gave and gave until we had to be asked to stop. Our communal spaces help define us as communities. But much more important are our communal acts of generosity and kindness. We as Jews know how to create and give in ways that are both affirming and beautiful. ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

This week's parshah begins with the words "Vayakhel Moshe," (Moses gathered them). These are the things that God commanded, "to do them."

The words, "to do them" appear superfluous. "Vayakhel" indicates that Moses made a "convention" of the Jewish People. God commands Moses to ensure that the resolutions at this "convention" bring practical results.

In the portion, we read that both men and women participated in the construction of materials for the Temple. Yet two individuals were singled out: Bezalel from the tribe of Judah, and Oholiav from the tribe of Dan. The tribe of Judah was considered the leader. The tribe of Dan, on the other hand, was the last tribe to travel in the desert. These two individuals represent two extreme opposites of our people. By choosing them, the Torah teaches us that all Jews, regardless of their knowledge or observance, have an equal share in the Temple. God says, "I need every single Jew to be involved."

This Shabbat is also Parshat Shkalim. Every Jew donated a half a shekel to pay for the daily sacrifices. It's an unusual mitzvah, where the rich must not give more and the poor no less than half a shekel. Why not give a whole shekel? The answer is that the rich man's half-shekel together with the poor man's half-shekel make one complete shekel.

One lesson we learn is that no Jews can consider themselves complete unless they are prepared to unite with another Jew.

The four mitzvot of Purim also emphasize unity. We give foods to our friends. We give charity to the poor, uniting rich and poor. We read the Megillah in a group. We eat a festive meal with our family and as many people as possible. In the merit of unity, may we see Mashiach in our days!

Happy Purim! ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto. yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

DELAVAN AVE – WALK TO THE "VILLAGE" $2,495,000
Reno'd With Quality + Flair. Sun Filled Home, Spacious Lr With Fplace, Builtins In Both Dinner Room And Family Room. Modern Kit/Brkfast 4 Bdrms (Ens Bth) Fin L. Lvl Deep Lot (182ft) Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS EXCEPTIONAL LISTING
SOLD OVER ASKING
Charming And Meticulously Maintained 3 Bdrm/2 Bth With Many Recent Updates On Magnificent 170' Lot! Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS PRIME LOCATION
SOLD
In High Demand Neighbourhood On Desirable Front Corner Lot. Live In, Reno Or Build New. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

SPECTACULAR RESIDENCE – FIFSHIRE RD - $3,995,000
Luxuriously Appointed – No Expense Spared. Elegant Lay-Out, Formal Princ Rms, Spacious Gourmet Kit, Sumptuous Mstr Ste: Sitting Rms, Dbld Sided Fplce, Balc. Ren'd Lower Lvl, Glorious Wrap Around Terrace From Which You Can Enjoy This Exceptional Property. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

JUST LISTED – 386 BEDFORD PARK AVE $2,795,000
Avenue Rd/Lawrence! 4+1 Bdrm, 5 Bths, Gracious Family Home! Walk To Avenue Rd, Incredible Quality With Terric Flow. 125 Ft Deep Lot. Beth Sokol* 416-488-2875

PRIME ANNEX TOTAL RENO ON SOUGHT AFTER MARKHAM ST $1,558,900
Bright 6Br, 2 Car Prk Larg Rms, High Ceilings Modern Kits & Bths. Restored Period Details Sep Lwr Unit. Brett Selbo* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

100 ANTIBES DRIVE! BATHURST N/FINCH!
SOLD
$319,000! This Won't Last! Original 1 Bdrm 8th S/W Corner Suite Awaiting Your Renovation! Hi Floor W. Panoramic Views! 2Car Prkg! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENOVATED 1 BEDROOM
Minutes From Rosedale Subway Stn. Over 1000 Sq. Ft. Gourmet Kitchen S/S App. Hardwood Through Out. 9' Ceilings. Designer Custom Closet. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

YONGE/YORK MILLS PENTHOUSE 4400 SQ FT $2,599,000
Bungalow In The Sky! Ravine Views, All Round, 5 Balconies To Enjoy The Privacy, Light Drenched Space. Showcase Your Art, Entertain Elegantly, 3 Bdrms + Family Rm, 10 Ft Ceiling Height, 4 Parking, Concierge + More S. Merrick* & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

YONGE/ST. CLAIR 1 BDRM + DEN AT 33 DELISLE $600,000
Luxury Boutique Bldg 24hr Concierge, Move Into Open Style Lr, Dr, Kit, Hrdwd + Marble Flrs. S. Merrick & M. Merrick* 416-488-2875

LIVE RIGHT IN FOREST $529,000
Affordable 2 Bdrm Under Renovation, Great Rm W/Centre Dining Island Plank Flrs. Plank Flrs. SS Appls. Walk To Subway. Pkg. Locker. Valerie Lennox* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTIES

$1700. BAYVIEW/SHEPPARD SHANE BAGHAI ST GABRIEL TERRACE
Fab Fully Furnished Rental. Bright South Facing Ste W/Lrg Open Bal Outstanding Amenities, Prkg, Lckr, Close to Subway/TTC, Shopping, Restaurants. Move Right In+Enjoy!! Geoffrey Korn* 416-226-1987

LOWER FOREST HILL-2 BDRM P.H-AVAILABLE IMMED!
$4,600/Mo Incl. Utilities. New Kitchen, Many Other Upgrades, 2 Parking, Fireplace, 2 Walk-Out's. Steps To Subway, TTC, Shopping, Park. Carol Greenglass* 416-226-1987

4 BEDROOM 5 BATH 50X120' LOT CUL DE SAC LUXURY HOME
Feature Huge Master Bdrm W/ W/O Sep. Bsmt. Apt. Mint Cond. Alarm Sys, Huge Rooms, Fireplace, Kitchen. Recently Reno'd. * D.C Weisswasser* 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2209-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
LEASED
$2,510/Mo! Spadina N/St Clair! Luxurious 2Br 1Bth South/West Corner W/Panoramic Views! Outstanding Amenities! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENOVATING? NEED A SHORT TERM RENTAL? $4500/MO.
Glengrove Ave W. – 4br, 4bth, Beautiful Condition, Private Drive, Garage JRR School! Cheryl Sniderman* 416-488-2875

TOWER HILL WEST – ST CLAIR/BATHURST
Wonderful Location: 2 Bdrm Suite $3500 Or 1 Bdrm Suite $2200. Amenities Incl Concierge + Outdoor Pool. Saul Merrick* & Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

350 LONSDALE RD #315 $3000/MO.
Forest Hill Lonsdale House, Renod luxury 2 bdrm, parling, locker, concierge, indoor pool. Walk to subway + Village Shops. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, lndry indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Yonge & Egl. – Lge room for rent, use of kitchen, includes wifi, tv, pool, gym. No smkr 647-785-3713

87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

SUMMA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Professional Property Management & Consulting
We get "TOP MARKS" for Management, Consulting and Renting! Our superior service includes managing multi-unit Residential/Commercial/ Retail/Industrial properties.
We also offer specialized services to manage and rent condo properties.
647-341-7990
www.summapm.com
propman@summapm.com

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Boca West condo 2 bdrm/2bath, upper totally renovated garden apt. Move in condition. Panoramic view of the 8th hole of the Dyn #4 golf course. Well priced at $149,000. Call: 514 249-9724/514 906-4637

202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED

I am looking for a single car garage to store my trade tools and a bike. For the winter time. 416 665 6671

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Exp. female caregiver looking to care for the elderly or the ill men or women. 647-739-7138

Caring for the elderly. 36 yrs exp. available 7days per wk. Live-out. 416-704-0826

Live-in caregiver for elderly w/10 yrs exp.,& refer. salary negotiable. 416-460-2854/416-656-8863

Caregivers, Housekeepers, elderly care, Filipino from Israel, Sing-apore, Hong Kong & the islands.Live in/out, screening guaranteed.Call: 416-733-3915

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available March/April.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

CJN CLASSIFIED
- REAL ESTATE Sale/Rent/Lease/ Vacation Properties
- HOME IMPROVEMENT Furniture/Movers
- DOMESTIC HELP Health Care/Daycare
- ARTICLES Wanted/Sale
- AUTOMOTIVE
- CAREERS
- CLASSES/TUTORING
- PERSONAL
- AND MORE... IT WORKS!

416-391-1836

SERVICE DIRECTORY
416-391-1836

370 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
COR
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416.782.3302
www.bistrogrande.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

Experienced Polish cleaning lady available anytime. Please call: 416-566-6426

385 COMPUTERS

Computer and tablet help. Reasonable. Mark 416-398-6712

395 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the **Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000**

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

Specializing in furniture repair?
ADVERTISE IN CJN

Universities host Middle East Week

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Dean Peachey

While Israel Apartheid Week may still be alive and well on many North American campuses, in Winnipeg, the anti-Israel program has barely had a pulse for several years now, thanks to proactive efforts by the University of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Hillel.

For the past three years, U of W and Hillel at both U of W and the University of Manitoba have been countering Israel Apartheid Week with Middle East Week at U of W – Feb. 22 to 26 this year – and Jewish Awareness Week at U of M, organized by Hillel in mid-March.

In addition, at both U of W and U of M, Israel Week on Campus in early February featured Israeli prizes, interesting facts about Israel, information about study and volunteer opportunities in Israel and Birthright trips, as well as a fundraiser for Save A Child's Heart, which raised over $750 for the Israel-based charity. Half the students attending were not Jewish.

Hillel also held an interfaith Shabbat program, with invitations extended to a variety of student groups to strengthen relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims on campus.

At U of W, the turning point came six years ago when then-president and vice-chancellor Lloyd Axworthy originated Middle East Week to bring people together for respectful discussion of Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Muslim issues.

"With Middle East Week, we try to focus on the Middle East in general rather than just Israel and the Palestinians," said Dean Peachey, executive director of U of W's Global College and co-ordinator of its human rights and global studies program. "This year, we are focusing on Syria and Iraq as well as Israel and Palestine."

Middle East Week 2016 kicked off Feb. 22 with a talk by W. Rory Dickson from U of W's department of religion and culture, speaking about ISIS and its relationship to Islam. Later in the day, journalist Gwynne Dyer spoke on "Don't Panic: Islamic State, Terrorism and the Middle East."

On Feb. 24, Adam Muller, a genocide researcher at U of M, and Winnipeg Yazidi activist Nafiya Naso spoke about the genocide of the Yazidi people.

The last two programs were Israel-Palestine centred. On Feb. 25, Israeli-Arab author and journalist Sayed Kashua spoke on "The Arabs in Israel: The Inaudible Cry for Full Citizenship," about the challenges of being an Arab in Israel. Kashua, who recently immigrated to the United States, is a humourist who created and wrote the hit Israeli TV show *Arab Labor*.

The final event was scheduled to be the controversial play *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, to be staged Feb. 26, followed by a panel with playwright and U of W theatre professor Hope McIntyre, film producer Saira Rahman and lawyer Corey Shefman, who is also associated with the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties.

Rachel Corrie was a young American volunteer for the anti-Israel International Student Movement who went to Gaza in 2003 and lay down in front of a bulldozer to try to prevent an Arab house from being demolished. She was run over and killed, and became a martyr to the anti-Israel cause.

Peachey said the play is "something a lot of students can identify with: an idealistic young woman who wants to make the world a better place and ends up in Gaza not knowing much about the situation and in over her head." He said the panel would focus on "using drama and art to address social and political issues." ■

Kashrut supervision called 'crux of the matter'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Diena agreed. "For whatever reasons, whether COR convinced the CFO or it did it on its own, the CFO's position is that if you want to get this quota, you have to have COR," he said.

Neither group had COR on board at the start. Diena had arranged for certification by MK, a Montreal-based agency recognized internationally. Kraman brought on board a group of prominent Toronto rabbis associated with the Vaad Harabonim, but who provided hashgacha under Agudas Shomrei Hadas, a kashrut agency created in 1947.

Rabbi Saul Emanuel, executive director of MK, stated, "In a free market, companies request kosher certification from various kosher certifying agencies and the company has a choice as to which certifying agency they wish to turn to for their kosher certification. There is no exclusivity for any one agency operating in a specific jurisdiction, with regards to certifying a manufacturer."

In response to queries from *The CJN*, COR and MK issued a joint statement that said, in part, "The MK and COR work closely together and rely upon one another in a myriad of different settings."

Going back before the CFO's request for proposal two years ago, the Diena group conceived of a novel solution. It approached two First Nation's bands and discussed with each placing a plant on their land, thus bypassing provincial regulations but opening a constitutional and jurisdictional Pandora's box.

The Dienas backed off that proposal when a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture suggested working through existing channels. (The ministry did not respond to *CJN* questions prior to deadline.)

The Dienas then teamed with an organic chicken producer and looked to MK to provide kosher supervision. They considered going with COR, but "COR wanted a lot more money than MK," Diena said.

"We wanted COR to be part of it, but in the end our major hechsher [certification] would have been MK, with COR attached," he added.

Kraman thinks the group he assembled had the best bid: they had an existing plant lined up that was already in use to produce organic chickens (later he switched to a larger halal plant). In addition, Charles Weinberg, former owner of Chai Poultry, agreed to come on board as a consultant and the group had arranged $10 million in financing.

Kraman believes the bid failed for two reasons: the CFO board, which consists of people involved in the industry, was not keen to see a group get such a sizeable allotment at their expense. That created a disincentive for the CFO in awarding a new allotment, Kraman suggested.

And kashrut supervision "was the crux of the matter." ■

Next week: Are we getting any closer to Ontario-sourced kosher chickens?

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 3, 2016

Aharon Ariel Lavi creates Jewish intentional communities

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Aharon Ariel Lavi, who will be in Toronto on March 6 as part of the Limmud Toronto programing, is an Israeli "serial social entrepreneur" and an established community development professional, who believes that networks are the key to shaping the next generation of Jewish community life in Israel and the Diaspora. He is founder of Garin Shuva – a "Jewish eco-mission-driven community" on the Gaza border, upon which the organization Hakhel – Jewish Intentional Communities is based. He spoke to *The CJN* about the organization, which he sees as a new method for engaging millennials and young families in Jewish life.

When did the concept of Jewish intentional communities, or urban kibbutzim, start gaining ground?

About 25 years ago, this started from the kibbutzim who realized that the kibbutzim are not relevant anymore, so they started urban kibbutzim. They'd move into a neighbourhood, buy a whole street, or a few houses, and start a kibbutz, where, instead of doing farming and agriculture, they started doing education and social projects and stuff like that. Then came the religious Zionists, then came the Ethiopians… All kinds of sub-sectors of Israeli society started producing what we call "intentional communities," meaning these are not only communities that you live in and have your own happy life, but as a community, you also do something for its larger surrounding.

In Shuva, where I live, it is a village that has about 80 or 90 households. It's a small place. And our team of young people who moved in is not only helping the place demographically. We also started educational projects, formal education for the entire area. We started a new school, a new kindergarten. Other teams in other parts of the country have projects for anything from community gardens to employment to social businesses – it depends on the specific areas they are living in.

A Jewish intentional community has three components: group, life and mission. Group means that it has some sort of internal culture and discourse – like, you do holidays together, you learn together, you create social bonds that keep the group together.

Life means that this is a lifelong project. We deal with people who are older – in their 20s, early 30s – who have young families who are willing to settle down and do something for the long term.

The third component is mission, which is that the community as a group is doing something for the larger society. It can be education, welfare or social benefits.

There is a way of managing shared life and we know how to do it. Not 100 per cent. We're still people. There is a saying in Israel, in the professional community-building world, that the toughest part or the worst part about communities is the people. That's a big problem, dealing with human beings in a community.

Are there communities like these in Toronto or other big cities in North America?

I was living in New York City two years ago. I was there for one year as a fellow for the Tikvah Fund fellowship program. I had a conversation with a UJA federation head in New York and I was telling him about what we do in Israel, and he said, 'Why don't you write us a proposal and we'll see if we can do something like this in America?'

We just started Hakhel a couple of years ago, and we are basically inventing this concept of Jewish intentional community in America, so in the United States now, we have 10 communities officially in the program. There are a few more that are not officially in the program, so I would count 15. Those communities are in California, Colorado, New York City, Washington, D.C., etc.

Aharon Ariel Lavi

In Toronto, there are some early beginnings. There is a small interested group around the Kiever Shul downtown. There are a few things going on. There is a conversation about doing this in Canada, but we still haven't done it.

How can the Hakhel concept benefit North America Jewry?

The second most important thing in sustaining Jewish identity after a nuclear family, the thing that ties you to something bigger than yourself, to a nation, to a religion, to something that is beyond yourself, is your community.

The problem, as far as I see it in North America, is with the younger generation – I'm 33, I'm an older millennial. One of the things that characterizes millenials is that we don't buy into the traditional hierarchical structures for the most part. For the most part, millenials don't find themselves in those big synagogues with the president and a board and Jewish politics.

Those institutions were great in their time and for the Jewish people in the '50s, '60s, '70s, and after the '90s, but history moves on – it's not good or bad, it's just that things change. People change, culture changes, so here's the problem. If, on the one hand, we know that communities are one of the key components in keeping young Jews connected to their identity, to Jewish peoplehood and all that, but on the other hand, the existing communities don't resonate with them anymore, we need to come up with a sort of new model for the community that will resonate with millennials and young people.

Are Jewish intentional communities the answer to the issue of millennials being disconnected from traditional Jewish community life?

It's an answer. I wouldn't go so far to say that this is the answer, because I might have lots of enemies after saying that. But I think it is a key part of the answer. From the age of zero to 22, Jewish institutions have everything in place. They have Jewish kindergartens, day schools, Jewish organizations on campus, and Chabad houses.

There is an assumption that if you invest in a boy or girl from the age of zero to 22, hundreds of thousands of dollars per person, by the time they're 32, 10 years later, they'll get married and join the Jewish institutions, the shuls you have in place and that is it, problem solved. The problem is that it is not solved. There is a lost decade between 22 and 32 and they may not come back.

I don't see a huge wave of aliyah from North America in the foreseeable future. Jews in North America want to stay there for the moment. Anything can change at any moment, but as far as we can see, the vast majority of millions of Jews who live in Canada and the United States are going to stay there.

With this project, Hakhel, besides the benefit of having these communities in North America, which are great in and of themselves, there is an added value of connecting emerging Jewish community leaders in North America with emerging Jewish community leaders in Israel. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

The RRSP season is over!

Where did you put your contribution this year?
Are you still sitting on the sidelines, looking for the best time to go into the markets?
Or do you still believe that you can be "safe" in bonds and fixed interest?
To paraphrase Warren Buffet: *"Would you rather have a smooth 2% or a bumpy 8%?"*
To paraphrase Yogi Berra: *"If you don't know where you are going, you don't need a map."*
Can you get where you are going if you don't have a map, or even a destination?

Have you made your RRSP part of an overall Financial Plan?

Let us show you how creating a financial plan can help you achieve your financial dreams and goals and get you to your destination.

***"No one plans to fail, but many fail to plan!"* – Sonny Goldstein**

For a free consultation with no obligation, call (416) 221-0060

MUTUAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY GOLDSTEIN FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INC

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaldin
Executive Vice President

My three epiphanic inoculations

Backstory

ELI HONIG

I imagine that most people have some epiphanies during their lifetime wherein they gain insight into something that may have been illusive prior to their sudden realization of its truth, or even its existence. Perhaps it was a newfound understanding of a commonplace event. On occasion, it may even have had the effect of inoculating them against the malady of taking themselves too seriously. It may also have made them wary of cultural or religious distortions of various kinds.

The first epiphanic inoculation I can remember occurred in the 1950s when I was about 12 years old. I was an elementary school student at the Lubavitch Yeshiva on Park Avenue in Montreal. I must have been a very impressionable and naive kid, because the principal, Rabbi Feiglestock, called me into his office one day and said: "Eli. Don't be fooled by a beard and payes [side locks]."

It was remarkable. Here was a man with a long beard and long payes wrapped around his ears warning me not to be taken in by these trappings. He continued: "Everyone in Europe had a beard and payes. Even the *gonif* [thief]." And then he asked me: "Do you know what the *gonif* did?" I must have stood there amazed because I have no recollection of answering. "The *gonif* took his tallit and tfillin [phylacteries] to shul in the morning, after which he would go home and eat breakfast. Then he would ply his trade! Later in the day he would return to shul to daven Minchah and Ma'ariv [afternoon and evening prayers]. If there was still time in the evening, he would continue to ply his trade." And then Rabbi Feiglestock repeated to me: "Everyone in Europe had a beard and payes."

To this day, I don't know what I said or did that prompted him to protect a young boy against possible charlatans. Whatever it was, I am grateful for the warning not to be fooled by outer trappings. It was a profound lesson and a lifelong inoculation. More than 60 years later, I am still grateful for it.

My next epiphanic inoculation occurred a few years later when I was in Baron Byng High School, also in Montreal. In those days, the school was populated overwhelmingly by Jewish kids, reflecting the nature of the surrounding neighbourhood.

> *Here was a man with a long beard and long payes wrapped around his ears warning me not to be taken in by these trappings.*

One day, our teacher, Mr. Zweig, asked us a series of amusing questions. The question that stumped us completely was "What's a phoodnik?" When none of us could answer, he said: "A noodnik with a PhD."

Somehow this observation stuck with me, so that years later when I received my doctorate, I wasn't too impressed with it, or with me. As I matured, that episode served as a cautionary note that a title does not necessarily mean a person is a deserving human being. Indeed, of the 15 attendees of the Wannsee conference in 1942, where the Nazis' Final Solution was hammered out, eight had the title "Dr."

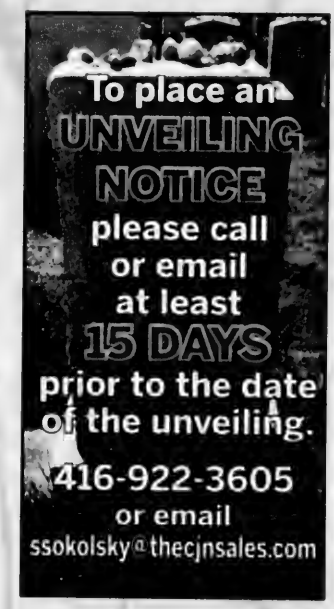
My third epiphanic inoculation took place many years later when I was reading a book about the Brzozow community, a small town in southeast Poland, where in their youth my parents and extended family lived. In this haunting book, I found the following anecdote that my late uncle, Isaac Roth, related. He had survived some 10 camps during the war, and he had a deep and lasting influence on me.

As a child, Isaac used to walk with his grandfather, Rabbi Shalom Gabel, the Rav of Brzowzow, to the "Klojze" [shul]. "The rabbi would start the prayers in his house and he would finish the silent prayer of *Shmoneh Esrei* before all the other worshippers. The grandson asked his grandfather the reason for conducting the prayers in such a hurry... His reply was, 'My dear child, the Jewish People need parnassah [to make a living] and we should not hold them back even for one unnecessary minute.'"

These words have resonated with me ever since I first came upon them. To be a recipient of such a sensitive inheritance is something that I will always cherish. ■

Eli Honig taught physics at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for 31 years, and for longer than that at the University of Toronto, where he continues to teach part time.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES



BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Samuel Luks	Feb 13/16	19 Lower Village Gate
Paul Steinberg	Feb 13/16	47 Aileen Road
Albert Batcher	Feb 13/16	11 Seinecliffe Road
Marvin Gloven	Feb 14/16	208 Roseborough Cres.
Noreen Rich	Feb 14/16	85 Skymark Drive
Pearl Brodie	Feb 15/16	6200 Bathurst Street
Judy Sarick	Feb 15/16	21 Shaftesbury Avenue
Ida Clarfield	Feb 16/16	11 Fernwood Road
Howard Katz	Feb 17/16	319 Flanagan Court
Eli Kedoury	Feb 8/16	Unknown
Meyer Pearl	Feb 17/16	2 Neptune Drive
Bernard Sherman	Feb 18/16	
Carmen Hamersfeld	Feb 18/16	65 Sheldrake Blvd.
Brenda Gale	Feb 19/16	365 Lonsdale Road
Stella Barkin	Feb 18/16	135 Keewatin Ave.
Sally Lax	Feb 20/16	1066 Avenue Road
Sena Farb	Feb 18/16	150 Dunn Ave.
Jack Cooper	Feb 17/16	9700 Bathurst Street
Barbara Verbian	Feb 19/16	250 Roehampton Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Sussman, Jack Louie	Feb. 9, 2016	IM Mittelweg 57A
Seltzer Clement, Sofie	Feb. 17, 2016	170 Red Maple Rd
Gwosdy, Doreen	Feb. 17, 2016	90 Fisherville Rd
Flynn, Thomas	Feb. 17, 2016	360 Ridelle Ave
Erman, Robert Leon	Feb. 17, 2016	Private
Zoberman, Rachel Golda	Feb. 18, 2016	32 Sultana Ave
Hamer, Harold Alec	Feb. 18, 2016	27 North Moore St
Saul, Gary	Feb. 19, 2016	121 Vaughan Blvd
Brody, Barbara	Feb. 19, 2016	111 Avenue Rd
Tokman, Yury	Feb. 21, 2016	Private
Lieberowitz, Murray Ronald	Feb. 21, 2016	1925 Steeles Ave E
Weinberg, Alexander	Feb. 21, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Plax, Sofia	Feb. 21, 2016	5430 Yonge St
Benay, Elias	Feb. 23, 2016	2067 Lakeshore Blvd W
Moscoe, Sydney	Feb. 23, 2016	69 Green Bush Cres
Klein, Larry	Feb. 23, 2016	43 Cavotti Cres
Classic, Sylvia	Feb. 24, 2016	8 Covington Rd

VINE AWARDS

for CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is proud to announce the VINE AWARDS FOR CANADIAN JEWISH LITERATURE, a significant new literary prize in Canada made possible by the Lillian and Norman Glowinsky Family Foundation.

The Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards – administrated for over twenty years by the Koffler Centre of the Arts – has been relaunched as the prestigious Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature.

The newly branded prize will honour the best Jewish Canadian writing in five categories, each with a prize of $10,000: Fiction, Non-Fiction, History, Young Adult/Children's Literature and Poetry. Submission deadline: June 3, 2016.

The Vine Awards for Canadian Jewish Literature is made possible by a generous donation from the Lillian and Norman Glowinsky Family Foundation to support Canadian Jewish literature, a tradition they established with the original awards in 2004, building on the founding of the Canadian Jewish Book Awards in 1988 by Adam Fuerstenberg. The Vine Awards are a loving tribute to Lillian's parents – Helen and Stan Vine – who were passionate about the arts and the Jewish community throughout their lives.

Full details, submission requirements and entry form: **www.koffleratts.org/vineawards**

Vine Awards Media Partner

NATIONAL POST

Koffler Centre of the Arts Institutional Supporters

KOFFLER FAMILY FOUNDATION

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

CBC Wood Gundy

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada

koffler

ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE | 180 SHAW STREET, SUITE 104 - 105, TORONTO
647.925.0643 | INFO@KOFFLERARTS.ORG | KOFFLERARTS.ORG

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MARCH 10, 2016 • 30 ADAR I, 5776

$2.00 • 52 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Physician-assisted dying meets with mixed reviews

End-of-life policy raises concerns about safeguards, but also gains support. **PAGE 12**

The kosher chicken quagmire continues

Is an industry association that administers quotas holding up the process? **PAGE 15**

Parashat

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	5:57 p.m.	7:01 p.m.
Montreal	5:37 p.m.	6:41 p.m.
Ottawa	5:46 p.m.	6:50 p.m.
Toronto	6:01 p.m.	7:04 p.m.
Winnipeg	6:10 p.m.	7:18 p.m.
Calgary	6:17 p.m.	7:27 p.m.
Vancouver	5:54 p.m.	7:02 p.m.

How to stop abuse at school

In the wake of new charges and allegations, what should the community do? **PAGE 8**

New support group takes a step forward

Ex-Chassid Abby Stein discusses gender identity and how to help those who leave the fold. **PAGE 18**

Shmuley Boteach's divine intervention

Q&A Celebrity rabbi takes a Jewish approach to counselling on his new reality show. **PAGE 50**

Zach Hyman gets his shot

CHAT graduate makes his NHL debut and earns praise from Maple Leafs coach. **PAGE 39**

RSC ROALD DAHL Matilda THE MUSICAL BEGINS JULY 5
416.872.1212 mirvish.com

Jacob sheep set to make aliyah, and are the flu's days numbered?

Rare breed heading to Golan

An Israeli couple living in Abbotsford, B.C., are hoping to return a rare breed of sheep to Israel that the patriarch Jacob is believed to have raised, but is now extinct in the Holy Land. Jenna and Gil Lewinsky, both 31, are raising a flock of 130 Jacob sheep and want to bring them to the Golan. Red tape had held up the process, which began last year, because Canada wasn't on the Israeli Agricultural Ministry's list of approved sheep importers. The couple – she a former Israeli bureaucrat and he an ex-journalist – asked the Israeli Embassy to intervene. Ambassador Rafael Barak got involved, and the ministry contacted its Canadian counterpart last week to hasten the sheep aliyah. The flock is expected to reach Israel this year.

The Israeli Embassy agreed it wasn't a baaaaad idea to help rams like this make aliyah.

Israeli firm patents universal flu vaccine

Is the flu about to be wiped out once and for all? Ron Babecoff, CEO and founder of the Israeli firm BiondVax, which has patented a vaccine with potential to fight every strain of flu – including deadly ones like bird and swine flu – thinks so. The company, based in Weizmann Science Park in Ness Ziona, is in late Phase 2 clinical trials and recently announced that Israel's National Authority for Technological Innovation will fund up to 40 per cent of the $920,000 (US) needed for ongoing development of the vaccine. The research is being led by former Weizmann Institute scientist Tamar Ben-Yedidia.

Holy Land transgender beauty pageant

Israel will soon be holding its first beauty pageant for transgender women. Nearly 30 transgender Jews and Arabs auditioned March 3 at a Tel Aviv club for a place in the Miss Trans Israel contest. "Definitely we are achieving, enlightening the people to accept and empower transsexuals," pageant organizer Israela Stephanie Lev told the *Associated Press*. Finalists will compete at a pageant in May, and the winner will represent Israel at the Miss Trans Star International pageant in Spain in August. Elian Nesiel, a 20-year-old contestant, said she believes that being transgender is "gradually accepted more and more... it's a process, like everything." ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	36	Parshah	48
Perspectives	7	News	12	Social Scene	44	Q&A	50
Cover Story	8	International	26	What's New	46	Backstory	51

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

6,000

The number of Bob Dylan artifacts in an archive purchased for the University of Tulsa. It includes handwritten lyrics and Dylan's first music contract.

$2 million

The value, of the 2016 Templeton Prize, awarded to former British chief rabbi Jonathan Sacks for his "exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension."

Quotable

Being of Korean origin, I can understand what it's like to be surrounded by hostile neighbours.

— PhD student Tina Jiwon Park, after her visit to Israel on a CIJA mission. See p. 16.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Should Jewish donors pull funding from universities with high levels of anti-Zionist activity? A *CJN* Symposium.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

מצבת הנצח

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

• Monuments Available With A Vase
• Cemetery Lettering and Restoration

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Debating Noa

I learned that JNF Canada cancelled its support of an Israel Independence Day event because Achinoam Nini (Noa) was invited to perform at the event. ("Embassy to support Noa concert after JNF pulls support," March 3). I have no doubt that Nini is one of Israel's best singers, and I very much enjoy her concerts and her singing.

This event is different. Nini herself boycotted an event at which right-wing singer Ariel Zilber received an award for his lifetime work and also requested that her membership in the Israeli Union of Performing Artists be cancelled.

Personally, I am against boycotts in general and prefer to relate to every topic on its own merits. However, I must respond to Nini's boycott of Zilber.

It is important to note that I do not agree with many of Zilber's statements, some of which are reprehensible. At the same time, Nini's extremist statements are no less outrageous, and some are even more so! Even so, I am ready to fight in favour of their right to express them – yes, both of them.

In my opinion, by her behaviour, Nini delegitimizes herself as a performer at events whose goal is to connect the People of Israel to the State of Israel.

I believe that every person and every opinion should be respected, and that political opinions should not be mixed with art, something Nini has yet to learn.

We must all oppose boycotts and threats, from both right and left, and we must continue to further KKL-JNF's original goals, which are to act on behalf of the unity of the Jewish People and the awareness that the Zionist ideal is our banner, and that all of us should aspire to peace, brotherhood and unity.

Hernan Felman, KKL-JNF deputy chairman
Israel

The readiness of the Israeli Embassy to step forward and sponsor Vancouver's Yom Ha'atzmaut concert after the abrupt withdrawal of JNF over the participation of singer Achinoam Nini illustrates an enduring distinction in Israel-Diaspora relations.

The tolerance of diverse opinions about complex issues affecting the Jewish state tends to be greater in Israel than among many major Diaspora communities. Nini's views certainly rest on the far left end of Israel's political spectrum. But whereas the JNF and its local *machers* in Vancouver denounce such views as supportive of efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state, Noa's supporters in Israel recognize them as reflective of the acceptable current debate among Israelis about their country's future.

David H. Goldberg
Toronto

Liberal party's new path

As Canadian Jewry wonders how different Canada's approach to Israel will be now that the Liberal party has replaced Stephen Harper's Conservatives, a good indicator of that is the anti-BDS motion brought by the Tories. ("Anti-BDS motion supported by Liberal, Tory MPs," Feb. 25).

Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion reluctantly supported the motion, and it is worth noting that the leader of the NDP and his caucus voted against the motion. It is clear that the Liberals have a long way to go in achieving the degree of support for Israel that was demonstrated by the Conservatives.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

Secular Jews

Religious practice, the most overt marker of our identity, helps keep religious Jews together. But nothing can be done for other Jews, according to letter writer Jerry Paskowitz (Feb. 25), who believes that those who "abandon" the "primary tenets of our religion" cannot remain Jewish.

The word "abandon" suggests that being secular instead of religious is a choice. It is not. I am secular because I am unable to believe, not because I choose not to.

I am sure that with or without secular Jews, the Jewish People will survive. But without secular Jews, it will live on as the relic of some quaint ancient religion, like Yazidis, Zoroastrians or Taoists. Fortunately, it won't happen, because secular Jews identify as Jews, and need no one's blessing to call themselves that. I am a Jew. To the core. It may be hard to explain, but there it is.

Isaac Alalouf
Montreal

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

LET THIS BE...
YOUR YEAR!
Live Life to the Fullest at Four Elms!

THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO
Wednesday, March 30th , 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Enjoy a one-of-a-kind hour! A wonderfully interactive and entertaining afternoon featuring audio clips from many of the great and beloved radio shows of the 1930's, the 40's and 50's. Please RSVP

905-738-0905 1500 STEELES AVE. WEST THORNHILL ON www.verveseniorliving.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to keep costs down."

The expense of a funeral wasn't something we had anticipated. So when we needed to plan a service, we went to Hebrew Basic Burial. They took care of everything, giving us a Jewish graveside service that was the lowest cost in the city.*

* as per current costs in the GTA

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Tolerating differences among Jews

Rabbis must address the denigration of other forms of Judaism and speak up against intra-Jewish disparagement whenever they hear it

RABBI N. DANIEL KOROBKIN
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI LISA GRUSHCOW
TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Grushcow: I've just returned from England, where I had the pleasure of being the scholar-in-residence at a leading Reform synagogue.

My hosts, lay leaders in the synagogue, are very involved with progressive Judaism in Europe and worldwide. One of the topics of our conversation was the negativity expressed by more traditional Jews against more liberal ones. This is expressed in a wide range of contexts – anything from Orthodox rabbis refusing to stand beside non-Orthodox rabbis at official events to court battles to keep progressive synagogues from state recognition (which is very important in Europe), to disparaging remarks made at dinner parties.

Here is my question, posed with respect: why does it seem to be so difficult for those in the traditional camp to understand different ways of being Jewish? And why does it so often feel like open season on liberal Jews, even from those whose affiliation may be Orthodox, but whose practice is anything but?

My own feeling is that if someone is Jewishly connected, that's a positive for the Jewish People as a whole. If there were only one form of Judaism – yours or mine – there are many people who would fall away from Jewish life entirely. For that reason, among others, I am adamant about not speaking badly about other denominations, and I don't tolerate negative remarks against other Jews, but I'm not sure that practice is shared.

Rabbi Korobkin: It's important to distinguish between two things that you've conflated. One is the unwillingness of some Orthodox rabbis to work with Reform rabbis on an institutional level. The other is interaction and acceptance of individual Jews as kinfolk between the Reform and Orthodox communities.

Do haters and xenophobes exist? Of course. If you're looking for them, they can be found in both "camps." But by and large, I have not encountered the insults and disparagements of Reform Jews that you speak of within the Orthodox world. If anything, there is a desire among most Orthodox Jews who seek to engage those outside their immediate community and to be genuinely tolerant of others' expressions of Judaism while at the same time not shying away from their own pride in their Orthodoxy.

When it comes to institutional recognition of Reform Judaism – not Jews – that is a different kettle of fish. Some rabbis fear that giving recognition to Reform clergy also lends credence to their religious and/or theological positions, including Reform's attitude to Halachah, which is untenable for Orthodoxy.

But I have rarely, if ever, heard an Orthodox rabbi insulting Reform Judaism from the pulpit. For most Orthodox rabbis, that battle was fought long ago – it's water under the bridge.

Rabbi Grushcow: I find your response heartening, but I'm not entirely sure how to square it with the insults lobbed against Reform Jews that we hear from Israeli Orthodoxy on a regular basis. Perhaps this is simply a product of what happens when religion gets mixed with politics.

But I wonder: do Orthodox rabbis address the bad-mouthing of non-Orthodox Jews that goes on among congregants? I know it's not a one-way street, but I also know that I consistently try to speak up against any intra-Jewish disparagement when I hear it. I'm fortunate to have good colleagues across denominations here in Montreal, and I'm confident we stand up for each other. But how might we better address the denigration of other forms of Judaism that goes on outside the walls of the synagogue?

Rabbi Korobkin: True, there's always the occasional quote from a religious political figure in Israel bashing Reform Judaism. It makes for a titillating headline, but I just shake my head in dismay. Any invective among Jews is counterproductive, to say the least, and is reflective of the disunity that has prevented our redemption to date.

But in the end, I would offer you the same fatherly advice that I offer anyone facing bullies: don't let the bully's intimidation daunt you or diminish your efforts. Instead of insulting back, prove the bullies wrong. Show the naysayers that your Judaism is sincere, holy, consistent and fully committed. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 10 (2,236)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933 E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

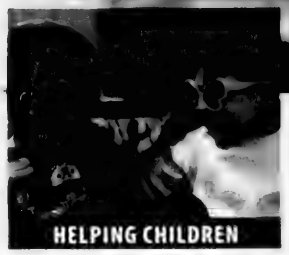
The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)

Giving Hope
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

When you give to Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) you're funding life-changing programs that help thousands of children, women, and families grow and thrive. Together we can build a better future for those who depend on us in Israel and Canada.

With your help,
CHW is Giving Hope and Creating Opportunities.
Make a gift today.



HELPING CHILDREN

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

SUPPORTING WOMEN

DAYCARES
Provide a safe-haven during the day for a child of working parents. Children receive nutritious hot meals and snacks ensuring they can focus on learning, playing and growing.

YOUTH CLUBS
Create a secure space for children to hang out and have fun, while their parents are at work. Children enjoy recreational activities with their friends as well as receive tutoring and a wholesome meal.

HOSPITALS
Help heal a patient who has experienced a stroke. Patients have immediate access to life-saving surgery and a chance for full recovery.

SCHOOLS
Give a student the opportunity to prepare for a bright future. CHW schools offer each child a range of educational programs and services designed to meet their specific needs.

SAVE LIVES
Hadassah Hospital and Assah Harofeh Medical Centre provide life-saving treatment that can mean the difference between life and death for victims of terrorism

PARENTAL HOTLINE
Support a single mother who is concerned about her child. Aspects of trained volunteer will offer her a listening ear, support and direction, ensuring that both she and her child thrive.

SUMMER CAMPS
Send a Canadian child to a Jewish summer camp. Open up a world of opportunity as they explore their Jewish roots, make friends, participate in outdoor activities, and discover their hidden talents.

RESOURCES
Provide our healthcare teams with the modern tools needed to perform today's complex surgeries so that patients facing urgent care are never turned away.

WOMEN & COMMUNITY CENTRES
Support a woman who is struggling day-to-day to feed her children. She receives guidance and tools to thrive, empowering her and her family.

YOUR DONATION ENSURES THAT NEEDS ARE BEING MET

$100 Protects a child at risk at one of our Daycares, Schools, or Youth Clubs

$250 Helps heal a patient who has experienced a stroke at Assaf Harofeh Medical Center or Hadassah Hospital.

$500 Supports a woman who is struggling day-to-day to feed her children.

$1000+ Leads the way and provides significant support in helping Children, improving Healthcare, and supporting Women.

TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE

CHW TORONTO CENTRE

416.630.8373

info@toronto.chw.ca

www.chw.ca/toronto

www.facebook.com/CanadianHadassahWIZO

CHW passionately supports programs and services for **Children, Healthcare**, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Digital Partner CIBC Wood Gundy | The Ansky-Coulson Group

CHW Children Healthcare Women

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Editor Yoni Goldstein **General Manager** Tara Fainstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus, George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Camp Naivelt

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

In 1936, the Labour League (later the United Jewish People's Order) bought Eldorado Park near Brampton, Ont., from the Canadian National Railway to establish Camp Naivelt. It functioned as a camp for children and families and ran a teacher training facility. Pictured are Wolf (centre, standing) and Chana (centre seated with glasses) Berger, the parents of the donor who helped to buy the land.

SeeJN | Rabbi receives a papal blessing

TOM SANDLER PHOTO

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, bestowed a rare papal blessing on Rabbi Erwin Schild and his wife Laura in honour of their 70th wedding anniversary at Adath Israel Congregation on March 6 in Toronto.

From Yoni's Desk

My three shuls

For years now, synagogues have struggled with the most basic of questions: how to get people – especially younger ones and those with growing families – to show up. Across North America, shul membership numbers are in near-continuous decline, and even with rabbis and lay leaders trying just about everything they can to bring new people in, or former attendees back, nothing seems to be working. The fact is, more and more Jews can't find a shul to call home.

Which makes it odd, perhaps, that I call not one, but three synagogues home.

The first is the shul of my youth, where I grew up, made friends for life and learned valuable lessons about shared responsibility. It hasn't had an official rabbi for decades now, and virtually all of the work it takes to keep a mid-sized minyan running – from leading prayers and learning programs, to managing finances, to preparing the weekly newsletter, to organizing the kiddush – is done on a rotating, volunteer basis. A lot of things about my childhood shul have changed over the years, but that central ethos hasn't, and when I show up once every five or six weeks on a Shabbat morning, I can't help but marvel at the collective spirit that still permeates the place.

The second is the shul of my present, a large synagogue with a team of rabbis on staff, a solid kiddush and a well-stocked daycare (which is where, if we're being honest, I spend almost the entire service). Put it all together, and the sheer scope of programs and facilities ensures that my kids are routinely both asleep five minutes into the walk home. There are other shuls within closer walking distance, but none offer such a robust, reliable synagogue experience for my family and me, and so, even in the dead of winter, I still prefer the 35-minute walk (with a double stroller) to more local options. The destination makes it all worth it.

The third is the shul of my future, a modern, mostly young community of like-minded people trying to break barriers by combining an egalitarian spirit with the traditional Orthodox prayer service. It meets only once a month – for now, at least – in the common room of a condominium tower, and if 50 people show up, that's a success. But just about everyone who davens there feels like they are building something, and many of them are discovering a shul they can be comfortable in for the first time. The question is whether this fledgling group will ever be able to take the next step and become a fully formed synagogue-community. It's not a given, especially in this age, but they're doing their best to make it happen, and that's a win in and of itself.

I guess I'm lucky to feel comfortable in three different synagogues. I certainly recognize that my experience is the exception rather than the rule. But if my three shuls offer a unifying lesson, it's that there are an abundance of synagogue options out there. And it's a real shame that so many people are unable to find even one they can honestly call home. ■ — YONI

OBITUARY

Woman of valour will be sorely missed by all

Victor Goldberg

Since her passing on Feb. 15, many glowing and well-deserved tributes have been written and spoken about the remarkable life and achievements of Constance Glube, better known to her friends as "Connie." This outstanding woman was a trailblazer who, notwithstanding her gender and ethnicity, rose through the legal ranks, shattered the glass ceiling and ultimately was appointed chief justice of Nova Scotia. While our professional paths frequently crossed during her time on the bench, my most precious memories stem from the other areas where our lives intersected.

Originally from Ottawa, she married into the Glube family of Halifax. The Glubes had a very close and long-standing relationship with the Goldberg family. Both were founding members of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue and very active in all aspects of the Jewish community, not least of which was an abiding love of and support for Israel. Connie had a staunch commitment to the egalitarianism of the Shaar Shalom congregation and regularly attended and participated in Shabbat services, always sitting in the same spot and next to the same people.

In the mid-'90s, my wife and I had the pleasure of participating with the Glubes in an Atlantic Canadian mission to Prague and Israel. During our visit to Jerusalem, we had a tour of the Supreme Court followed by a private meeting with one of the court's female jurists. I vividly recall Connie's joy and pride bearing firsthand witness to the deep and abiding commitment of the Jewish state to the rule of law and importance of the judiciary as a bulwark of democracy.

While Connie's late husband, Dick, was an avid sailor who once sailed a yacht across the Atlantic Ocean, she was a keen bridge player, a hobby and passion that we shared. Connie approached the game as she did all other aspects of her life. She combined exceptional ability and competitive zeal with a pleasant and unflappable demeanour and achieved great success at all levels of tournament competition. Although her ability to dedicate time to the game took a backseat to her career, she resumed competitive bridge after retirement without losing any of her mental acuity or love of the game.

Constance 'Connie' Glube was a trailblazer and a true mensch.

Deeply committed to her community, religion and the administration of justice, Connie was above all a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She took great pride in all of her family's many accomplishments and was a steadfast rock and support in times of adversity. She believed in the importance of giving back, both in terms of time and resources.

From 2007 to 2009 she was chair of the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Foundation, which is the fundraising wing of the main hospital network in Halifax, and helped recruit me to the board, where I had the pleasure of serving with her for some years. She was a significant contributor to the UJA campaign and any number of other causes. Her philanthropy epitomized the way she lived – generosity at a leadership level without pretension. To canvass her was a delight. She would thank me for taking the time to solicit for such a worthy cause. She had no air of self-importance and made it clear that it was the cause that was important.

Needless to say, Connie's view of justice transcended the practice and dispensing of the law. She held a steadfast belief in the importance of human dignity and the protection of basic rights. When the Asper family approached people from across the country to support their vision of building a Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, it was Connie who helped solicit donations in Nova Scotia and became a founding member of the Human Rights Museum board.

Notwithstanding all of her achievements and awards, she was always approachable, honest, respectful, funny and, above all, a loyal and caring friend. Her husband enjoyed working with friends on building and maintaining miniature but working trains, one of which was kept in their home. Even though he had passed away almost 20 years ago, Connie continued to entertain his surviving "railroaders" on a weekly basis, and always left them cookies and cakes to enjoy during their working visits to her home. Such was the nature of this extraordinary human being whose real legacy may be how one can achieve great professional success while at the same time balancing career with family, friends, leisure activities and community involvement.

Who was this woman of valour whose many accomplishments were due to intelligence, ambition and hard work but always tempered with even-handedness and humility? Connie can best be described by drawing on expressions from her twin passions of bridge and Judaism. She was a true "life master" and "mensch," and she will be sorely missed by all. ■

Victor Goldberg is a lawyer in Halifax. He is a past chair of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

...From one Fine Home to Another

Re-decorating, Moving, Re-organizing?

...of Things Past provides private in-home consultation for all your consignment needs. With over 20 years of experience, a team of experts and 3 locations including our flagship 22,000 sq. ft. showroom, we are the premier choice in the market.

Call us today to book an appointment.

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

185 Bridgeland Ave • Toronto • 416 256 9256

How to respond to abuse in Jewish schools

Criminologist **GUILA BENCHIMOL** explains what the community and its institutions must do in the wake of recent charges and allegations

In the last few weeks, two men currently and formerly living in Toronto's Jewish community have been arrested and charged with crimes of a sexual nature.

Stephen Joseph Schacter, who taught at Eitz Chaim Schools between 1986 and 2004 as well as at United Synagogue Day School (now Robbins Hebrew Academy) from 2004 to 2006, was charged with one count of gross indecency, one count of sexual interference, one count of sexual exploitation and two counts of sexual assault. This follows upon his arrest in December 2015, when he was charged with possession of child pornography.

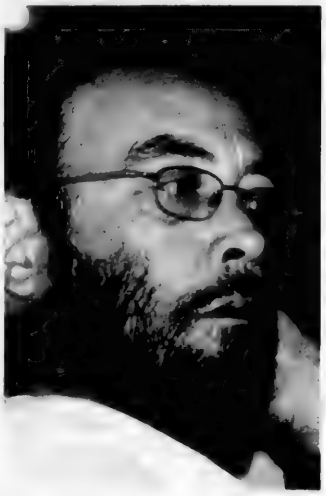
Meanwhile, David Prashker, the former director of Leo Baeck School, was arrested in California in February and charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. In 2008, Prashker resigned from Leo Baeck after it was discovered that he had authored violent and sexually explicit poetry and posted it online.

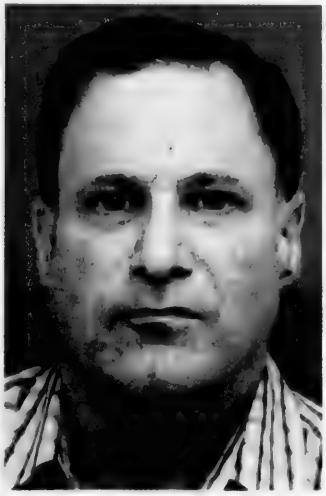
These two individuals have worked with minors in the Jewish community. And yet, there has not been a community-wide response to these charges and allegations thus far.

I would like to propose some suggestions as to how our community and the heads of its institutions can respond when sexual abuse is uncovered, as well as offer measures we can take to prevent abuse. These suggestions go hand-in-hand with supporting the reporting of abuse to police and co-operating fully with all investigations. (Full disclosure: three weeks ago I was hired, along with my colleague Dr. Shira Berkovits, by Eitz Chaim Schools as an independent consultant to assess its current child protection and safety policies. We will be making recommendations and assisting in their implementation.)

The first step is admitting that abuse occurs in our communities, institutions and schools and that it is sometimes committed by those we trust – our teachers and our leaders.

The next step is for each and every institution to ensure that they know and fulfil their legal and moral obligations regarding disclosures about abuse, and that they embrace both accountability and transparency. These values should be the foundation for the community safety and protection policies each institution should develop and implement, followed by the training of those who work within their walls. Institutions should not wait until abuse has occurred for this step to be implemented, but should instead take more proactive steps to protect those they serve.





David Prashker, left, has been charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. Stephen Joseph Schacter faces charges of sexual assault and possession of child pornography.

For example, aside from assessing the physical environment of each building and ensuring that appropriate hiring and screening practices are used, they should have policies that encompass the following areas: behavioural guidelines for students and staff and the implementation of reporting, investigation and intervention protocols for when abuse arises. Guidelines for how to address historic cases of sexual abuse should be established as well because this is the specific area where the Jewish community is failing.

On their own, however, new policies are not sufficient. They need to be developed with an understanding of the ways in which the culture and structure of our community organizations, institutions and norms have allowed abuse to occur and persist.

When abuse arises, instead of ignoring this information or even attempting to cover it up, heads of institutions should come out strongly against the perpetrator and in support of the victims. Rather than think about their institution's reputation or about corporate values, such as how it will be affected financially if the abuse becomes public knowledge, leaders and board members should acknowledge the abuse and take appropriate action. Failing to do so can undermine their reputation and the values they claim to stand for, as well as erode public trust and respect.

Additionally, a meaningful apology, prayer service or restorative justice meeting with victims can be offered, as can paying for therapy for those who have been impacted by the abuse. These gestures would demonstrate that we practice what we preach when it comes to tshuvah, repentance, and that our sincere desire is to make amends.

Finally, since abuse is about more than just the perpetrator and victims, the entire community must be engaged in change. We need to empower people to ask questions and intervene when they see something amiss as well as educate them about having empathy for the victims. Unfortunately, empathy is often misguidedly gifted to perpetrators in these cases because of our relationships with them and because we often do not know who the victims are, making it difficult for us to identify with them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

ISRAEL DELUXE JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR
Guaranteed Departure: 27 Oct.—8 Nov. 2016
See Tel Aviv/Jaffa, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Dead Sea, Masada, Caesarea, Mitzpe Ramon & Eilat!
Land tour based on a minimum of 12 people.

13 NTS at 5 star deluxe hotels
Daily breakfast, 2 lunches & 5 dinners
English speaking tour guide throughout
Luxury air conditioned vehicle
One way economy flight Eilat-Tel Aviv
Airport transfers & entrance fees per program

13 NTS

aufgang travel
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729
Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com

7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON L4J 3A4, ON Reg # 50012754

ISRAEL CONNECT
1-855-810-5805
info@555mobility.com
www.israelconnect.net

GET 1ST DAY FREE with an Aufgang Travel booking.

FABRICLAND

Franz & Rosamunde
Duvet Cover Sets
Queen & King. Our Reg. $229.98 & $259.98 set
Coordinating Panels, 96"X96". Our Reg. $199.98 pkg. also available.
50% off our reg. price

Franz

Rosamunde

Manufacturer's Clearout of DRAPERY PANELS

Assorted designs & lengths.
Individually priced.
50% off our reg. price

Signature Styles™
Decorative Tension Rods
Only $29.99 ea.
Coordinating Decorative Hooks also available.

Entire Regular Stock! *Creations*™ Bead Trims

Assorted styles, individually priced.
50% off our reg. price

Sensational Savings!

save up to **50% off** our reg. prices on selected merchandise

Unless otherwise specified, there is no discount on Signature Styles™, special purchase or promotional merchandise.

Sale in effect until March 29, 2016, on selected in-stock merchandise. Selection may vary. See flyer for details.

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus)
NOW OPEN! Fabricland in RioCan Marketplace - 2181 Steeles W. (W. of Dufferin, E. of Alness)
OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU. www.fabricland.ca

Mishkan Avraham

Avrum Rosensweig

Sometimes a new phenomenon occurs in people's lives after they lose someone. They start going to shul.

This phenomenon can be dramatic, since a mourner finds himself attending synagogue twice a day – in the morning for Shacharit, and in the afternoon/evening for Minchah/Ma'ariv – and it's even more dramatic for those davening from the *amud*, or lectern, leading the prayer services.

Ask anyone who has gone through this spiritual metamorphosis what it's like, and frequently you'll hear, "It's not easy," or, from those in the GTA, "I often find myself speeding across the 407 to take in a late Minchah and to catch a *Kaddish*."

You might hear from a mourner that he davens Minchah at Zeifman's Accounting Firm on Bridgeland Avenue at 2 p.m. every day, or Ma'ariv at 10 p.m. at the Boat Shul, an ultra-Orthodox synagogue housed in an old boat store near Lawrence Avenue and Bathurst Street in Toronto.

I am one of these individuals.

Prior to my mom's passing on Dec. 8, I went to shul sparingly. Like many, my son and I tried different synagogues. However, we were spiritually fidgety – or perhaps I was. I couldn't relax, daven or simply be in the moment. Shul was a struggle. I couldn't find my way.

There were, however, a couple of shuls I grew very fond of even before my mom's passing (which helped with the transition), including Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. It is a unique environment, a true village. I have been saying *Kaddish* for my father on his yahrzeit there for 25 years. I believe Beth David, a Conservative shul, is so inclusive because of its leadership, starting with Rabbi Philip Scheim. Since my mother's passing, it is my weekday shul of choice.

Another shul I quite enjoy – my every-second-weekend shul – is Mishkan Avraham, a beautiful shtibl housed in the Ulpanat Orot School for girls on Canyon Avenue near Shepherd and Bathurst. The shul has been around for more than four decades. It is Orthodox, with participation from almost every male congregant.

> *My son and I tried different synagogues. However, we were spiritually fidgety*

Zev Kaufman is its co-ordinator extraordinaire (he is also seeded number 60 in the world in Scrabble). He runs a tight ship. Zev has a tremendous knowledge of those in the room able to lead the various services, others who can layn (read the Torah) and individuals who are quite adept at presenting compelling divrei Torah (words of Torah).

Recently the Aron Kodesh (the Holy Ark where the Torah scrolls are kept) was renovated. It's gorgeous, as the wall around the actual Ark is made of Jerusalem stone and the Ark itself is a woody chestnut brown and designed in layers.

Mishkan Avraham has a minyan on Friday night, Shabbat morning and Shabbat afternoon. Frequently, there will be a traditional kiddush with cholent, herring, *eyer kichlach* – all the foods a cardiologist would suggest for a healthy heart. The real story of Mishkan Avraham, however, is its rich and lengthy history and the fine, learned men and women who daven there.

My son and I feel at home at Mishkan Avraham. We are proud it is one of our spiritual homes while we go through this new phenomenon and memorialize my mother through *Kaddish* and prayer. If you're looking for a shul in Toronto, perhaps because you have lost a loved one, drop by Mishkan Avraham. Give it a spiritual try.

It is a hidden treasure amongst the plethora of shuls/synagogues/temples in our fair town. ■

Longing, I sought thy presence;
Lord, with my whole heart
did I call and pray.
And going out toward Thee,
I found Thee coming to me on my way.
- Yehuda Halevi

The challenge of being a rabbi in the 21st century

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

What do you do at your new job? I have been asked this multiple times since moving to New York. The curiosity is quite understandable. What rabbis do is always a bit mysterious, so much so, that a favourite rabbinic joke is the story of the student who is thinking of becoming a rabbi and asks to meet his rabbi to ask a few questions. When the meeting starts, the young man turns to the rabbi and asks: "Rabbi, I know you give a sermon for 15 minutes every Shabbat morning. But what do you do the rest of the week?" The rabbi immediately retorted: "Young man, with questions like that, you don't want to be a rabbi. You want to be a synagogue president!"

What fills a rabbi's schedule is a grab bag of responsibilities far from the public eye.

But all joking aside, there is one question I've started to think about again since I've started my new job: what is a rabbi's mission?

One answer, attributed to Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, is that a rabbi is supposed to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." I was disappointed to learn that the quote is actually from the film *Inherit the Wind*, but whatever the source, there is great wisdom to the quote, and it describes the mission of a rabbi perfectly.

A colleague once pointed out a similar pattern in prophetic literature.

Before any catastrophe, the prophets would rebuke, warning the people to change their ways. But afterward, when the people were exiled and hurt, the prophets would offer comfort and hope. The prophet's job was to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, and this is the mission of the rabbi as well.

But this mission is paradoxical: how can prophets and rabbis do two opposite things at the same time? One way to decipher this paradox is to recognize that parents are also called on to do two opposite things at the same time.

In their research on parenting, John Martin and Eleanor Maccoby noted that there are two elements to parenting styles: how demanding the parent is and how responsive the parent is. Permissive parents are responsive, but not demanding, while authoritarian parents are demanding but not responsive. But the ideal parent is authoritative, both responsive and demanding, and someone who knows how to comfort an afflicted child while at the same able to afflict the comfortable child and lead him or her to excellence.

The job of a parent and a prophet are pretty much the same: they lead their charges to excellence through a combination of demandingness, compassion and inspiration.

But we live in an age when the thought of demanding anything is foreign. It is difficult to speak about standards, as most people prefer to indulge and be indulged. The question for the modern rabbi is this: can you afflict the comfortable?

Even 2,000 years ago, the rabbis of the Talmud noted that "no one can rebuke, and no one can accept rebuke," and since then, afflicting the comfortable has gotten far less popular.

In 1902, William James noted: "We have now whole congregations whose preachers, far from magnifying our consciousness of sin, seem devoted rather to making little of it." Whatever the merits of what James calls the religion of the "healthy-minded", it is clear that an undemanding Judaism ceases to inspire, and at times ceases to be authentic.

As Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik points out, "Kedushah [sanctity] is not a paradise, but a paradox." Without the demands and challenges of kedushah, Judaism dissolves into a meaningless mush of nostalgia, a cultural artifact ready to be forgotten in the attic.

So we must move beyond comfort in our search for the spiritual. But as I run out of space, I must leave you with a simple question: how do we do this in the 21st century? ■

Israel must integrate its Arab citizens

Rabbi Dow Marmur

One of the many debates in contemporary Israel is whether it's to be a Jewish state or a state for all its citizens. Those who advocate the former usually want Israel to be Jewish according to Halachah, Jewish law as understood by Orthodoxy, to which non-Orthodox Jews and non-Jews must accommodate themselves.

The advocates of a state for all its citizens want Israel to be a western democracy in which religion and state are totally separate.

A broader and arguably more accurate understanding is to regard Israel as Jewish if it lives up to the teachings and values of Judaism such as justice and equality tolerantly applied to all who live there, irrespective of ethnic origin or religious affiliation.

Having been history's perennial "slaves in the land of Egypt," Jews should be sensitive to minorities in their midst. This means, of course, not only accepting different ways of being Jewish, but also treating non-Jews as equals.

Though Israel is taking small steps towards accepting all Jews – the decision to open a parallel egalitarian section at the Western Wall may be seen as yet another sign – some 20 per cent of its citizens, the Arabs, remain disadvantaged.

Arabs may work with Jews – though often more *for* Jews – and live as their neighbours, yet there's relatively little interaction between the two communities. What Palestinians deem to be Israeli occupation of their land and what Israelis experience as terrorist acts against Jews contribute to the enmity and the mutual mistrust.

That was behind the conference held last month at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem in memory of its founder, Rabbi David Hartman, who is well known in Canada, where he served a congregation in Montreal for many years. He died three years ago.

As the current president, Rabbi Donniel Hartman – David's son – reminded us, the institute is an indefatigable champion of openness and equality. Yet hitherto it has been primarily concerned with Jewish pluralism and seems to have neglected the cause of the Arabs in Israel. The conference, whose theme echoed Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, was a signal of a new and most welcome addition to its agenda.

One of the supporters of this new initiative is none other than Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. Because he's said to be in favour of fully integrating Palestinians into Israeli society and apparently opposed to the so-called two-state solution, he's a staunch champion of equal rights for all Arabs in Israel. We were told that he would have attended the conference had he been in the country, but as he was abroad at the time, he sent a warm and supportive message arguing for meaningful coexistence.

Such coexistence, I heard an Arab speaker say at the conference, has so far been mainly the coexistence of horse and rider in which the Arab is the horse. At the end of the day, the horse may have done the hard work, but is only given hay to eat whereas the rider gets a steak for dinner. The inequality is there for all to see.

The Arab speakers I heard were among relatively few who have made it in Israel and now hold important positions in the country, but they're only a very small minority. Most belong to the disadvantaged and are made to feel as aliens or worse in the land where their ancestors have lived long before any of the families of their Jewish neighbours had arrived. One of the aims of Arabs and Jews now should be not to let their children inherit the disputes and inequality.

The conference began only hours after another terrible terrorist attack that cost the life of young Israeli soldier, injured badly her colleague and resulted in the death of the three Palestinian assailants. But this gathering wasn't about that. It was about justice for the indigenous Arab population of Israel. It's a necessary beginning. ■

No compromise on women's rights

Sheryl Saperia

A UNICEF report released last month estimates that 200 million girls and women in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM). While FGM is most prevalent in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, immigrants have imported the practice to North America and Europe.

Two U.S. gynecologists have recently made headlines suggesting that less invasive practices, such as small surgical nicks to girls' genitalia, should be allowed. They framed it as a compromise that would enable families to uphold cultural traditions while protecting girls from more dangerous forms of cutting.

This proposal is not new, and it has regularly been met with vociferous opposition from women's rights organizations.

To understand the arguments, some background on FGM is required. It's an uncomfortable subject, but FGM is a global problem. It exists in Canada, and we must confront it head on.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), female genital mutilation includes all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Immediate complications include pain, hemorrhage, infection, shock and death. Assuming one survives, the long-term physical and psychological consequences are severe.

It is a misnomer to refer to FGM as female circumcision. Doriane Coleman, a Duke University law professor with an expertise in children and the law, rejects the analogy of FGM to male circumcision as "specious and disingenuous" because "the traditional forms of FGM are as different from male circumcision in terms of procedure, physical ramifications and motivation as ear piercing is to a penilectomy."

How, then, would "nicking" compare to male circumcision? There are two primary differences. The first is the WHO's assessment that FGM has no health benefits whatsoever, while observational data and randomized controlled trials demonstrate "that circumcised men have a significantly lower risk of becoming infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)."

The second distinction is intent. Male circumcision for religious Jews relates to a covenant with God, and in Islam the ritual appears mainly about cleanliness. Secular families opting for circumcision for their sons can do so for esthetic preferences or health benefits.

In contrast, FGM is about curtailing a woman's sexuality. It aims to reduce a woman's libido and help her resist extramarital sexual acts. It is rooted in the belief that a woman must be controlled and submissive. And, as explored in the film *Honor Diaries*, FGM is part of an honour code to which women are conditioned to adhere, a manifestation of the belief that a family's honour is contained in women, to be guarded by men.

One woman interviewed in the movie recalls her own experience undergoing the procedure: "I remember before it began, I was still lying there. She was negotiating with my mom with the money. And my mom had to pay her extra for using a new razor." Certainly from the perspective of harm reduction, the benefits of nicking in a sterile, western doctor's office are clear.

But the WHO cautions against normalizing and condoning the practice, thereby "hindering long-term efforts for eliminating FGM."

I asked Raheel Raza, a Canadian featured in *Honor Diaries*, for her thoughts on the "compromise." She opposes it: "We are trying to take 10 steps ahead, and then some well-wisher or someone who has never experienced FGM takes it in the wrong direction. There must be no compromise."

This issue must be exposed to sunlight here in Canada, where there are no statistics on the number of FGM cases within its borders, let alone resources or institutional supports to assist FGM victims. Parliament, whether through the House of Commons or the Senate human rights committee or the office of the Minister for Status of Women, should immediately take up the cause of FGM and honour-based violence.

Neither compromise nor outright denial is an option. ■

Sheryl Saperia is director of policy for Canada at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

News

Concerns raised about physician-assisted death policy

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Supreme Court has spoken, the legislative wing is deliberating, but some in the Jewish community are uncomfortable with the direction the country is going in adopting a policy on physician-assisted suicide.

Discussion on the topic is now so normalized that an acronym has arisen, PAD, referring to it as physician-assisted dying.

As is the case throughout Canada, the Jewish community is not of one mind when it comes to public policy regarding the issue. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) canvassed a broad spectrum of opinion in the Jewish community and presented a series of suggestions to the minister of justice that would regulate how the policy is implemented.

CIJA found support for the initiative on compassionate grounds, along with concerns that safeguards are needed to avoid the proverbial slippery slope that could lead to assisted deaths beyond the narrow bounds contemplated by its advocates.

But there are voices in the community who are deeply troubled with the idea that physicians – whose mandate is to preserve life and heal the sick – would participate in ending lives. Others worry that once implemented, a policy of assisted dying in a narrow band of circumstances will gradually broaden to include situations not originally contemplated by proponents of the policy, including "informed minors."

The current situation grew out of a Supreme Court ruling one year ago that struck down, on constitutional grounds, sections of the Criminal Code that made it illegal to help someone commit suicide. The court stated the law would remain in effect for one year before it lapsed. It later extended the deadline to June 2016.

The brief CIJA presented to the minister notes that "many in the Jewish community support the Supreme Court's decision as a moral imperative, empathizing with the rights of the terminally ill to end their lives on their own terms. Many others oppose it for a variety of reasons including traditional religious principles and fear of a slippery slope toward a more broad-based application of euthanasia in Canadian society."

Noah Shack, CIJA's director of policy, said consensus in the community is conditional on the protection of physicians who object on moral or religious grounds; that consent is informed, competent and not coerced; and that PAD is only one option among many, including increased access to palliative care.

Psychiatrist Janice Halpern is deeply troubled by the direction Canadian society and the medical establishment are going regarding PAD. She attended a recent seminar at Mount Sinai Hospital and was shocked at the casual way the subject was discussed. "I felt a horrified feeling. Here we are talking about the logistics of killing people," she said.

As a physician, she's unhappy doctors will be asked to be complicit in ending a life. "We're civilized... You don't kill people who suffer. You try to help them," she said.

She suggested that instead of ending a person's life, Canada should devote more resources to expanding palliative care and providing counselling to support individuals and families in trying times.

Critics worry that families will feel pressured.

Halpern also believes PAD will coarsen Canadian society. "I don't think people will value life in the same way," she said.

The door is being opened to a social norm in which people who are suffering will see themselves as a burden to their families, children and society. "People could feel that they should kill themselves," she added.

Rabbi Michael Dolgin doesn't believe people will be intimidated into ending their lives. "It's an interesting emotional argument, but in jurisdictions where it exists, there is no evidence of it," he said.

Rabbi Dolgin, senior rabbi at the Reform Temple Sinai, believes that in Jewish tradition, "bringing someone's life to an end prematurely is ethically wrong and problematic." The question, he said, is what is "prematurely?"

Rabbi Dolgin, who stressed he was speaking for himself, said that "instead of extending life, we're extending suffering. I've sat with too many people, whose family member is dying and is in extraordinary pain, and they say, 'Rabbi, I don't understand. We treat our pets better.'"

"Lots of energy in Canada is being devoted to an issue that will affect a small number of people and not enough energy to the lack of palliative care," he added.

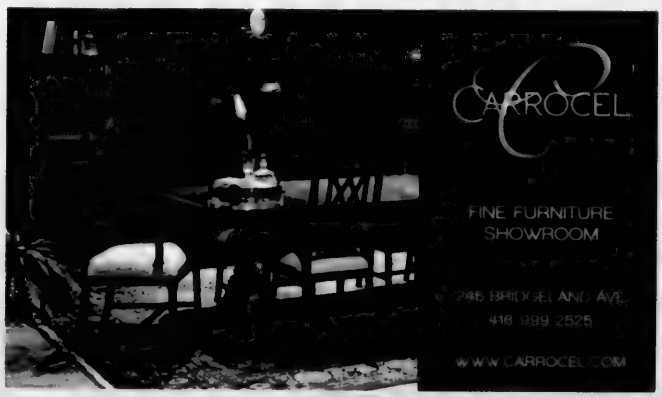
He cautioned, however, that PAD should be implemented with safeguards so that it's not extended to people with mental health issues or to minors.

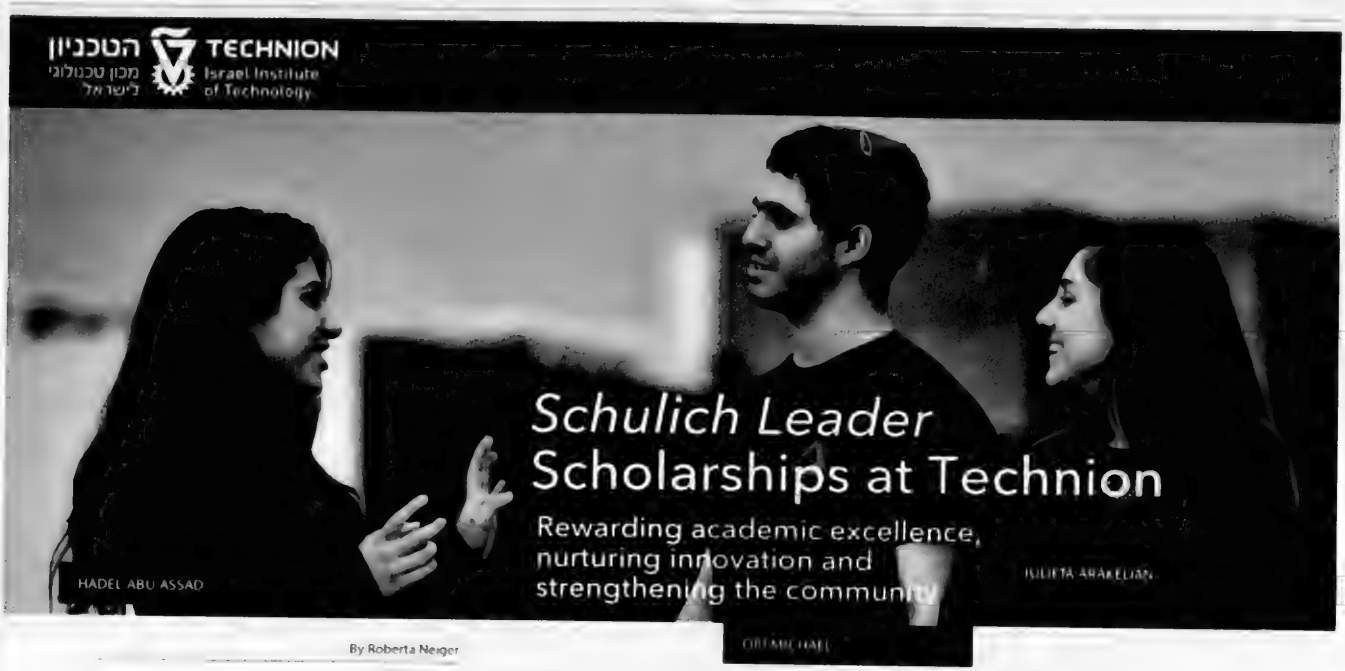
Bracha Silver has had up-close exposure to the health care system and is far from confident patients and families won't be influenced, or even intimidated, into agreeing to end a life. Silver's 25-year-old son, Avi, spent his last 3-1/2 months in hospital suffering from a brain tumour.

Doctors at the hospital were kind and considerate, but one "eventually came down on us because Avi had lived a little longer than he wanted him to. He said, 'He's going to die anyway. Why are you being cruel by prolonging his suffering and his life?'"

Silver also felt the doctor didn't want the hospital to incur the expense of keeping her son alive. As an Orthodox woman, her response was "as long as he has a breath in him, he's alive. Who are they to tell me how long to live? It's God's business to determine who lives and who dies, to the precise second. There are reasons that go beyond our understanding in the world." While most of the doctors were kind and respectful, Silver said she's concerned others might unduly influence patients and their families to take steps they might not otherwise take. ■

LAND ROVER JAGUAR
THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI





Schulich Leader Scholarships at Technion

Rewarding academic excellence, nurturing innovation and strengthening the community

By Roberta Neiger

Whether they plan to address subjects as diverse as climate change, medical technology, the food crisis, space travel, or others; *Schulich Leaders* are united by a single desire: to change the world.

Scholastic merit, technological innovation, and public service: *Schulich Leader* Scholarships rests on these three pillars. Bolstering exceptional young people who both embrace Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, and demonstrate exceptional leadership, the scholarship rewards excellence throughout Israel and Canada across 25 leading universities.

Launched in 2011, the program funds 50 undergraduate scholarships in Israel and another 50 across Canada each year. The largest program in both countries to target undergraduate STEM students, *Schulich Leader* Scholarships range from $30,000 to $40,000 in Israel. The program bears the name of Canadian philanthropist Seymour Schulich, for whom the Technion Faculty of Chemistry is named.

> "This scholarship makes the difference between studying and not studying."

At Technion, *Schulich Leaders* come from various backgrounds, geographically, ethnically, financially and academically.

For example, 19-year-old Hadeel Abu Asaad is an Israeli Arab from Nazareth. A first-year student, Abu Asaad comes from modest circumstances and must assume complete responsibility for her expenses. "For me," she says, "this scholarship makes the difference between studying and not studying."

Enrolled in the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering, Abu Asaad is motivated by making a contribution, along with the drive to succeed. "In my department we can reveal new phenomena, and in turn, make changes that can change the course of disease."

Ori Michael, a new father, is looking towards the next generation. "I can now concentrate on my studies, without worrying about working," says the 25-year-old mechanical engineering student whose first child, a son, was born just three days before this interview. "You can just imagine what this award means to me and my wife," he says.

> "[The Program] introduced me to high-quality, interesting people, and has acquainted me with different voluntary organizations."

"Also, in terms of personal mission and responsibility, the scholarship enables me to do my maximum for Israel, in my field, mechanical engineering. My dream is to work for a company like Rafael."

ROI SINOFF

"The scholarship gives me the financial freedom to concentrate on my studies," says Roi Sinoff, 25, from Haifa. "It introduced me to high-quality, interesting people, and has acquainted me with different voluntary organizations."

As a *Schulich Leader,* Sinoff volunteers in the SpaceIL program, which uses space travel to stimulate youngsters' - particularly girls' - interest in math and science. Additionally, he has served as "a big brother" to a high school student. "Teaching is my fantasy," says Sinoff. "I want to influence young people the same way my best high school and college teachers motivated me."

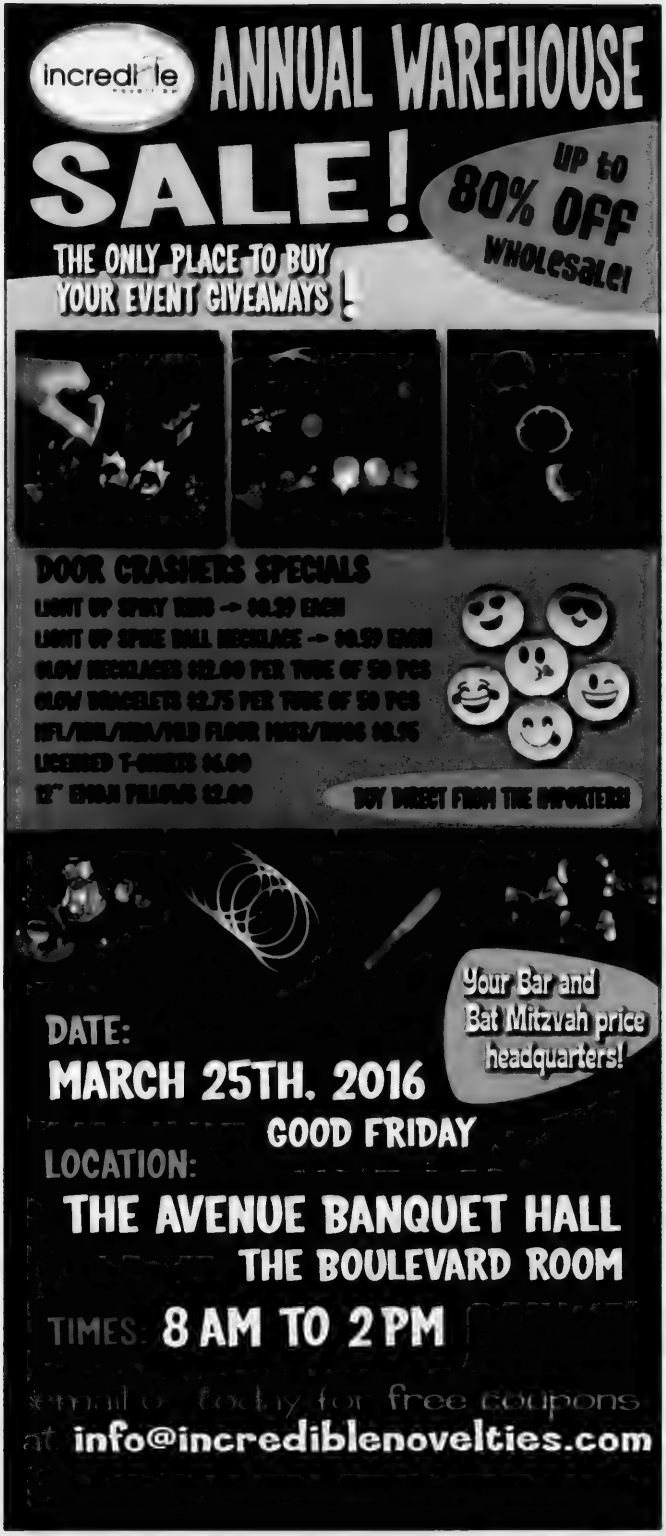
"Receiving the *Schulich Leader* Scholarship was a great honour," says Julieta Arakelian, a fourth-year computer science student. "On a day-to-day level, the financial advantages are obvious, and allow me to dedicate all my time to study," adds the Argentinian-born student.

Socially, the scholarship has also benefited Arakelian. "There are great side benefits, like gatherings for the recipients. This group includes many different types of people; these connections have become very important to me."

Arakelian, 25, ultimately wants to make her contribution by developing medical technology.

Summarizing the sentiments of all *Schulich Leaders* at Technion, Ori Michael says "we are determined to contribute the maximum amount of imagination and creativity towards these fields," adding "this is just the beginning."

Photographer Nitzan Zohar, Design CastroNavy



Development blamed for flooding veterans' graves

DANIEL OTIS
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

They served Canada in two world wars – young Jewish men fighting for freedom. More than 300 of them are now buried at the Jewish Canadian Veterans Memorial Park in North York. But unbefitting the dignity they deserve, in recent years, their graves have repeatedly been flooded.

"This is sacred land," said Allan Rubin, president of the Jewish Canadian Veterans Memorial Park Association. "Respect [is due] for those who have passed and the families that are still here."

Located at the northern end of Mount Sinai Memorial Park on Wilson Avenue, the cemetery inters Jewish Army, Navy and Air Force servicemen. Adorned with monuments dedicated to the thousands of Canadian Jews who served in both world wars, it's the only memorial of its kind in the country. Since 2014, however, Rubin says development on the adjacent Downsview Lands has repeatedly damaged veterans' graves.

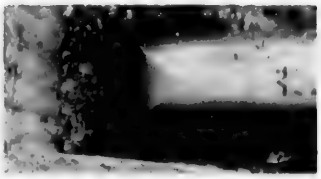
"For me, it's very emotional, because I know all these guys," said Rubin, a Cold War Air Force veteran. "What's wrong with the engineering of this project?"

The 572-acre Downsview Lands are overseen by the Canada Lands Company (CLC), a crown corporation that manages and sells federally owned property. Formerly a military base, the area now houses an airfield, offices, sports facilities, the 294-acre Downsview Park, and five former military housing subdivisions earmarked for new residential developments. Immediately north of the cemetery, and bordering the Jewish veterans section, developers Urbancorp and Mattamy Homes have been working on the first of these neighbourhoods, known as Stanley Greene, since 2014.

Tensions between CLC and the Jewish veterans association began when Stanley Greene surveyors drove nearly a dozen stakes into cemetery land and graves without seeking permission. In December 2014, after Stanley Greene's old sewage system was torn out, the cemetery's groundwater levels rose significantly, Rubin said, filling and collapsing several open graves. The problem persisted well into the spring.

"There was one plot that we had to pump pretty much right until the time when the casket came down the road," Rubin said of one burial last May. "We covered the water that remained with leaves so the family wouldn't notice any difference, but by the time they started filling the grave, the water came pretty much up to the lid of the casket."

Not wanting to cause any undue duress, Rubin said veterans' families weren't informed of the flooding incidents, and the CLC promised to fix the problem.



Water seeps into an open plot at Jewish Canadian Veterans Memorial Park.

Rubin thought the issue was resolved, but in January of this year, a worker at Stanley Greene left two water pipes running at the site for five days. The water flooded the adjacent cemetery, but this time, sub-zero temperatures froze the water, and Rubin won't be able to assess whether the concrete foundations of the site's monuments have been damaged until the ground thaws in the spring.

With the Stanley Greene development now graded several feet above the cemetery, the thaw may lead to more flooding, Rubin said.

A CLC official denied that work at Stanley Greene has caused the repeated flooding of the cemetery. "The groundwater levels seem to be naturally occurring," Rodger Martin, CLC's vice-president of real estate, told *The CJN*. "They're high on our side as well."

Martin said Stanley Greene's new sewage system was installed prior to the January flooding. No other specific measures were taken to mitigate the cemetery's groundwater problem, he said, and with building permits already issued by the City of Toronto, construction is imminent.

"We've been in contact with [Rubin, and] we'll continue to be in contact with him with whatever concerns he may have," Martin added.

York Centre city councillor Maria Augimeri is a longtime critic of Ottawa's Downsview Lands development plan.

"They've shown a real contempt – more than just disrespect," Augimeri said about the CLC's handling of the flooding.

The area's new MP, however, is confident the issue will be resolved.

"The lines of communication seem to be good," Michael Levitt said. "I'm hopeful that this sort of mistake, which seemed to be quite an isolated incident, won't be happening again."

Rubin isn't holding his breath.

"Before they go forward with construction, the water issue should be resolved," he said. "According to the law, you're responsible for containing the water on your property… But how do we sue a giant like Canada Lands? We just don't have that kind of money." ■

Where are the Ontario kosher chickens?

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

About two years ago, the Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO), the industry association that administers the chicken production quota in Ontario, announced it would accept bids for an allocation of chickens for the kosher market. The move came after Chai Poultry sold its quota and ceased operations, leaving an absence of provincially produced kosher chickens. Last week, The CJN reported that seven groups presented bids, and three advanced to a second round, but eventually all withdrew. Currently, the CFO has asked Deloitte, a consulting firm, to consider two fresh bids.

This week, representatives of the three finalists and one of the current bidders look at the roles of the CFO and the Kashruth Council of Canada, known as COR, in the bidding process.

Montreal's Marvid supplies poultry in Toronto.

Following meetings with CFO representatives, it became clear to Avi Kraman, who headed one of the final three bids, that they preferred the successful applicant use COR. "They worded it that they wanted someone recognized in Toronto and in the rest of Ontario," he said.

What's more, "COR was looking to offer its full services to anyone becoming the chicken producer... COR would give local processors the exclusivity to distribute to the institutions and caterers that are under COR," Kraman said.

COR spokesperson Richard Rabkin, however, denied that suggestion: "With respect to granting exclusivity, COR never made any such commitment to anyone and any assertion to the contrary is entirely false."

Despite what they perceived as a push for COR, Kraman's group decided that if it was going to move away from another local rabbis' group, which had agreed to provide supervision, it was going to go with MK, the Montreal kashrut agency. "We felt that MK had a more recognized certification, in Ontario and the United States," he said.

To Kraman, it was clear the CFO was concerned about the group's kosher certification. "In our estimation, from the get-go, there was already a partnership going on with the COR," he said.

In conversations with CFO representatives, questions were repeatedly raised about their choice of MK as a certifier, he added. "He was trying to push us to go to COR, 100 per cent," Kraman said.

"CFO said you have to understand the reality of your situation. COR controls Toronto and Ontario, and without them, you're not going to get the allotment into their catering, restaurants or shops," Kraman recounted.

Steve Strauss is a partner in one of the two groups whose plans are currently being studied by Deloitte. His group has chosen COR as its certifier, and he believes the other finalist has also done so. Strauss said "the CFO may be looking to avoid issues in the future with facilities that are under COR, because COR may have issue with other certifications as it pertains to kosher chicken."

COR's standards are among the strictest in North America, which can raise processing costs. "From a kashrut standard, that's a good thing, but from an operations perspective, it's challenging," he said.

Strauss said the CFO recognizes that for chickens to get the widest possible distribution in the community, it would have to satisfy COR's strict standards. "CFO is driving the bus, and we're in the back seat with COR being driven along," he said.

"COR is not at fault by any means for the lack of kosher chicken supply in Ontario," Strauss continued. "The bigger problem lies with the CFO. The CFO has no way of knowing what is a kosher standard, therefore, they've chosen to use the most widely accepted kashrut certifier in Ontario."

Meanwhile, in its meeting with the CFO board, Kraman's group was startled to learn that awarding the allotment would be conditional and could be withdrawn at the CFO's discretion. That meant going into business without any certainty of the supply of chickens, which put their multi-million investment at risk, he said.

After the meeting, Kraman felt the deck was stacked against them, since his group's allotment would come from those of other producers. "They [the CFO] never had an intention to award anyone a kosher allotment," he said. "The guys on the board are the ones losing [part of their set chicken quotas]. The CFO was going through the motions."

Rabbi Kalman Ochs was at the CFO board meeting, which took place before Kraman's group switched to MK. He'd been brought on as an adviser, and at that point, the Kraman group was still looking to Agudas Shomrei Hadas, an organization founded by Ochs' grandfather in 1947, to provide hashgachah.

"At the end of the day, the whole thing is a hoax. They don't want to give us kosher chickens," Rabbi Ochs said. "The story keeps changing [as to] why they don't give us kosher chickens. They changed the rules of the game after we met all their requirements."

Ron Gersh agrees the deck is stacked against the bidding groups. Gersh, a consultant who worked with one of the groups, believes the CFO's plan was to give Marvid time to ramp up production and meet the supply needs of Ontario consumers.

"It's a monopoly. They're giving up their quotas. They didn't like that. They set it up so nobody could win it," Gersh said.

Yoav Dohbot won't go that far, but said meeting the CFO's requirements was "challenging." He was part of the third finalist group, which had COR lined up as its certification agency, but blanched at the CFO's requirements, which he said made no business sense.

"It required that the bidders have everything in place to go the next day, the financing, an operation [to slaughter the chickens]. But... nobody in their right mind is going to spend a few million dollars without having the quota secured," he said.

All three of the first-round finalists have moved on. Contacted by *The CJN*, CFO spokesperson Michael Edmonds said: "CFO has engaged Deloitte to review all new applications from a business and economic perspective. We are following a disciplined, fact-based review process, and as such, we are not in a position to make further comments at this time." ■

SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
INSTITUTE שלום הרטמן

Join us for an evening of conversation with Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman and Rabbi Yael Splansky, with introductions by Yoni Goldstein, Editor, The Canadian Jewish News

PUTTING GOD SECOND

How to Save Religion From Itself

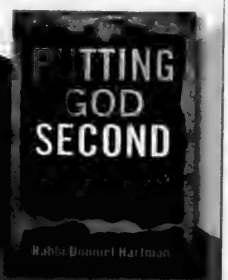
In his latest book, *Putting God Second*, Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman tackles one of modern life's most urgent and vexing questions.

Why are the great monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—chronically unable to fulfill their own self-professed goal of creating individuals infused with moral sensitivity and societies governed by the highest ethical standards?

Join us for a book talk and conversation between Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and Rabbi Yael Splansky, senior rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
7:00 pm
Free Registration
Aga Khan Museum
77 Wynford Drive, Toronto

For more information and to RSVP:
shalomhartman.org/PuttingGodSecond



Canadian Friends of
boys town jerusalem

from limited backgrounds
to limitless futures

National Director of Development

Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem is looking for a passionate, dynamic National Director of Development who will be primarily responsible for fundraising, in support of one of Israel's premier educational institutions. Reporting directly to the Executive Vice President of Boys Town Jerusalem, he or she will be responsible for managing operations and communication efforts.

Boys Town Jerusalem is a residential high school, serving 900 students in the Bayit V'gan neighbourhood of Jerusalem, Israel. Since its founding in 1948, BTJ has transformed thousands of young boys from limited backgrounds into young men with limitless futures.

Please send resumes to btjcandevelopment@gmail.com

We thank all applicants. However, only those under consideration will be contacted.

Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
For ISRAEL
40th ANNIVERSARY

4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508,Toronto, ON M3H 5Y2 • T. 416-780-0034
Toll Free in Ontario 1-888-858-2632 • F. 416-780-0343 • E. toronto@cmdai.org • www.cmdai.org

Bringing the community together
to respond to terror

As the wave of Terror in Israel continues - our Paramedics' emergency supplies are again stretched to the limit

Please join us for this entertaining Broadway production to support our First Responders

Monday, JUNE 6, 2016 • 7:45 PM

THE GREENWIN THEATRE
Toronto Centre of the Arts · 5040 Yonge Street

Tickets: $160 each • 2 for $280

Tax deductible receipt will be issued for maximum allowable amount

TORONTO CMDA is thrilled to present an 'Exclusive Preview' sponsoring
Israel's Life-Saving Paramedics

BEST ACTRESS

TOVAH FELDSHUH
GOLDA'S BALCONY

Contact us for Tickets and Sponsorship: toronto@cmdai.org or 416-780-0034

• MDA CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT US

Asian-Canadian students visit Israel on CIJA mission

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

When retired pharmacist Murray Rubin took notice of the anti-Israel climate on Canadian campuses, he wanted to do something about it.

"I first got the idea that... Jews need allies because I looked at what is going on in our universities and it's a matter of numbers. Jewish kids are vastly outnumbered," he said.

He approached the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) with an idea to send Canadian students of Asian heritage to Israel on an educational mission, and went to work soliciting funds – $100,000 – from his peers at his tennis club.

He explained that having worked with a number of people of Asian heritage throughout his career, he came to understand that in general, anti-Semitism wasn't as big of an issue in Asian countries compared to other parts of the world.

"I know that the whole world is not anti-Semitic. If it were, we would have disappeared a long time ago. The people who aren't anti-Semitic, are... indifferent. This isn't their problem. However, if we try, maybe we can get a few of them... to speak up for us," Rubin said.

Judy Zelikovitz CIJA's vice-president of university and local partner services, said CIJA has been organizing similar missions to Israel for about 10 years. Typically, the missions are geared toward Jewish and non-Jewish politicians and other Canadians with influence, but there have been trips that have sent students to Israel as well.

"Historically, participants in our missions have come back and become great friends to the community. One student came back a few years ago and single-handedly was responsible for overturning a [boycott, divestment and sanctions] vote on his campus in Regina, so we're looking for people who are going to be genuine partners moving forward," Zelikovitz said.

Last month, seven students of Asian descent – hailing from the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario, the University of British Columbia, McMaster University and York University – took part in the seven-day trip.

The program included pre-and post-trip seminars, a seven-day study program in Israel, and a post-trip written assignment or creative project on a topic related to the program.

Some of the activities and sites visited included the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Masada, Jaffa, the Knesset and Supreme Court, a Jerusalem security barrier, and Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum.

Tina Jiwon Park in Jerusalem

The speakers they heard from included former Israeli ambassador to China Amos Nadai; Canadian Ambassador to Israel Vivian Bercovici; Hebrew University law professor Allen Zysblat, who spoke about human rights and international law; and *Ha'aretz*'s chief military correspondent and defence analyst Amos Harel.

Tina Jiwon Park, a PhD candidate at U of T and co-founder and executive director of the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect – an organization that aims to galvanize the international community to come to the aid of victims of genocide and other crimes against humanity – was one of the participants on the trip.

She said that because of the work she does through her organization, she was grateful for the opportunity to visit Israel and to learn more about the Holocaust and genocide education at Yad Vashem.

Park said that although the Middle East crisis is complex, she gained a deeper appreciation for the challenges Israel faces.

"Being of Korean origin, I can certainly understand what it's like to be surrounded by hostile neighbours, and throughout this visit, I came to better appreciate the nuances and complexities of the strategic situation on the ground," she said.

"I've only began to fathom the complexity of life in the Middle East, and this trip certainly helped to deepen my appreciation of the histories, events and different narratives that define Israel's geopolitics... We hear so much about the tensions and conflicts in the media, but I also saw a lot of coexistence between different cultures, religions and people, which was really fascinating," she said, adding that she was "struck by the vibrancy and diversity of culture throughout Israel."

Rubin said he hopes participants will use the lessons they learned from the mission to inform others in their community about the reality in the Middle East and the scourge of anti-Semitism.

"The idea that people can say that Israel is an apartheid state is so sick that it makes me want to [send people] to go there and see. It's ridiculous, but they get away with it." ■

Local Jews to join Poles in recalling righteous family

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Seventy-two years ago, the Holocaust banged on the door of the Ulma family, knocked it down, dragged them all away and ended the lives of 16 people.

The eight Polish Jews and eight ethnic Poles died in March 1944 – members of the Diner, Grunfeld and Goldman families, along with Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma, their six children and the unborn child Wiktoria was carrying.

The Ulmas had been hiding the Jewish families long after the majority of the Jews of Markowa, a village in south eastern Poland, had been rounded up and murdered in 1942.

They knew the risks they were facing, yet the Ulmas, along with eight other Polish families, defied the Nazis. In the end, they were betrayed by a local collaborator and were executed along with the Jews they were hiding.

On March17, their sacrifice will be recognized in Poland and in Toronto as a museum in their honour is dedicated in Markowa.

Congregation Habonim, along with the Consulate General of Poland and the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, will co-host an event in Toronto to mark the opening of The Museum of Poles Saving Jews, in Markowa.

A few hours earlier in Poland, the country's president, Andrzej Duda, will address an audience of dignitaries in a dedication ceremony that is expected to make national headlines.

The event is "part of the revival of Polish-Jewish relations [recognizing] our common history in Poland," said Andrzej Szydlo, the Toronto-based consul responsible for diaspora relations. "The fact that the president of Poland is attending the event signifies that it is an event of national importance."

Szydlo noted that everyone is familiar with Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp located in Poland. "Now another piece of the puzzle is in place."

The museum itself was founded by the provincial government of Podkarpackie. It features Museum Square, which houses a monument to Holocaust victims as well as memorial plaques with the names of Poles murdered for helping Jews.

Szydlo said the Ulma family were "simple people" who, "in the name of humanity, risked their lives and perished."

Eli Rubenstein, spiritual leader at Congregation Habonim, which was founded by Holocaust survivors, said, "This is an important story to be told, honoured and celebrated."

Jozef and Wiktoria Ulma
PHOTO COURTESY DR. MATEUSZ SZPYTMA

Yad Vashem has recognized more than 6,000 Poles as Righteous Among the Nations, including the Ulma family, but the museum in Markowa is the first of its kind to be dedicated to the Righteous, he said.

"It's wonderful to see a museum that teaches us about such courageous and noble examples of the human spirit and that inspires us to follow in their footsteps," Rubenstein added.

Two survivors who were saved by Poles will speak on March 17. Joe Gottdenker was an infant who was left in the care of Petronolo and Wladyslaw Ziolo for three years. He reunited with his parents after the war.

Sally Wasserman was eight years old when she was smuggled out of the Dombrowa Ghetto and hidden by Eva and Mikolaj Turkin.

Franciszek Pasławski, the only known Righteous Gentile living in Canada, is also expected to attend.

Rubenstein said creation of the museum comes at a time when relations between Jews and Poles are being debated in Polish society. For many Jews, relations with their Polish neighbours were problematic, and many do not recall with fondness their experiences with Poles during the war. At the far end of the spectrum was the July 1941 incident in Jedwabne in which two dozen Polish villagers killed 340 Jews by locking them in a barn and setting it on fire.

At the other end of the scale is the heroism in Markowa and the thousands of other righteous Poles. Both incidents are part of a complicated story of Polish-Jewish relations that ought to be told, Rubenstein said.

In addition to the co-hosts, other sponsors include the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Canadian Friends of Polin: the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, March of the Living, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre and Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. ■

Mom has Alzheimer's and our weekend caregiver didn't show up...again.

One Kenton Place offers 24 hour worry-free specialized dementia care.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One

• Activity based programming
• Personalized care plans for every need
• New state-of-the-art dedicated facility

Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto

COR

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337 including all taxes.
Book by March 18, 2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
	Apr. 19 – May 01	July 03-14
		July 24 – Aug. 04
	Winter Break	Aug. 07-18
	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017	Aug. 21 – Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• *FREE* – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

I host Friday night dinners, they take care of the rest!

HELEN HOFFMAN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE JUNE 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence

784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. **289-588-0974**

Conditions may apply

Ex-Chassid speaks about being trans, leaving the fold

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Abby Stein

Abby Stein's Facebook page looks like those of so many 20-somethings: there are ample selfies of the 24-year-old Columbia University student posing in a variety of outfits and makeup styles, there are playful shots of Abby with friends, and there's the requisite throwback baby photograph.

But scroll back far enough through her photos and the pictures of Abby are suddenly very different: in them, Abby is not Abby.

She is – she was – a bearded man dressed in full chassidic garb, replete with payes, shtreiml and *bekishe*.

Around 2012, Stein left the insular, Yiddish-speaking chassidic community where she grew up in the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn, N.Y., and three years later, she came out publicly as transgender, changing her name and beginning the process of physically transitioning from male to female.

On March 15, Stein will be speaking about her experiences at a roundtable on Judaism and gender identity at Montreal's Mile End Chavurah and on March 18, she'll speak at Temple Emanu-el-Beth Sholom, also in Montreal.

Stein was invited to speak in Montreal by a fledgling local group called Forward, whose aim is to be in Montreal what the more established organization Footsteps is in New York: a support network that offers a range of services to ultra-Orthodox Jews who've left, or are trying to leave, the fold.

Created by several former Montreal Chassids just over a year ago, Forward holds regular gatherings for people who've left ultra-Orthodox communities.

Their aim is to acquire funding to do things such as provide psychological and social work services to those in need, and to rent an apartment as respite space for those who've left, or were kicked out of, their family homes.

"I left the community myself. It's not only hard, it's inconceivably hard… We see people [who've left ultra-Orthodox communities] jumping off roofs. We have to and we will do something about it," said Hershy Moskovits, one of Forward's founders.

Stein credits much of what she's accomplished to Footsteps, which she found online in 2012 not long after discovering the Internet itself.

With Footsteps' help, despite having rudimentary English and no secular education, Stein has gotten her high school equivalency, become fluent in English and enrolled at Columbia, where she's a second-year gender studies major.

She recently started a support group for transgender people from Orthodox backgrounds and, as an avid blogger (she came out as trans via blog, in a post that garnered 20,000 views overnight), has become a role model for former ultra-Orthodox Jews – both LGBTQ and not.

"I see people in this group who've been doubly in the closet – both as [non-believers] and as transgender people… And I'm sure there's 10 times as many people who want to come but are afraid," Stein said.

While she didn't begin seriously questioning her faith until adolescence, Stein said there was never a time she didn't feel like a girl.

"My conscious memories are of feeling like there was some misunderstanding… of lying in bed as a child and dreaming of ways I could become a girl, imagining I could be reborn," she said.

At 12, she began reading forbidden texts, starting with the books of the prophets and moving to biblical criticism and Kabbalah.

"By 15, I felt like I was done with this whole Judaism thing. I had too many questions," she said.

At 18, she was married, and "seeing a woman's life up close made me realize, 'I want that.'"

After her son was born, she saw the "obsession with a kid's gender from the beginning," and felt she had to leave the community.

Although Stein hoped leaving would resolve her gender issues, her experience of what she now recognizes as gender dysphoria triggered deep depressions, and after a particularly dark period, she knew she had to address it.

"I sort of gave in and started my transition [to becoming a woman], and it's the best decision I've ever made," Stein said.

One of her biggest goals is to get people in the chassidic community talking about transgender issues, so that people who are struggling understand that they're not alone.

"Even if they talk about it with hate and mockery, I'd say it's a topic where no publicity is bad publicity," Stein said. ■

Next Einstein competition is looking for a 'genius' idea

SUSAN MINUK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Inspired by Albert Einstein, the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU) is looking for a "genius" idea.

Einstein changed the world with the power of an idea, and with that in mind, CHFU's third annual Next Einstein competition invites people with enterprising spirit, curiosity, creativity and inventiveness to submit a novel concept to help make the world a better place.

The Next Einstein initiative was established in 2013 by CFHU in conjunction with Hebrew U, which is the custodian of Einstein's estate.

"The DNA of Hebrew University is curiosity. It's about exploring. It's about trying to uncover. We felt we needed to do something to pass on the inspiration of Albert Einstein, so we created a competition that would engage the audience," said Rami Kleinmann, president and CEO of CFHU.

Next Einstein is open to anyone over age 13 with an idea in a category such as medical biotech, education, health and wellness, technology, arts and culture, environment, science and aerospace and political/economic sustainability.

The contest, which closes March 16, expects to receive some 1,000 entries. Participants are vying for a $10,000 prize and a $5,000 Einstein Legacy student scholarship.

Creativity and inspiration have no age boundaries. The winner of the inaugural contest was Charles Rose, a 70-year-old retired science teacher in London, Ont., who developed a method to genetically modify dragonflies to reduce the harmful effects of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Last year's Next Einstein prize went to 13-year-old Marin Schultz, who created a low-cost, 3D-printed prosthetic arm to increase mobility for people with disabilities.

The CJN spoke to Schultz, now 15, by phone from his home in Lethbridge, Alta., where he explained his winning idea and the gift of bringing people joy.

"For me, science and designing robotics in particular has always come from a place of seeing a need and trying to figure out how I can help," he said.

"In 2012 at the Lethbridge Regional Science Fair, I built a voice-controlled robotic rover, which, depending on what was spoken, would move left, right, forwards or backwards. This project sparked my interest in robotic control systems.

"The next year I came back to the science fair with an EEG [electro-encephalography]-controlled rubber robotic hand, which I had hacked from a Jedi Force Trainer toy [providing the EEG headset]. The more the wearer concentrated, the more the hand would close. At the fair, a one-handed boy came up to my project and tried on the headset. When he was able to close the hand just by concentrating, he became very excited and said 'Dad! I can close the hand!' From that moment on, I have been inspired to pursue my research in advancing prosthetic technology," he added.

Marin Schultz, last year's winner of the Next Einstein competition
CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY PHOTO

"One of my goals was to keep my prosthetics below $1,000. This means by using 3D-printing technology, there could be 'hubs' set up in developing countries where parts of the prosthetics could be custom 3D-printed on site and built with off-the-shelf parts and sensors."

The judges – a panel of 11 creative thinkers and innovators from diverse backgrounds, led by Prof. Roger Kornberg, a Nobel Laureate in chemistry from Stanford University – will evaluate the vetted submissions.

"The Next Einstein Competition gives people a creative, scientific mission, asking them to share their understanding, research and vision with others," Kornberg said.

The judging panel will draw up a shortlist of three finalists, with the general public voting for the winner. Public voting will run April 8 to 13, and the winner will be announced April 18. Ideas are submitted online, vetted and published before being short-listed.

"I think a genius doesn't know the meaning of the word 'can't' and doesn't know what a limitation is. This competition is a beautiful way for anybody from any background to be able to shape the world in a new way," said panel judge Tori Avey, a food history blogger and PBS columnist, from her office in Los Angeles. ■

For more information, visit: www.thenexteinstein.com.

PR CREATIVE CATERERS

Passover is just around the corner!

Visit our website **www.prcreativecaterers.com** to download our menu and place your order today!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

RECEIVE A **5%** DISCOUNT BY **APRIL 8th** WHEN ORDERING ONLINE

WWW.PRCREATIVECATERERS.COM
416 787 9889

ANTIQUE ESTATE AUCTION
TUESDAY MARCH 15TH AT 11AM
Featuring a collection of French and English Antique Furniture & Objects
Contact one of our specialists to find out what your antiques are worth

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

72 years ago, in a small Polish village of Markowa, German gendarmes murdered Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their six children. Along with them perished the Diners, the Gronfelds and the Goldmans. Jews they were sheltering.

Servants of God

Marking the Opening of The Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II **in Markowa**

In honor of martyrs Józef & Wiktoria Ulma of Markowa and many other Righteous Among the Nations who risked their lives to save Jews in Poland during the Holocaust

Thursday, March 17th, 2016, 7:30pm
Congregation Habonim
5 Glen Park Ave, Toronto
Admission free

Presented by
the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto, Congregation Habonim and the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada

In cooperation with
the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, Canadian Friends of Polin: the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, March of the Living, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre and Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

Personal approach leads to record $8.3-million Vancouver campaign

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONDENT

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (JFGV) closed another stellar campaign last month with a record haul of $8.3 million – $300,000 more than the previous year.

But the dollar figure was just one among many important numbers in the fundraising drive, said marketing director Becky Saegert.

"We had 75 new canvassers among our 292 canvassers and 409 campaign volunteers. What that figure really means is what it can do for the community, what it enables us to accomplish and the many more lives that can be touched."

This year's campaign also differed from last year's in that it involved many more face-to-face meetings between canvassers and potential donors.

There were over 600 meetings, said federation CEO Ezra Shanken.

"It's deeply powerful to sit with someone across a table and say to them, 'I really need you to help these people in need, to take responsibility for the destiny of our community.'"

Still, he had no idea those meetings would achieve such a stellar fundraising result. This year there were 225 new donors to the campaign and 60 per cent of the donors who had in-person meetings increased their gifts, he said.

"We had people sitting down and talking about what happens in our community, which is at the heart of the campaign, and it's amazing. We've known for years that people's authentic conversations drive an increased commitment to the community, and we believe it's the way to drive a successful campaign."

From left at the campaign opening event are JFGV CEO Ezra Shanken – campaign chair Neil Pollock, Women's Philanthropy chair Lisa Pullan, JFGV board chair Stephen Gaerber, and major gifts co-chairs Alex Cristall and Andrew Merkur.

Stephen Gaerber, board chair of JFGV, said he's witnessed first hand the profound reach of the campaign.

"The high cost of living in Vancouver has made it difficult for many community members to connect with Jewish life, either because they cannot afford to live centrally or because they cannot afford to participate. The federation annual campaign addresses issues like these, builds connections between our community and our partnership region in Israel, and helps Jews in need around the world," Gaerber said in a statement.

"This record campaign result will provide the support we and our partners need to touch more lives than ever before." ■

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN

Cancer?

We're "been there".

We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can 'be there' for you during your cancer journey.

We provide **confidential peer support** to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.

Hotline: (416) 630-0203

A project of
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System

PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS

TORONTO	416-283-2508
HAMILTON	905-383-1343
OTTAWA	613-247-3334
MONTREAL	514-943-0393
CANADA/USA	1-800-668-7439

PTP www.ptpads.com

The community must respond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

In my research, I have found that there are those who believe that sexual predators are drawn to religious institutions because these are places of trust, while others feel that the careless attitude that these institutions have toward abuse helps develop predators. It can very well be a combination of both, in which pedophiles know they will be able to hide in a religious institution that has a habit of ignoring sex crimes.

Some have suggested that religious institutions are only safer now than in the past because they have been repeatedly sued and shamed by victims who have been brave enough to come forward. Whether or not this is true, it does not have to be this way. Moreover, there is a self-interest at play for institutions to implement the above recommendations. An organization that properly reports abuse and appropriately takes care of its problems is more likely to be trusted in the future than one that tries to hide it. Administrators and boards, therefore, have a vested interest in putting appropriate policies in place, beyond the moral and Jewish imperative.

Our institutions and their leaders can take the steps to both prevent abuse and make lasting changes to the way they respond to abuse – steps that go beyond simply protecting reputations. It is only through the involvement of everyone in our communities that abuse will become an issue we fight against, rather than one that is ignored. ■

Guila Benchimol is a PhD candidate in sociological criminology at the University of Guelph. Her dissertation focuses on sexual abuse in the Jewish community. She is a research assistant at the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence and a Wexner graduate fellow. She has her masters in criminology and criminal justice policy and was a Jewish educator in Toronto for 10 years. Benchimol is a consultant for Jewish institutions on their community safety and protection policies.

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services

We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs

• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations

Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years

2 year warranty

WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*

*on projects over $1,000. before tax.

Seniors Never Pay Tax

Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

metro
my savings & my metro

HAPPY PURIM

KEDEM MINI CONCORD GRAPE JUICE
187 ml
Selected Varieties
SAVE $1.00
99¢ ea.

2.49 ea.
4.99 ea.
2.49 ea.
1.69 ea.

MIKI HUMMUS DIPS
200 g
Selected Varieties
SAVE 70¢
1.79 ea.

1.79 ea.
2.49 ea.
1.99 ea.
2.69 ea.

NATURAL KOSHER CHEESE SLICES
170 g
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $2.00
4.99 ea.

69¢ ea.
1.99 ea.
1.79 ea.
4.99 ea.

JUMBO
4.99 ea.
JUMBO HONEYDEWS
Product of Guatemala

7.99 /lb
FRESH BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS
MARVID POULTRY
17.61/kg

ALL PRICES & ITEMS ARE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY MARCH 10TH UNTIL WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH, 2016
AT THE FOLLOWING METRO LOCATIONS ONLY:
• 119 OSLER DR., DUNDAS • 1030 ADELAIDE ST. N., LONDON • 250 GREENBANK RD., NEPEAN • 201 YORK MILLS RD.
• 1080 DON MILLS RD. • 3080 BATHURST ST. • 600 SHEPPARD AVE. W. • 20 CHURCH AVE, NORTH YORK • 4111 THICKSON RD. N., WHITBY
• 736 COLLEGE ST. • 425 BLOOR ST. W. • 666 EGLINTON AVE., TORONTO • 16640 YONGE ST., NEWMARKET

Ottawa Orthodox day schools to unite under one roof

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Parents at Ottawa's two Orthodox elementary day schools – Torah Academy of Ottawa and the Chabad-affiliated Rambam Day School – have voted to come together as one school starting next year.

"I think there was a realization that in a small community like Ottawa, we're better off having one school. With more students, there are better educational opportunities," said Bram Bregman, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's vice-president of community building, who helped facilitate the unification.

"Torah Academy has roughly 80 students, and Rambam has roughly 45 students. One school of 125 students has more social opportunities, better educational opportunities and instead of paying for two overheads and two rents, you can invest that money into educational opportunities to ensure that it is an outstanding school, both in the Judaic studies… and general studies."

Bram Bregman

Through the nine months of meetings and discussions, each school was represented by a committee of parents and board members, headed by Debbie Scharf, a Torah Academy parent, and Evan Green, a Rambam parent.

Bregman explained that although the student bodies from both schools are coming together under one roof, this is not a legal merger of the two organizations.

He said the "memorandum of understanding" was ratified Feb. 18 after a vote by the parent bodies of both schools.

"There was an overwhelming majority of parents from both schools who voted to unify," he said.

"The unified school is a neutral Torah-based school, and the idea is that there is much more in common, at the elementary level in particular, that everyone can come together and learn together under one roof and in one school community," he said.

Bregman explained that a task force will be formed next year to explore the best location for the unified school, which offers education from preschool to Grade 8.

"They will explore the current [Torah Academy] building, where they will be for at least year one. There is a school building on the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa, which currently houses the Ottawa Jewish Community School, but there would be enough space in that building to also house the unified Orthodox school. Or they'll look at another option that no one thought of yet," Bregman said.

In the coming months, there will also be a parent vote to give the school a new name, and a search is on for a new head of school.

"We want to have a fresh feel for the school," Bregman said.

He said tuition fees should stay roughly the same – about $9,500 a year for one child and $8,600 for each additional child from the same family.

"I think having a strong unified Orthodox school can really further help grow and strengthen the Ottawa Jewish community. I think this is a step in the right direction and I think it is going to do great things for our community."

Rabbi Dovid Hayes, Rambam's executive director, said he's happy about the decision to bring the two schools together.

"Unity is what will give our children a better education," Rabbi Hayes said.

"Parents in the community of Ottawa want excellence in education for their children. When you really want something, you make it happen… There is no doubt that together we can have a superb, unbelievable educational system." ■

Est 1969

Oraynu
CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

We welcome you to join us

Israel: Perspectives & Possibilities

Jews in Toronto have differing and multiple views on Israel. Come hear dialogue from leading speakers and thinkers on Israel as they answer questions about peace, security, and much more.

Tuesday, March 22 at 7:30 pm

Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell (Wilson Hts/Sheppard)

PANEL

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs: Steve McDonald
Deputy Director of Communication and Public Affairs

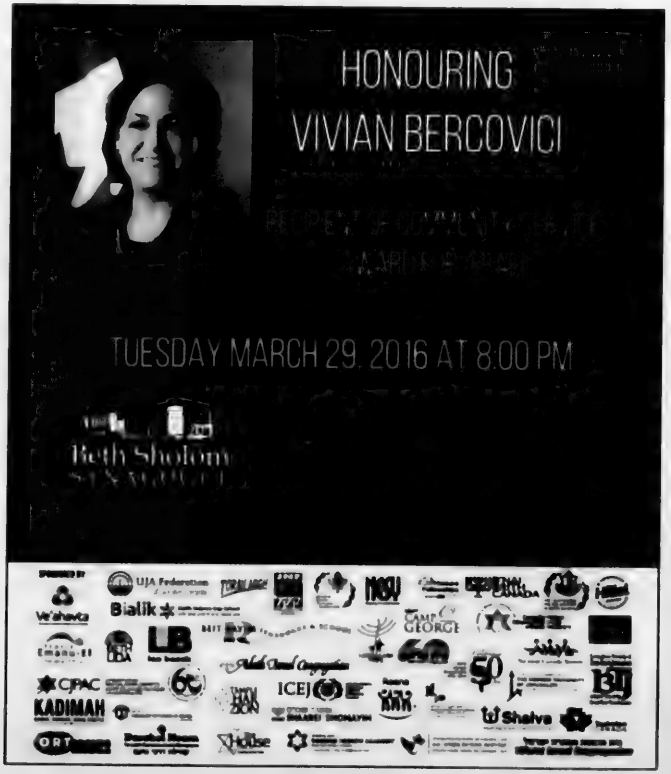
JSpace Canada: Dr. Karen Mock
Noted Human Rights Consultant, Lecturer and Spokesperson

New Israel Fund of Canada: Joan Garson Chair

Moderator: Rabbi Denise Handlarski, Oraynu Congregation

Tickets: $10 – Register now!
tinyurl.com/IsraelPanel
416-385-3910 | oraynu.org

Oraynu is Canada's first Humanistic Jewish Congregation
Judaism linked to the past … Judaism for the future



Limmud Winnipeg seeks to appeal to younger people

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

This year, Limmud Winnipeg – which is scheduled for the weekend of March 12-13 – will have a few new wrinkles.

"We are trying to attract more younger people, as well as Gray Academy students," says Judi Shuster, one of three chairs this year of Limmud, which is marking its sixth year.

To that end, Limmud Winnipeg is featuring among its 36 speakers Barry Bender, an American Jewish educator who is well known to students and graduates of to Gray Academy, Winnipeg's kindergarten-to-Grade 12 Jewish day school.

For the past 30 years and more, Bender has been coming to Winnipeg from New York every January to lead a Jewish awareness retreat for Gray Academy high school students. At Limmud, he will be doing presentations on Jewish meditation and "Judaism, science and the first seven days of Creation."

Also appearing will be Winnipeg rapper Jeremy Hecht and Andrew Lustig, an American "Jewish spoken word artist" whose poetry on Jewish and Israeli identity has reached millions on YouTube and in live performances.

And there will be performances by the homegrown Dor Chadash and Yona Youth choirs, and Gray Academy's Yiddish students.

Shuster said that this year, there will be musical performances during all breaks between sessions.

Music and humour will be the focus of presentations by local chazzans Michael Eskin and Len Udow, musicians Eli Herscovitch and Phil Spevack and stand-up comic Renee Billauer.

And in another enhancement this year, Limmud participants will be able for the first time to get a discount on tickets for an upcoming presentation by the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, *So, Nu?*. WJT executive director Ari Weinberg will also be one of the Limmud presenters.

Including Lustig and Bender, Winnipeg Limmud will be featuring eight out-of-town presenters. One of the many headliners from this group is James Wilets. Currently a law professor at Nova Southeastern University and chair of the Inter-American Center for Human Rights, the Yale graduate and former Yale professor prepared, at the request of the UN secretary general, the first two drafts of a

Barry Bender

proposal for reforming the human rights functions of the United Nations, which was subsequently incorporated into the UN's Agenda for Peace.

He has also worked as an attorney for the International Human Rights Law Group's Rule of Law Project in Romania and worked in Paris on some of the first discussions between Israelis and Palestinians on a two-state solution. As well, while at Yale, Wilets worked with a team of academics drafting a proposed basic law for a future Palestinian state.

Other prominent out-of-town speakers include Sandra Lilienthal, a South Florida educator who was a 2015 winner of the Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education; New Yorker Scott Shay, past chair of the New York federation's Commission on Jewish Identity and Renewal and the author of *Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry*; Gary Kenzer, North American executive director of Honest Reporting.com; and former Winnipeggers Benjamin Shinewald, former CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Bryan Borzykowski, an award-winning business journalist.

"We are trying to reach out to as many people as we can," said Shuster. "I have spoken to a number of people who have never attended Limmud because they thought it was just for religious people and Torah study. We offer something for everyone, and we have an amazing group of speakers."

Attendance last year was about 350, and Shuster and her committee hope that number will be higher this year.

Among the event's communal sponsors are the Asper Foundation (the major sponsor), the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg, the Chesed Shel Emes funeral home, Congregation Etz Chayim, Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, Adas Yeshurun Herzlia Synagogue and Temple Shalom. ■

jf 50

50 שנה לקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY
السه الجسور لمؤسسه صندوق القدس
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION OF CANADA

50

LESTER CROWN & JULIA KOSCHITZKY
JERUSALEM FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY CO-CHAIRS
ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF JERUSALEM -
PRESERVING THE PAST AND LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A DYNAMIC FUTURE
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2016

YOUR SHARE IN JERUSALEM
www.jerusalemfoundation.org

To learn more, please contact:
Toronto office: Toronto Director: Daniel Stern
dstern@jerusalemfoundation.ca | (416) 922-0000
National Office: National Director: Monica Berger
mberger@jerusalemfoundation.ca | Toll Free: 1-877-484-1289 | (514) 484-1289

Jewish Foundation
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE AVAILABILITY OF 2016/2017 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL

To apply for a scholarship:

Contact the institution of your choice to determine if you are eligible for a Masa Israel Journey Scholarship. Offering more than 400 programs, Masa has a program in Israel for everyone.

Visit **masaisrael.org** or contact Jennifer Morawetz
416.398.6931 x 5102 | jmorawetz@ujafed.org

If you are **NOT ELIGIBLE for a Masa Israel Journey Scholarship and are a resident of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA),** planning to study at a religious institution (yeshiva or seminary) in Israel and require financial assistance, you may apply for the **Meyer W. Gasner/Joe Berman Educational Scholarship Fund.**

Deadline to apply is May 13, 2016.

For more information and to apply, visit
www.jewishfoundationtoronto.com/scholarships

Scholarships are generously supported by the following:

- **Meyer W. Gasner/Joe Berman Educational Scholarship Fund**
- **Husky Upton Memorial Scholarship Fund**
- **Sidney Morris Israel Scholarship Fund**
- **Morris M. Pulver Scholarship Fund of Israel**

Charles Bronfman winds down his philanthropic foundation

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Charles Bronfam

The Andrea & Charles Bronfman Philanthropies (ACBP) has wound up most of its operations after three decades, as had long been planned.

Birthright Israel, which it co-founded in 1998, is probably the best known of the innovative programs it supported and developed.

The New York-based charity is not entertaining any new requests for funding, and during 2016 – its final year – it's limiting its activity to meeting previous grant commitments and monitoring how grants are used.

Over its history, ACBP has given out more than $340 million (US) to some 1,820 organizations, and employs a staff of 85.

The end of ACBP, founded by Charles Bronfman and his late wife, Andrea, has been carefully choreographed and, in fact, was envisaged from the day it was founded.

In 2001, the couple, with ACBP president Jeffrey Solomon, chose 2016 as the date by which the entire endowment would be distributed. This is the year Bronfman turns 85.

In 2011, ACBP chair Bronfman and Solomon officially announced the final "spend down" over the next five years. Since then, the charity, with the outside consultants Cambridge Leadership Associations, has been working with the nine programs it operates, including Birthright, to ensure they can carry on.

Founded in 1985, ACBP (originally the Montreal-based CRB Foundation) had two main goals: to promote Canadian heritage and to "nurture the unity of the Jewish People, whose soul is in Jerusalem." ACBP would in time also encompass Keren Kerev, the Bronfmans' charitable foundation in Israel, whose goal was to improve the quality of life in that country.

The Bronfmans moved to New York in 1998. Birthright now operates independently, as, in varying degrees, the eight other programs "incubated" by ACBP do.

In Canada, these are Historica Canada, founded in 2000 and noted for its televised *Heritage Minutes*, and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada in 1994.

The newest program is the U.S.-based Slingshot, started in 2005, which has the goal of nurturing the next generation of Jewish philanthropists.

Throughout its history, Bronfman Philanthropies has been hands-on in nurturing its core investments, providing not only money, but also administrative and inspirational guidance. It has always emphasized innovation and even experimentation, but has expected its beneficiaries to strive to ultimately stand on their own.

Major grant recipients in Canada included the University of Toronto's chair in Israeli studies (1997), the National Gallery of Canada (2002) for the creation of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Canadian Art Fund, and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (2006) in Winnipeg, which opened in 2014.

The Charles Bronfman Prize was established in 2004, through an endowment from his two children, which awards $100,000 (US) each year to an outstanding Jewish humanitarian under age 50.

Among other recipients of major grants have been Brandeis University, the Brookings Institution and the Israel Museum.

One extraordinary ACBP project was The Gift of New York, a response to 9/11 that offered free cultural and sports venue entrance to families of victims.

Andrea's accidental death in 2006 gave further impetus to the ACBP's winding up. Her passing "robbed the foundation of her unique blend of focus, energy and street smarts, which so positively impacted our work," Bronfman and Solomon said in their 2011 announcement.

But the couple had years earlier realized that "their philanthropic interests were an expression of their own particular values, experiences and interests, and therefore ACBP should phase out its grant-making as they began to anticipate entering a less engaged chapter of their own lives."

They also believed that their children should be free to pursue their own philanthropic interests.

Bronfman and Solomon emphasize that the end of ACBP does not mean the end of Bronfman's philanthropy or Solomon's professional support. "We will still be active donors, but without the infrastructure and support built over the years."

He says he will carry on with his philanthropy, but "without all the overhead," and continue his interest, in particular, in Birthright. But he emphasized he won't "take on anything new, certainly nothing major. I can't afford it." He takes great pleasure in his children's "doing their own thing" in philanthropy today.

In 2012, Bronfman signed the Giving Pledge, an initiative of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, in which the richest Americans promise to give more than half of their wealth to philanthropy during or after their lifetimes. ■

York faculty group backs campaign linked to BDS

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

The York University Faculty Association (YUFA) is now one of more than 70 signatories to the YUDivest campaign, which some Jewish community groups and York faculty believe is part of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel.

On March 4, the YUFA stewards' council voted 23 to 10 in favour of the motion brought forth by the YUDivest Coalition, made up of groups including Amnesty International at York and Students Against Israeli Apartheid (SAIA), to urge York to divest from arms manufacturers, such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, FLIR Systems, and Textron.

Prof. Carl Ehrlich, director of York's Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, resigned from the YUFA executive in light of the endorsement vote, but still serves as a YUFA departmental steward. He said that when he learned the YUDivest campaign was being considered by YUFA for endorsement, he worked on trying to inform his colleagues of the implications of supporting a motion that was effectively an offshoot of the BDS movement against Israel.

Despite Ehrlich's efforts, YUFA's executive voted 11 to 1 in favour of the motion in February, and when it was brought to the steward's council on March 4, it was officially endorsed.

"I'm very disappointed in my colleagues, I have to admit… the YUFA executive, in its motion, tried to disassociate YUDivest from the BDS movement. People in opposition to the motion think that is being either dishonest or naïve," Ehrlich said.

StandWithUs Canada also criticized the motion.

"While YUDivest does not target Israel explicitly, anti-Israel activists are deeply involved in the campaign and are using it to advance their bigoted agenda," the pro-Israel campus group said in a statement.

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, said that "the seemingly benign proposal to divest York from arms manufacturers is in fact a smokescreen to double down on the profound anti-Jewish hate so prevalent on the York campus."

But YUFA president Richard Wellen said that members of the stewards' council decided the motion "stands on its own merits as a general weapons divestment issue. There was agreement that it is not the role of YUFA to support BDS or take sides in any way on the Israel-Palestinian conflict."

He added: "Most participants strongly rejected the suggestion that YUFA would be supporting BDS by supporting YUDivest, as if there was a plan to enlist YUFA in an unacknowledged campaign that was really primarily about supporting anti-Israel or anti-Semitic objectives." ■

Prof. Carl Ehrlich

> *I'm very disappointed in my colleagues, I have to admit*

Avi Benlolo

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!
At Corwin Mortgage Capital
we work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000270
416-543-1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | **www.corwincapital.ca**

WILLIAM ASHLEY
TABLEWARE • KITCHENWARE • HOME DÉCOR
GIFT REGISTRY

The Perfect Palette!
Discover the World's Largest Selection of White Dinnerware...
Known for the Brands we Carry at Prices that Have Made us Famous!
Service for 8 (32 Piece Set) starting at $339

WWW.WILLIAMASHLEY.COM
55 Bloor Street West, Toronto • 416-964-2900 • 800-268-1122

INTERNATIONAL

Where does Trump stand on Israel and the Jews?

BEN HARRIS
JTA

With Donald Trump sweeping to a resounding victory in seven Super Tuesday states earlier this month, Republicans awoke to the reality that the New York real estate magnate had solidified his status as the front-runner for the party nomination.

And while his candidacy has deeply unsettled many in the GOP establishment, not to mention its influential Jewish donor base, Trump has arguably the closest ties to the American Jewish community of any candidate, from his Jewish daughter and grandchildren to his deep ties to the New York business community.

Here's a rundown of Trump's major pronouncements on Jewish issues so far in the 2016 race.

Donald Trump WIKICOMMONS PHOTO

Trump would remain "neutral" on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Even more disconcerting to Jewish Republicans than his on-again, off-again, then on-again renunciation of support from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke is Trump's declaration that he would not choose sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Let me sort of be a neutral guy," Trump said in February. Unwavering support for Israel is a critical Republican talking point in the party's perpetual (and still largely unsuccessful) efforts to sway a majority of Jewish voters from their longtime dedication to the Democrats. Trump's comments will likely make that effort more difficult for the Republicans in November.

"Do they both want to make peace?"

In December, Trump expounded on the Middle East conflict in an interview with the *AP*. Trump said he was interested in making a "lasting peace," and that required the commitment of both sides, something he wasn't sure existed, adding: "I have a real question as to one side in particular." He declined to specify which side that was, but some understood Trump to be questioning Israel's commitment more than the Palestinians.

Trump would not commit to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital

At a Republican Jewish Coalition candidate's forum in December, Trump demurred when asked if he would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In January, he appeared to shift gears when he promised to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "We are for that 100 per cent," Trump said.

Trump likes Israel's West Bank security barrier

Trump's plan to build a wall on the southern border and get Mexico to pay for it is a set piece of his campaign stump speech. More than once, Trump has referenced Israel's separation wall in the West Bank as proof of the wall's efficacy and the hypocrisy of his opponents in criticizing it. "If you think walls don't work, all you have to do is ask Israel," Trump said at a debate in November. In January he tweeted: "Hillary Clinton said that it is OK to ban Muslims from Israel by building a WALL, but not OK to do so in the U.S. We must be vigilant!"

Trump doesn't want money from Republican Jewish bigwigs

At the RJC forum, Trump was candid that he did not want or expect support from Republican Jewish donors, but he made the point in a way that seemed to some to traffic in anti-Semitic stereotypes about shadowy Jewish control of political leaders. "You're not gonna support me because I don't want your money," Trump said. "You want to control your politicians, that's fine." Making matters worse, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan later saluted Trump for disavowing Jewish money.

Trump thinks the Iran deal is lousy, but won't rip it up

The deal-maker extraordinaire has not minced words when it comes to President Barack Obama's handling of the Iran nuclear negotiations, saying, "Never, ever, ever in my life have I seen any transaction so incompetently negotiated as our deal with Iran and I mean never." Among his quibbles: Iran got too much money and made no commitment to release American prisoners, and inspections are insufficiently intrusive. But unlike his fellow Republicans, Trump says he would not disavow the deal on Day 1, but would be "so tough" in enforcing it. ■

'I am proud to be Jewish,' Bernie Sanders says

JTA
WASHINGTON

Bernie Sanders said being Jewish is "essential" to who he is.

Sanders was asked during the Democratic presidential debate in Flint, Mich., on March 6 about reports that Jews were disappointed that he appeared to be have downplayed his Jewishness during his campaign.

"I am very proud to be Jewish, and being Jewish is so much of what I am," Sanders, an Independent senator from Vermont, replied.

"Look, my father's family was wiped out by Hitler in the Holocaust," said Sanders, 74, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and whose father immigrated to the United States from Poland.

"I know about what crazy and radical, and extremist politics mean," he said. "I learned that lesson as a tiny, tiny child when my mother would take me shopping, and we would see people working in stores who had numbers on their arms because they were in Hitler's concentration camp. I am very proud of being Jewish, and that is an essential part of who I am as a human being."

Sanders' relationship to his Jewish identity was never much of a national issue during his decades as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and then as a senator from Vermont.

His history-making bid for the presidential nod brought the question to the fore, however, and in two earlier debate appearances he appeared to avoid raising it, even when it was clearly an issue.

Asked at a debate in February about the historic potential of his rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, becoming the first woman president, Sanders said someone of his "background" moving into the White House would be historic as well, without specifying that he would be the first Jewish president.

Bernie Sanders

Sanders made history last month when he became the first Jewish candidate to win a nominating election, in New Hampshire.

He won handily in Maine on Sunday, the eighth contest he has won compared to Clinton's 12. She continues to lead substantially in delegates, even before the Tuesday primary in Michigan.

Sanders and Clinton agreed on much during their debate, particularly on the need for accountability in Flint, where state government decisions about water piping have led to mass contamination of the drinking water.

They clashed on other issues. On gun control, Clinton highlighted Sanders' opposition in the past to some measures. On the economy, Sanders emphasized his opposition to the 2008 bailout of the finance sector and Clinton's Wall Street ties, while Clinton honed in on Sanders' failure to fully support the Troubled Asset Relief Program that underwrote the automobile manufacturer bailout of the same year, which proved critical to protecting jobs in Michigan. And on trade, Sanders said he favoured greater protections, while Clinton defended international commerce as healthy for the U.S. economy. ■

Israelis charged in illegal Dead Sea kiosks operations

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
RICHMOND, VA.

Members of an Israeli company selling Dead Sea beauty products in shopping malls across the United States have been indicted for illegally employing 140 Israeli nationals and failing to declare their salaries to the U.S. government.

The 10 Israelis were arrested last week and charges were filed against them at a Virginia court.

Chief among the accused is American-Israeli Omer Gur-Geiger, 36, whose company Rasko operated kiosks in several states. He is charged with illegally employing Israelis who arrived in the U.S. on B-2 tourist visas, which do not allow for holders to work in the country. Gur-Geiger, a resident of Raleigh, N.C., is further accused of helping several Israelis file false applications to extend their tourist visas.

Gur-Geiger is also accused of failing to deduct tax contributions from the salaries he was paying the illegal workers, according to North Carolina's *News & Observer* website.

The nine other Israelis charged in the case were employed by Gur-Geiger.

Prosecutors have estimated the company's turnover over the past 5 years at $14.5 million, (all funds US) and have asked the court to collect that sum from the company's assets.

"The object of the conspiracy was for the co-conspirators to use the proceeds of their conspiracy to defraud and commit offences against the United States to transport foreign nationals on B-2 visas to the United States for the purpose of those foreign nationals on B-2 visas engaging in work, and to pay, house, and transport those foreign nationals on B-2 visas once they were in the United States," read the indictment.

The indictment charged Gur-Geiger with 34 counts of conspiracy to defraud the United States, visa fraud, encouraging and inducing illegal entry, harbouring illegal aliens, transporting illegal aliens and conspiracy to launder money, Raleigh's WRAL news site reported.

Young Israelis hawking skin care products, ostensibly made from minerals from the Dead Sea, have become a common sight in malls around the world including Canada. They grab customers passing by their kiosks and often coerce them into buying overpriced cosmetics, many in an attempt to make money as quickly as possible to fund post-army travels.

> *Visa issues are likely to be just the tip of the Dead Sea industry's tax and labour issues iceberg.*

But the aggressive manoeuvres used by the Israeli salespeople, coupled with the fact that many of them are working illegally, have roused the suspicions of the FBI, US Homeland Security, embassies around the world trying to combat labour fraud, and journalists who are uncovering questionable sales tactics.

In addition to aggressive and predatory sales tactics, the kiosks often skirt legal issues, evading local taxes and employing Israelis who do not have proper working permits.

A 2009 cable uncovered by Wikileaks from the American Embassy in Tel Aviv said that "In the past few years, sales of Dead Sea cosmetics and skincare products at kiosks in shopping malls across America has grown into a huge industry...A lesser-known, but problematic, aspect of the Dead Sea industry is that its personnel is comprised of many young Israelis working on tourist visas, on expired temporary work visas and on training visas. Visa issues are likely to be just the tip of the Dead Sea industry's tax and labour issues iceberg."

The leaked cable explained the process through which companies advertise online and in newspapers in Israel – promising exorbitant salaries in the range of $1,500-$3,000 per week – and coach participants how to lie in their tourist visa applications for the United States.

A Wikileaks cable from 2010 noted that few Israelis made decent money, since employers often failed to pay fair wages and there was no way to enforce that because the workers themselves were illegal. The cable noted in a few cases some Israelis actually end up in debt. "After adding in other expenses, they ended up having to pay their employer money when they left, earning nothing, contrary to what was promised," the cable stated. ■

The Times of Israel
timesofisrael.com
Melanie Lidman contributed to this report.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

RABBI RABBI

Rabbi Yael Splansky and Rabbi Mark Fishman
from Congregation Beth Tikvah of Montreal,
together with Yoni Goldstein, Editor of The Canadian Jewish News
Thursday, March 10, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.
at Holy Blossom Temple

Two rabbis from two cities and two backgrounds were brought together by a newspaper man determined to shake up the conversation. Each month these rabbis exchange ideas in writing. They delight in discovering how they agree as well as how they (respectfully) disagree.

They have never met in person. Until now! Each will bring his and her most treasured texts to challenge one another and those who come to join in the great debate of how to keep Judaism relevant in the 21st century.

All are welcome. Bring a friend.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
קהל קדוש בית

CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN.

1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5P 3K9 416.789.3291 • www.holyblossom.org

OPINION

This is my Kotel

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman

Since Jan. 31, I have been hearing from varying media that my desire to pray, with the support of the Israeli government, at a separate area of the Kotel and the desire of the Masorti movement to no longer bear the burden, both physical and financial of supporting non-haredi worshippers, seem to border on the criminal. Over and over, I have heard that the accomplishment of a goal in allowing them to pray at a specific area of the Kotel, for which the Masorti movement has been fighting since 1997 is not an accomplishment.

Criticism has not been limited to one end of the spectrum. One haredi young man burned a Reform siddur in retaliation for the announcement. Israel's Deputy Education Minister Meir Porush said that Women of the Wall "should be thrown to the dogs." On the other side, commentaries and leaders from within liberal Jewish movements stated that the plan does not go far enough. One op-ed even suggested closing the Kotel entirely until we can all learn to pray together with no barriers. Even the Grand Mufti has gotten in on the action.

It's always difficult to accept situations that are contrary to one's own desires. In an emotional situation, it can even feel like abandonment. Nonetheless, it is not wrong for one or more groups to move ahead with goals, even when others disagree.

Norma Baumel Joseph has been vocal in *The CJN* about her dissatisfaction and disagreement with the recent Kotel decision. I understand. The agreement will not help her. It will not help Original Women of the Wall. But there is much more to the decision than the status of Women of the Wall.

Joseph wrote: "By accepting this plan, they are not increasing pluralism, just decreasing shared spaces." Whether de facto or de jure, the Kotel area has become a haredi synagogue. Further, the space by Robinson's Arch, known as the Masorti Kotel, has been in use for almost 20 years.

In 1997, on Shavuot, after over 15 years of Masorti worshippers holding minyanim in the Kotel plaza, haredim became violent toward the Masorti minyan, throwing glass bottles, diapers and excrement. One year later, we began holding services in the Robinson's Arch area. We officially signed an agreement with the Israeli government in 2000, "with the responsibility and readiness to reach a compromise and to dialogue, and to limit friction and confrontation which could, heaven forbid, escalate to bloodshed, we decided to accept the proposal... to hold prayers at the southern end of the Kotel, rather than in the main plaza."

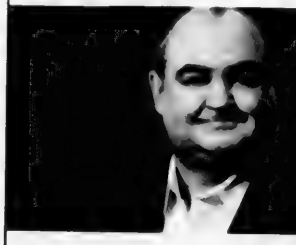
Over the last 19 years, our minyanim have grown from a handful to 50,000 worshippers last year. Each day, volunteers and staff from the Masorti movement carry tables, siddurim and sifrei Torah to the area to provide for those 50,000. The Masorti movement also carries the burden of organizing, scheduling and paying for supplies. The new agreement will make this space more visible, more accessible and, in time, as familiar. It will relieve a major financial and physical burden unfairly carried, no matter how generously given. It also acknowledges the legitimacy of non-haredim to pray as they see fit at Israel's religious sites.

For many, the Kotel we see in postcards and aerial footage is the only Kotel. They ignore that worshippers pray at the Kotel HaKatan, an exposed area of the Kotel in the Arab Quarter also recognized as a holy site. Since the excavation of the Western Wall tunnels, Jews have prayed there. Since its exposure, others have also come to worship at the southern end of the Kotel. In 1967, the southern section of the Kotel was left, as the northern plaza was cleared for archeology. The digging is done. For almost 20 years, the Masorti movement has provided for these worshippers. It's time the State of Israel recognized this section as a holy site to those who chose to pray there.

The Kotel is an important symbol for Jews around the world. Its issues are multi-layered and nuanced. There are as many solutions to administering the space as there are Jews in the world, perhaps more. To Norma Baumel Joseph and others for whom this is not the Kotel, I say, it may not be your Kotel, but it is certainly mine. ■

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman is executive director of MERCAZ-Canada & Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism.

Fuller Landau is excited to announce that Phil Smith is joining our Family Office Services practice as Managing Director.



Fuller Landau Welcomes Phil Smith to the Firm

Joining us most recently from RBC Wealth Management, Phil is a CPA who brings more than two decades of extensive experience advising high net worth individuals and families. We welcome Phil's exceptional approach to client service as we continue to add expertise and depth to our Family Office practice.

Phil can be reached at (416) 645-6580 or psmith@fullerllp.com.

FULLER LANDAU LLP

AUDIT
TAX
ADVISORY

151 Bloor Street West, 12th Floor, Toronto
416.645.6500 | fullerllp.com

Chief Rabbinate to offer own plan for prayer at Kotel

JTA
JERUSALEM

The Israeli Chief Rabbinate cancelled a meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu over the government's plan to expand the egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall a day after the Rabbinate said it would create its own plan.

The meeting with the prime minister was set for last Sunday.

Hours after the meeting was cancelled, the former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel issued a rabbinic decision in which he said that setting up such a mixed-gender prayer section was equal to completely destroying the site.

On March 5 the Chief Rabbinate met with Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, rabbi of the Western Wall, to discuss its opposition to the plan. The chief rabbis, who also consulted by phone with Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandleblit, who brokered the deal as cabinet secretary, said their alternative will eliminate any mention of non-Orthodox streams of Judaism, the *Kikar HaShabbat* haredi Orthodox news website reported.

Religious Services Minister David Azoulay said recently that he would not sign off on the new regulations to establish the expanded egalitarian prayer area. On March 3, Azoulay told rabbis at a meeting that the agreement will be killed and he would not sign it, *Ha'aretz* reported. He reportedly was to sign the agreement just over a week ago.

"They must not be given a foothold among the people of Israel," he reportedly said of the Reform and Conservative movements.

Women of the Wall participants danced with the Torah scroll at their monthly prayer services at the Kotel last year. MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90

Azoulay has called Reform Jews "a disaster for the people of Israel."

If Azoulay does not sign the regulations, Netanyahu can authorize another minister to sign them, according to *Ha'aretz*.

Rabbi Shlomo Amar, now the Jerusalem Sephardi chief rabbi and a former chief rabbi of Israel, ripped the plan last Sunday.

""No one can hand [the Wall] over to be disgraced and defamed, to those who pretend to pray, who act brazenly and mockingly, which is a desecration," he said, according to the *Times of Israel*.

Rabbi Amar added: "And it is no less serious than if they would give it over to be destroyed, its stones dismantled left and right, and razed down to its foundations, heaven forbid."

He also said the government could not make such a decision, since "no man has ownership over the site at all."

Last month, Rabbi Amar questioned the lucidity of the senior haredi Orthodox rabbis who were consulted on the historic proposal to expand the section.

"We are in agreement with Rabbi Amar's statement that no one body or person can or should have ownership over the Western Wall," the Women of the Wall group said in a statement. "Women of the Wall have long opposed the relegation of the Western Wall to the Western Wall Heritage Foundation and the sole authority of Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz over the holy site. Ideally, the Western Wall would not be divided at all, but opened up to all Jews and their traditions."

Women of the Wall has held a monthly service at the Western Wall for 25 years. Regulations at the site have allowed women to wear prayer shawls and kippot, but prevented them from using a Torah scroll in their section. ■

Most Israelis believe Jerusalem is divided, poll shows

STUART WINER
JERUSALEM

Most Israelis believe Jerusalem is a divided city rather than a unified capital, according to a poll released March 6 by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI).

The think tank's monthly Peace Index poll found that "a clear majority of Jewish Israelis, 61 per cent, thinks Jerusalem is divided into a western and eastern city."

By comparison, when the IDI first asked that question in 1999, 49 per cent of respondents said the city was not divided, as opposed to 44 per cent who said it was.

Western Jerusalem is predominately Jewish while the city's eastern half, captured from Jordan during the 1967 Six Day War, is mostly inhabited by Arab residents.

The percentage of Israelis who see the city as divided is much higher among Israeli supporters of left-wing parties: 88.5 per cent and 85 per cent among voters of the Zionist Union and Meretz, respectively.

"Likud voters were split on the question (49 per cent for each view)," the abstract said. "Some 47 per cent of Arab Israelis think it is divided."

Concerning the motivation for Palestinian terrorist attacks, which have plagued the city since violence surged in October, most Jews responded that there was no connection between discrimination against Arabs and attacks against Israelis.

A majority of the Jewish Israeli public (57 per cent) said there was "no connection between discrimination in the areas of health, education and other services against Arab Israelis and these residents' recent involvement in attacks against Israeli Jews," the IDI reported.

By contrast, a majority of Israeli Arabs (52 per cent) disagreed and said there is a connection.

Twenty-nine Israelis and three foreign nationals have been killed in a wave of Palestinian terrorism and violence since October. Some 180 Palestinians have also been killed, about two-thirds of them while attacking Israelis, and the rest during clashes with troops, according to the Israeli army.

The vast majority of Israelis polled (90 per cent) said the IDF was operating morally to combat terrorism, and half disagreed with IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot's recent call for restraint where possible.

The survey, conducted at the end of February, polled 600 respondents over the age of 18 and had a 4.1 per cent margin of error with 95 per cent confidence. ■

The Times of Israel
timesofisrael.com

Hamas has replenished its rocket arsenal

AVI ISSACHAROFF
JERUSALEM

Roughly a year-and-a-half after the end of Operation Protective Edge, Israeli officials believe that Hamas has replenished its rocket supply, reaching the number of rockets that it had before the operation began.

At the start of the summer 2014 conflict, Hamas had approximately 12,000 rockets of various ranges, including long-range rockets. It fired approximately 4,600 rockets during the 50-day war, and roughly 4,000 more were hit from the air in Israeli bombardments. That left the terror group with about one-third of its original arsenal.

Israeli officials now assess that Hamas has roughly the number of rockets that it had in June 2014. A major difference, though, is that most of the rockets are relatively short-range and of lower quality, the officials believe.

On the strength of the experience it gained during the war, Hamas has also been stockpiling mortar shells, which inflicted heavy damage to property and life in communities on Gaza's periphery and on IDF troops stationed around Gaza.

The new rockets are mostly locally produced – due to the closing of the tunnels that ran between Sinai and the Gaza Strip and the difficulty Hamas faces in smuggling standard rockets and weapons into Gaza. The locally made rockets are regarded as inferior, partly because smaller quantities of explosive materials are making it into Gaza due to the tunnel closures. ■

The Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

We need your support! Your Passover ads and greetings are like "manna from heaven".

Share good wishes with the community and help sustain The CJN.

The Canadian Jewish News is a not-for-profit organization with a small staff dedicated to providing Canadian Jews with trustworthy community news. To many living in isolation, The CJN is their only connection to the Jewish community. Committed to providing a voice for Canadian Jewry, The CJN is the go-to source for perspective on our community. We are dependent on subscription and advertising revenue to sustain us in our mission. At this time of year, we ask for your support. If you already subscribe, please consider a Passover greeting. **Call or email now. A personal greeting can be purchased for as little as $70.00.***

We appreciate your support.

BOOK NOW!

416-922-3605 | ads@thecjnsales.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
New Look | New Stories | New Perspectives

*Before taxes.

YOUR MONEY

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN

Rosenberg Smith
& PARTNERS LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Solutions for today -
Strategies for tomorrow

2000 STEELES AVENUE WEST, SUITE 200
CONCORD, ONTARIO L4K 3E9
PHONE: (416) 798-4997 FAX: (905) 660-3064
WEBSITE: www.rsp.ca

Why roll the dice with your investment returns?

Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.

PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

Discover Mortgage Investments,
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

SPONSOR CONTENT

Lonsdale investments give peace of mind

Given the state of the stock market today — volatile and declining — real estate has shown itself once again to be one of the strongest asset classes in which to invest and grow your money.

But the hassle of buying an actual property isn't for everyone, which is why one of the best ways to capitalize on the returns of real estate and diversify your portfolio is to invest in a mortgage security.

"We feel that we have an advantage to the public markets as our investors don't have to worry about a stock price fluctuating. This offers peace of mind and more control over your invested dollars," says Adrian Rasekh, chief financial officer at Lonsdale Capital.

Lonsdale Capital is a boutique real estate lender that specializes in providing first and second commercial and residential mortgages to qualified borrowers in the Greater Toronto Area.

Lonsdale's management team is comprised of over 75 years of real estate experience and is led by its president, Elliott Sud, CFO Adrian Rasekh, VP Peter Tanenbaum, and Aaron Unger, former managing director of Dundee Capital Markets, who serves on the Board of Directors.

Lonsdale Capital offers investors the opportunity to invest in high-quality mortgages for properties located in downtown Toronto.

Lonsdale works with established real estate developers in the GTA and provides them with short and long-term capital for a variety of development projects, both urban mixed-use and larger scale residential projects.

Lonsdale's investment strategy has a deep focus on the downtown core. One of its first loans, for example, was a development site in the heart of Little Italy located at College and Ossington.

"We want to lend to locations that we know intimately and that our investors can relate to," Rasekh says. "Our investment strategy is to be highly selective and to only fund high quality deals."

In turn, its mandate is to preserve investors capital while also providing them with secure and attractive distributions.

"This firm has a long history of successfully investing in private and syndicated mortgages," Elliott Sud, president of Lonsdale capital says. "It has never lost a dollar of invested capital and has always met its projected returns."

A major advantage of investing in such a debt instrument is that your return is fixed based on the overall performance of the fund, which has a target yield of 8 per cent per year. The performance fee is 20 per cent of returns over 8 per cent. The management fee is just 1 per cent of size of the fund.

Along with the monthly distributions it offers, the investment is also RRSP and TFSA eligible.

"We have the ability to offer greater returns as we have lower operating costs than publicly traded companies," Rasekh says.

In addition, Lonsdale has taken the initiative to provide the utmost transparency by partnering with KPMG as its auditor and has a strong back office anchored by Clifton Blake Asset Management Ltd and CommonWealth Fund Services Ltd. and Wildeboer Dellelce LLP. ■

For further information please contact Peter Tanenbaum, VP of Investor Relations at peter@lonsdalecapital.com or 416-400-3552, or www.lonsdalecapital.com

SPONSOR CONTENT

Investing in Israel has never been easier

Israel is setting a new standard for innovation. The country's thriving entrepreneurial spirit, exceptional workforce, intrepid culture, and resilient economy makes for an ideal environment for investors to invest their money.

Alan Blostein, vice-president at CIBC Wood Gundy, says, "Investors, whether corporate or individuals, have long seen Israel as a land of opportunity. In fact, it's not just investors who feel this way. Since the nation's founding, people from all over the world and from all walks of life have travelled to Israel to experience its unique culture and learn more about its proud history.

"We want to capture that passion and provide an investment strategy around their growing economy."

The proof is in the numbers. Over the last 20 years, the Tel Aviv Index (TASE-25 IDX) performed at a rate of 10.2 per cent compounded. Compare that to the 5.67 per cent for the S&P 500 and 4.9 per cent for the TSX. What does all this mean? Imagine you invested $250,000 in the Tel Aviv index over a 20-year period. Your investment would have grown to $1,744,102 today.

A land of opportunity, indeed!

Yet navigating Israel's business landscape can be a challenge for those who aren't familiar with the terrain. What investors need is an easy, effective way to participate in the country's economy.

Alan Blostein and Stacey Beumer, CFA, portfolio manager at CIBC Wood Gundy, saw the demand and created just that.

Thanks to the "Israel & Friends Stock Portfolio™," designed and managed by Blostein and Beumer, investors now have a simple way to take advantage of the opportunities available in Israel.

"We knew there was an opportunity to create a portfolio around investing in an Israel-focused stock investment," says Beumer. "The trouble was, there were limited options, so we decided to build our own investment strategy from scratch."

The Israel & Friends™ Stock Portfolio is comprised of 20 to 25 individual companies, half of which are based in Israel, the other half consisting of international companies with a strong footprint in Israel. This portfolio is offered exclusively through The Blostein-Beumer Investment Group. A minimum investment of $150,000 (US) is required.

The Blostein-Beumer Investment Group, with more than 40 years of providing investment advice, is well versed when it comes to understanding the thriving commerce and technology in the region. Blostein has visited Israel numerous times, and was part of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's delegation on a trade mission to Israel in 2014.

"Their young, educated, and driven workforce drives the innovation and success of their companies. It's just an incredible country," says Blostein.

Israeli companies are in demand because they are entrepreneurial, competitive, and are world leaders in technological and pharmaceutical innovation. Many multinational companies such as Nestle, Google and Microsoft have realized this. They have put their money into Israeli startups or opened research and development centres there.

In 2006, Warren Buffet, the standard-bearer for risk aversion, broke his decades-long practice of owning only U.S. companies and made a $4.5 billion investment in an Israeli company.

"The Israel and Friends™ Stock Portfolio just celebrated in first full calendar year return. The one year trailing return

as of Dec. 31, 2015 was 21.7% .

If you are an investor looking to take advantage of the exciting opportunities available in Israel, look no further. The Blostein-Beumer Investment Group's Israel & Friends™ Stock Portfolio is your chance to participate in the Israeli economy.

To find out whether this portfolio is right for you, please call The Blostein-Beumer Investment Group at 613 239-2946. It only takes a few minutes, so call today! ■

Source: Start Up Nation by Dan Senor and Saul Siger.

Alan Blostein and Stacey Beumer are Investment Advisors with CIBC Wood Gundy in Ottawa. The views of Alan Blostein and Stacey Beumer do not necessarily reflect those of CIBC World Markets Inc. CIBC Wood Gundy is a division of CIBC World Markets Inc., a subsidiary of CIBC and a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. If you are currently a CIBC Wood Gundy client, please contact your investment adviser.

SPONSOR CONTENT

Joining the private mortgage club

First mortgages provide investors with stable income in a volatile world.

Bonds are paying bubkes and stocks are a roller coaster. You have seen the ads touting stable income of 6%+ from investing in mortgages but with so many options and new terminology, it all seems overwhelming. Here is a brief primer to help you start investing in mortgages.

Public Fund, Private Fund or Syndicated Mortgage?

With syndicated mortgages you invest directly in one loan or a few loans. Pros include being able to pick and choose your deals. Cons include lack of diversification and a total lack of liquidity because you only get your money back when the loan is repaid. It is also more work to source syndicated mortgages to keep your money consistently invested.

Public and private funds remedy the disadvantages of syndicated mortgages. A public fund listed on a stock exchange would be diversified and liquid since you can sell the shares on the open market. However, public vehicles have higher costs and price volatility as the stock market fluctuates.

Private funds typically have lower costs and do not suffer price volatility because their price is not determined based on investor sentiment. This results in price stability but comes at the expense of liquidity. Most private funds will provide liquidity upon 1-3 months' notice, however, your money could be locked up for longer periods. Before investing in a private fund, ask if they have lockup periods with early redemption penalties. Regulatory rules allow private funds to be sold to investors who pass certain minimum asset or income thresholds. Those who are unable to pass those tests, can invest in public funds or syndicated mortgages.

Diversify to mitigate risk

Private mortgages are for borrowers who are not able to borrow at low bank rates. As a result, you should expect a certain level of delinquencies. Delinquent loans do not pay interest and, ultimately, may have to be sold at a loss. Having exposure to many loans is a great way to reduce this risk.

Pay attention to the types of loans

Loans in smaller cities generally have more risk than larger cities. Loans in geographies where the economy relies on one industry typically have more risk. Loans on vacant land are riskier than loans with buildings. Second mortgages are riskier than first mortgages because they lose money before the first mortgage. It is important to pay attention to the types of mortgages and underlying real estate in any portfolio when attempting to understand the risk.

Lending with a margin of safety

The great thing about investing in mortgages is that the loan is backed by real estate. If the borrower is unwilling or unable to pay back the loan then we can sell the property and the borrower will suffer the first loss. Our mortgage would lose if there is not enough value in the property after the borrower has suffered his/her loss. The extent of our protection is measured as the Loan-To-Value ("LTV").

LTV is the ratio of the loan relative to the value of the property. The lower the LTV the higher the margin of safety for the lender. LTVs of 75% or higher are typically thought to be higher risk.

Yield

All things being equal, the higher the yield, the higher the risk. Yield can be enhanced by lending on speculative deals with great uncertainty (think development land or high-rise condos), in riskier geographies and by using leverage. Yield is also enhanced by including more second mortgages in a portfolio. When deciding on which mortgage product to invest in, it is imperative to look deep enough to understand what risk you are taking to enjoy the enhanced yield.

The Bottom Line

We believe that private mortgages offer attractive yield for the risk taken. They generate monthly income with a reasonable expectation of return of capital. If the mortgages are managed by someone who is not trying to shoot the lights out then they can provide a nice addition to a fixed income portfolio. ■ *

About the author: Ricky Dogon works for Foremost Financial, a private mortgage lender based in Toronto. Foremost offers mortgages in the GTA via a private fund and syndication. For a more detailed explanation on investing in private mortgages please call Ricky at 416-488-5300 ext 269 or visit us online at www.foremost-financial.com

**The above article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell. Please consult an accountant, financial adviser or other professional before investing in anything.*

FOREMOST IN PEACE OF MIND

6.6%*
LAST 12 MONTHS

FIRST MORTGAGE FUND • GTA FOCUS MINIMIZES DOWNSIDE RISK • RRSP / TFSA / RIF ELIGIBLE

To Discuss Your Potential Investment In Foremost Mortgage Trust Please Call:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

FOREMOST FINANCIAL

*This material is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell a security. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Foremost Mortgage Trust (the "Trust") is available only to qualified investors in Ontario. The return represents the net compounded (geometric) return for investors who reinvested their distributions from February 1/15 to January 31/16. Foremost Financial Corporation is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer in Ontario. This information is inherently limited in scope and potential qualified investors should read the Trust's offering memorandum carefully prior to investing. Lic. #10342/#11654

SPONSOR CONTENT

The hidden costs when saving for university studies

When reviewing your education savings for your child's transition to university, the first step towards saving the necessary funds is to understand the end goal. What does your child aspire to do? Physician? Dentist? Lawyer? What is the cost of this dream? Does this involve evaluating Canadian professional school options or broadening the scope to U.S. and/or overseas options?

Have you saved enough money? Have you thought about all the costs? Tuition. Books. Living expenses. These are the costs that first come to mind. But there may be some costs that you have not considered in your calculations. Financial planning for your child's education should also include academic preparation and personal development during high school and undergraduate years.

Admission to university (especially for many professional school programs) is becoming more competitive and it is no longer just academic excellence that guarantees acceptance. The current trend for universities is a more holistic application process. In an attempt to assess a student's potential, many admissions committees are now looking at a student's entire profile, including his/her experience serving the community, as well as the types of extracurricular activities the student participates in to measure their longitudinal development. Can your child demonstrate commitment, critical thinking skills, initiative and leadership from their experiences?

Dr. Robert Astroff, President of Astroff Consultants Inc.

Access to tutors to improve grades and examination preparation services to maximize standardized test scores may be costs that need to be considered. In addition, encouraging your child to engage in activities that help him/her personally develop and create a competitive profile can give them an edge in the application process, and will ultimately provide experience, skill development and abilities that will assist them long after their university education is complete.

Beyond the mandatory volunteer hours in high school, encourage your child to participate in activities that offer opportunities for development. There are a broad range of organizations that can provide personal enrichment to make students more attractive university candidates. From overnight camps, volunteer and paid work, international experience (e.g. Magen David Adom and the March of the Living) to local community service, there are numerous opportunities that can build a student's profile. However, support for these activities often requires financial commitment from parents.

Not being accepted on a student's first try to a competitive university program also has financial impacts for both you and your child. Besides potentially financially supporting your child as they wait to apply the next year, it is also another year that they will not be establishing themselves in their career and earning money within their chosen profession. Gap years are becoming more common amongst students who are not accepted on their first attempt, but this time should be used carefully as an opportunity for further growth and development. Choose meaningful experiences to boost personal development to improve the chances of success in the following application cycle.

Having an academic plan in place, along with a financial plan for your future educational endeavours will help place your child on the path for a bright future. ■

For more information on academic planning for your child's future, please contact Dr. Robert Astroff at 416-929-6110 or visit www.astroff.com.

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a customized wealth management strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise, CFP
Director, Wealth Management
Senior Wealth Advisor

416-945-4983
joshua.wise@scotiawealth.com
www.thewiseinvestmentgroup.ca

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod®, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia used under licence. ™ Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia used under licence. Scotia Wealth Management™ consists of a range of financial services provided by The Bank of Nova Scotia ("Scotiabank") The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Scotiatrust®) Private Investment Counsel a service of 1832 Asset Management L.P. 1832 Asset Management U.S. Inc. Scotia Wealth Insurance Services Inc. and ScotiaMcLeod® a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Wealth advisory and brokerage services are provided by ScotiaMcLeod a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

ADVERTISE
In our
HOMES & GARDENS
SPECIAL SECTION

MAY 12, 2016
DEADLINES | Custom Content: April 18 • Ads: April 27

416-922-3605
ads@thecjnsales.com

CJN

SPONSOR CONTENT

Accounting for success in Toronto

While you might think that the world of financial statements, audits and tax isn't exciting, you haven't been working with *our* team! In this article, we'll share a few Toronto success stories – each an example of how Stern Cohen delivers value and preserves our clients' money.

Maybe Taxes are Not Always Certain

For any taxpayer, ensuring they pay their fair share (and no more) is paramount. To that end, we're ever vigilant on our clients' behalf. In one example reported in the *Toronto Star*, Stern Cohen Partner Lorne Lebow discovered his client was eligible for a $12,000 rebate on the HST the client paid for home care services for his mother. It was an obscure exemption but Stern Cohen was recognized for bringing it to light and securing a significant refund for our client.

In another case, Stern Cohen Managing Partner Michael McCleave recognized that a technical change introduced by the Canada Revenue Agency for a limited time and without much hoopla could enable some substantial refunds. Michael took the time to determine if any of Stern Cohen's clients qualified. Some did. The result: refunds for between $93,000 and $158,000. Vigilance pays.

Michael McCleave, CPA, CA, LPA, Richard Mendelsohn, CPA, CA, Ph.D and Lorne Lebow, CPA, CA, MSc. Three of Stern Cohen's seven-strong Partner team.

> *Stern Cohen was recognized in the* Toronto Star *for bringing to light a little-known tax exemption*

It's Your Business – Get Advice Today that Your Future Self Will Thank You For

As advisory specialists for owner-managed businesses, Stern Cohen has supported generations of family and private-ly-held businesses operating in Canada and internationally. Business owner transition can be devastating if the necessary planning is not carried out 3 to 5 years in advance of retirement (anything less than 18 months can be problematic).

In one example, a client with a thriving business found himself without a succession plan since his children had embarked upon different careers. As a Stern Cohen client, the business owner had ready access to a team of advisors who proactively designed and implemented a succession plan well in advance of his retirement. The plan included a valuation relating to goodwill and real estate, estate planning, a family trust, a profit sharing plan for the new owner and a pension for the retiring owner.

When all was said and done, the original business owner received full value of his business *with* a pension. The new business owner (also a Stern Cohen client) is now a wealthy person with an established business. ■

What will be YOUR Stern Cohen success story? Contact us to find out.

Jewish Life

Ori Dagan JUAN PALACIO PHOTOS

Jazz video shows you how to 'Clap on the 2 and the 4'

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Not everyone knows how to clap to jazz, so singer Ori Dagan aims to show them how in his latest release, *Clap on the 2 and the 4*.

The video features Dagan singing his original composition while his friends and fans of all ages, some with their pets, dance and clap to the music.

The song is about feeling the swing rhythm of jazz. "In other forms of music, pop music and especially classical, when you clap to the beat, you clap on the one and three. In jazz, the emphasis is on the second and fourth beat," he said.

While he was writing the song, he imagined Ella Fitzgerald singing it. Dagan taught himself the basics of scatting from listening to Fitzgerald. "Sometimes when I'm writing a song I try to imagine some of my inspirations singing it. This is one of the pieces where I could imagine Ella singing the song," he said. "She probably had the greatest sense of swing in terms of singing with jazz feeling. To me, she is the reason I sing this music."

In the video set in downtown Toronto, shots of Dagan singing and dancing, often surrounded by brightly coloured bits of animated text, are combined with footage of adults and children clapping and dancing, sometimes with birds, dogs and even a horse.

> *I absolutely love teaching people about jazz singing.*

Aside from helping audiences find the rhythm of jazz, the video is also about how jazz brings audiences together, he said.

Once Dagan had the idea for his video, he contacted friends and fans from around the world and asked them to submit videos of themselves clapping and dancing to the song. "The kids and fans added their own take on it. Some of them were really creative, choreographing a dance," he said.

The video features two of Dagan's well-known friends, Canadian fashion icon Jeanne Beker and one of his favourite singers, Alex Pangman, who claps along with her horse in a segment. At writing, the January 2016 release had more than 80,000 hits on YouTube.

Recorded with saxophonist Alison Young, pianist Scott Metcalfe, bassist Jordan O'Connor and drummer Lowell Whitty, *Clap on the 2 and the 4* is the first original song Dagan has released as a single.

Until recently, Dagan, named the best jazz vocals winner at the 2015 Toronto Independent Music Awards, has been known mainly as a singer of other people's songs rather than his own material. "I still love doing covers. But I think there's a lot to be said for putting something new in the world," he reflected. "There's definitely something that compels me to be a songwriter, so that's what I'm focusing on."

Half of the tunes on Dagan's upcoming third album, a tribute to Nat King Cole to be released this fall, will be Dagan's originals, inspired by Cole's life and legacy, while the other half will consist of tunes Cole made famous. "I'm in awe of the complete range of his musical talent," Dagan said.

Along with songwriting, recording and performing, Dagan books some 40 jazz shows a month at the 120 Diner in downtown Toronto, and he writes a monthly column called *Jazz in the Clubs* for the music publication *The Whole Note*.

He's on the faculty of the Summer Institute for Creative Adults, with singers Micah Barnes, Adreana Braun, Shannon Butcher and other artists. The institute holds a five-day summer vocal camp for adults at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

"I absolutely love teaching people about jazz singing," Dagan said. "I had a class where I was teaching senior citizens to sing the blues. It brought so much joy to people and it really stayed with me, so I'm really excited to be back at the JCC in July."

Clap on the 2 and the 4 (on YouTube) will be screened at 6:15 p.m. on March 14 at the Toronto Short Film Festival at the Carlton Cinema. ■

For information, visit www.toronto-short.com/festival. For more information about Dagan, visit www.oridagan.com and his Facebook page.

On 50 years of Woody Allen

Michael Fraiman

Name a director who's been making feature films for half a century. Seriously, try it. King Vidor may hold the Guinness World Record for the longest directing career – 67 years, from a silent short in 1913 to a short documentary in 1980 – but only 40 of those years were spent on full-length movies. Neither Stanley Kubrick nor Alfred Hitchcock, two of history's greatest and longest-serving filmmakers, surpassed 46 years.

So it's worth acknowledging that, in the spring of 1966, almost 50 years ago, Woody Allen was putting the finishing touches on *What's Up, Tiger Lily?*, his first feature-length film. For context, Allen, 80 – currently working on a new comedy film and TV series for Amazon – debuted as a director the same year that both *Star Trek* and *Batman* premiered on television.

What's more impressive than the length of Allen's career, however, is its almost literary consistency. The progress of Allen's filmography is the progress of culture and film itself, and by returning to his first film, 50 years on, one can retrospectively see the inevitable development of both.

Tiger Lily is a weird directorial debut, in that Allen doesn't direct much at all. It's a silly dub-over of a 1965 Japanese spy movie, swapping the original soundtrack and dialogue for tunes by The Lovin' Spoonful and Jewish one-liners. So instead of understanding the original story – about a plot to steal cash from anti-government guerrillas – we're watching a Japanese man named Phil Moskowitz search for the world's best egg salad recipe.

Re-watching *Tiger Lily* today (which you can do on YouTube) reveals a lot about Allen's formula, which hasn't changed much in 50 years. Like virtually all his films, it's both timeless and dated; while The Lovin' Spoonful bits (allegedly added by studio executives afterward to Allen's great disgust) rip modern moviegoers from the moment and remind them exactly in what decade the movie was made, the best gags defy age entirely. They're wordless jokes that can't be transcribed – men excitedly sniggering while peeping through a keyhole, talking about Miracle Whip or feeding a chicken to a cobra.

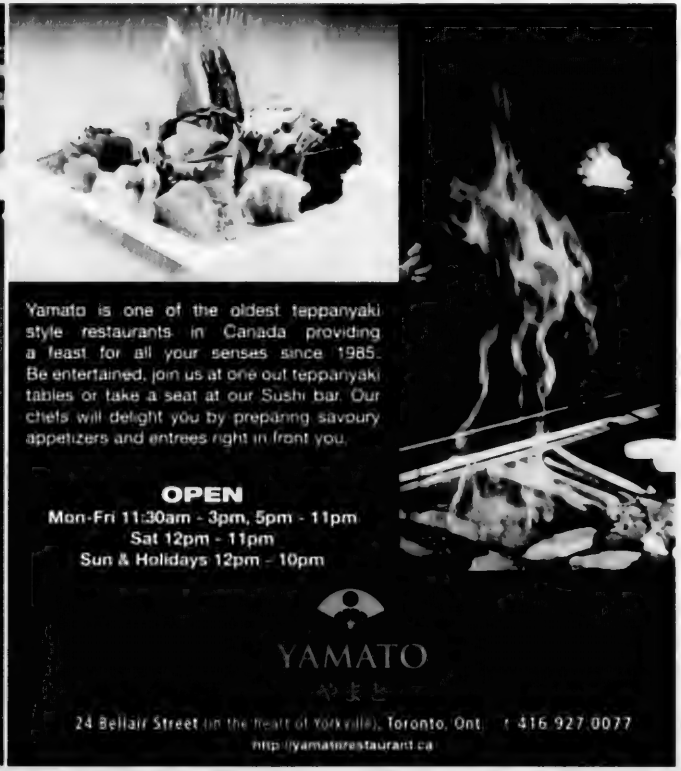
It feels very much like a first film, an 80-minute experiment that tests the boundaries of a one-dimensional concept. That naiveté indicates both the mentality of 1960s cinema and the humour of a boyishly goofy 30-year-old Allen.

Of course, we all know where Allen's career has gone, from these early sketch-comedy years to his cinematic zenith in the late 1970s and '80s, a decline through the '90s and settlement into whatever he is now—a cultural icon maligned by societal outrage whose movies are, with a few exceptions, pleasantly predictable and predictably pleasant.

But if you connect those dots back 50 years, it's all there in *Tiger Lily* – that bizarre juxtaposition between a *nebbish* man and sexier women; his experimentation with the film medium; misplaced Yiddishisms ("a salad so delicious you could *plotz*"); jokes revealing sexual inadequacy and quiet desperation; his self-aware cameos, wherein he addresses us, a reminder that we're still just watching a movie, his movie.

The hidden value of silly entertainment has recurred as a theme throughout Allen's career; it literally saves his life in *Hannah and Her Sisters*. But he's always been hesitant to define that value as anything more than accepting the randomness of life. The action in *Tiger Lily* pauses at one point, cutting to Allen sitting next to an interviewer, who asks, "Woody, because the story is a little bit difficult to follow, would you give the audience and myself a brief rundown of what's gone on so far?" Allen, deadpan, stares directly into the camera, and replies, "No." It's never been his job to explain anything—his job is simply to make us laugh. ■

舟 FUNÉ
100 Simcoe Street
Toronto, Ont. M5H 3L2
416.599.3868
www.funerestaurant.com
Located in the heart of Toronto theatre district, Fune has been operating since the nineties.
We are committed to create exquisite Japanese delicacies. Our assortment of sushi is meticulously executed, supremely fresh, and punctuated with welcome surprises.
Our Nabemono specialties - Shabu Shabu and Sukiyaki - will deliver a taste of tradition, pleasant warmth, and a delightful dining experience.
The traditional or the neo-modern Japanese dishes are prepared with our heart and skills to satisfy your love of quality Japanese cuisine.
OPEN
Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30am - 2:30pm
Sat, Sun & Holidays Closed
Dinner: Sun-Thu 5pm - 10pm Fri-Sat 5pm - 11pm


Yamato is one of the oldest teppanyaki style restaurants in Canada providing a feast for all your senses since 1985. Be entertained, join us at one out teppanyaki tables or take a seat at our Sushi bar. Our chefs will delight you by preparing savoury appetizers and entrees right in front you.
OPEN
Mon-Fri 11:30am - 3pm, 5pm - 11pm
Sat 12pm - 11pm
Sun & Holidays 12pm - 10pm
YAMATO
やまと
24 Bellair Street (in the heart of Yorkville), Toronto, Ont. t 416.927.0077
http://yamatorestaurant.ca

Playwright is first Canadian to win prestigious Yale award

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Hannah Moscovitch won Yale's Windham-Campbell prize.

What would you do with $150,000 (US)?

For playwright Hannah Moscovitch, that question's now a reality because she just won one of the Donald Windham-Sandy M. Campbell Literature Prizes.

Yale University announced the nine massive prizes on Feb. 29 this year, awarding artists who "have left their mark on the world of literature and theatre or have been judged by their peers as exceedingly likely to do so."

Moscovitch, an Ottawa native, is now the first Canadian woman and first Canadian playwright to get a Windham-Campbell, a prize Yale established in 2013. But when she found out, she didn't believe it right away.

"My son was asleep on my lap – he's eight months old. I listened to the audio-file sent to my phone as a message and I thought it was telemarketing," she says, noting how it sounded like one of those pre-recorded "you've just won a free cruise!" calls.

"I nearly didn't respond. And I called them and I asked them if it was real," she continues with a laugh.

She didn't even know she was up for a prize because the whole Windham-Campbell process is rather secretive.

After receiving that fateful voicemail, she learned Toronto's Tarragon Theatre – where she's the playwright-in-residence – and Alberta Theatre Projects in Calgary both nominated her for the award.

But despite the thrill of winning, she's not sure exactly what she's going to do with her unrestricted grant yet.

"I do think it means I'll work on projects on my bucket list," she says. And that may include writing a play based on the Jewish gangsters who ruled Montreal back in the 1920s and '30s.

Before she does that though, her latest play, *Bunny*, will premiere at the Stratford Festival this summer, and in January 2017, Tarragon will remount her Dora Mavor Moore award-winning show, *Infinity*.

Off-stage, Moscovitch writes for CBC's World War II spy thriller *X Company* – Season 2 is airing now.

Moscovitch, who's currently based in Halifax, has received multiple Dora Awards and is the first playwright ever to win a prestigious Trillium Book Award.

Her most recent accolade will be a huge help as she continues to move forward in her career.

"It does make a big difference if you're a freelancer and you don't know where money and work are coming from," she says. This prize is a sort of safety net. "It means I'll be less afraid, and I hope that means my work will be stronger." ■

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

SALES AND MARKETING BY
ONEWORLD PROPERTIES
Michael Mann 786-479-8180
Tina [illegible] 305-458-8346
EMAIL ilcaproperties@gmail.com
One World Properties
SE HABLA ESPANOL
NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL
YOUR FLORIDA VACATION PROPERTY!
With the Canadian dollar at levels not seen since 2003, sell your Florida based property and take advantage of both capital appreciation in both property value and US dollar vs. the Canadian dollar. Contact our team of professionals for an analysis of your property value and what exactly to expect in the selling process!

KOSHER & NATURAL FOODS
UNIQUE PURIM BASKETS & TRAYS
WE DELIVER

LORNE'S
Timeless
Coats for Travel or any Season in Fabulous Colours and Every Size.
A Vast Selection of Lightweight Warm Down Coats and Jackets are All on Sale.
Expert Alterations on Any Coat.
LORNE'S
101 Spadina Ave, Toronto
416-596-1058
866-596-8397
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 10-6

PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
"Lots more for less....& with a smile"
PURIM MADNESS
Masks • Beads
Accessories • Costumes
Decorations
Spend $30.00 and receive $10 in Party Bucks to be used after April 1, 2016. (Must present this advertisement at time of purchase.) No copies accepted.
PARTY BUCKS $10
905-764-5457
Follow us on Facebook
92 Doncaster Ave. • Thornhill
www.party.ca

CHAT grad dream becomes reality with Maple Leafs

Zach Hyman takes to the ice with the Maple Leafs.

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Zach Hyman recalls the phone conversation as if it happened just a week ago – which of course, it did. It was on a Sunday afternoon when he received the call telling him to come to the Air Canada Centre the next morning for a pre-game skate.

That's a skate with the Toronto Maple Leafs, it should be noted, not with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, with whom he'd been playing all season.

"It was a really cool phone call," Hyman recounted. "It's something you've been dreaming about your whole life."

Like countless other Canadian kids, Hyman grew up playing hockey and dreaming of playing in the NHL. Of course, only a very small number ever get to live the dream, so Hyman and the three other Marlies call-ups were joining some very select company, indeed.

"I felt more excited than nervous," he said of the actual game-day.

He and his Marlies buddies, including centre William Nylander, were called upon to take the opening faceoff against the Tampa Bay Lightning's Filppula line, backed up by defenceman Victor Hedman.

Welcome to the NHL, kid.

"It felt good," Hyman said of playing on the opening and not having to wait to be called upon on the bench.

Up in the stands, besides the diehard fans of Leafs Nation, were the charter members of the Hyman fan club. His parents, brothers and other family members were present, as were plenty of friends.

With the first two tickets provided by the Leafs, he set up his girlfriend, whom he met while attending the Anne and Max Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and her mother. Another pair of tickets went to one of his former teachers at TanebaumCHAT, Jory Vernon, who's a vice-principal at the school now.

"When I was in high school, I made a promise to my American history teacher at the time [Vernon], that at my first game in the ACC, he'd be there," Hyman recounted.

When Hyman signed a pro contract with the Leafs last summer, Vernon reminded him of his high school promise.

With the Leafs out of the playoffs and the team embracing a youth movement, there's a good chance Hyman and the other young guns will get a good long look for the rest of the season.

He's performed pretty well in his first few games. The stat line from the Tampa Bay game reads zero goals and assists, even on the plus/minus scale, two shots on goal, one hit and 15:58 in ice time – pretty respectable numbers for a rookie, let alone someone playing their first game in the NHL. Games two through four were pretty similar, with Hyman earning about 15 minutes of ice time a night and being defensively responsible – even on the plus/minus scale.

Hockey Night in Canada made special mention of his ability to carry the puck into the offensive zone, rather than simply dumping it in.

So far, the transition from the AHL to the NHL has been "awesome," Hyman said. "It's fast" but he believes the speed suits his game. His line mate with the Leafs is Nylander, no slouch in the speed and skill department, and last year with the University of Michigan Wolverines, one of his line mates was Dylan Larkin, a speedster who isn't doing too badly with the Detroit Red Wings.

Although his NHL adventure is only a few games old, Hyman has been feeling more comfortable all the time. "I've giving 100 per cent every time I'm on the ice," he said.

Maple Leafs' no-nonsense coach Mike Babcock has noticed. Following the Lightning game, Babcock said, "Hyman is a relentless worker who can still make plays."

After a road game in Washington, he said, "I thought Hyman and [Nikita Soshnikov] were real good."

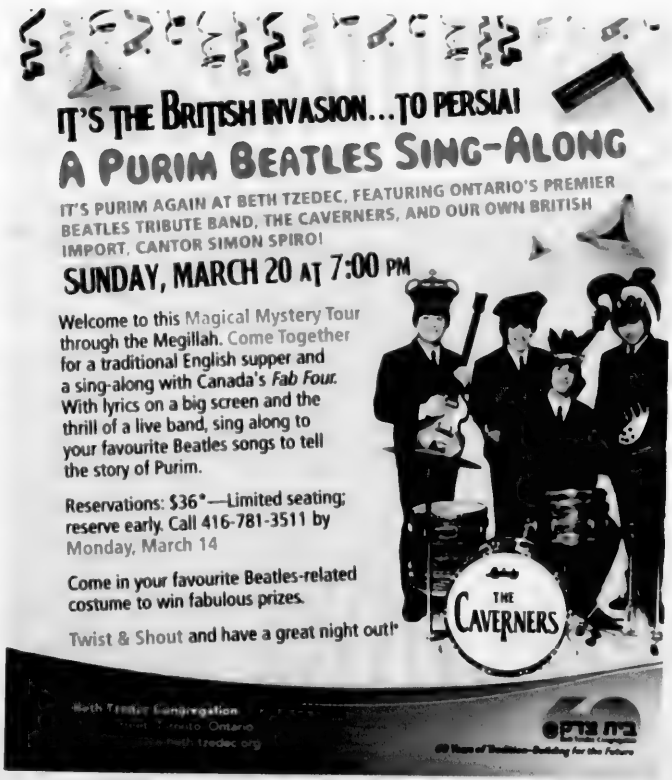
And following last weekend's game at home versus the Senators, he said, "I thought Hyman, Soshnikov and Nylander were all real good for us."

Hyman has been real good at hockey ever since he was a boy. At an early age, he developed the mindset that would allow him to continue to take the steps from one level to another, and set for himself "goals within goals."

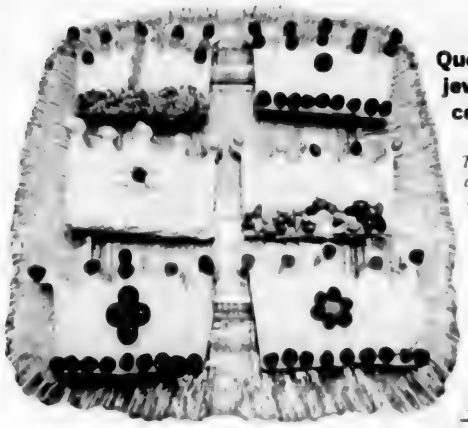
As a youngster, he wanted to be the best player in AAA hockey. Later he aimed to play NCAA college hockey. Once at Michigan, it was becoming an All-American, something he attained in his last year, when he was also in the running for the prestigious Hobey Baker Award, scoring 54 points in 37 games as a senior.

Hyman continues to set goals for himself – the ultimate one is to win the Stanley Cup.

In the meantime, there are those goals within goals to attain, at the heart of which is "to try to be the best that I can be." ■


IT'S THE BRITISH INVASION...TO PERSIA!
A PURIM BEATLES SING-ALONG
IT'S PURIM AGAIN AT BETH TZEDEC, FEATURING ONTARIO'S PREMIER BEATLES TRIBUTE BAND, THE CAVERNERS, AND OUR OWN BRITISH IMPORT, CANTOR SIMON SPIRO!
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 AT 7:00 PM
Welcome to this Magical Mystery Tour through the Megillah. Come Together for a traditional English supper and a sing-along with Canada's Fab Four. With lyrics on a big screen and the thrill of a live band, sing along to your favourite Beatles songs to tell the story of Purim.
Reservations: $36*—Limited seating; reserve early. Call 416-781-3511 by Monday, March 14
Come in your favourite Beatles-related costume to win fabulous prizes.
Twist & Shout and have a great night out!*
THE CAVERNERS

Treats recall Queen Esther, a woman worthy of her crown



RANDY FINGRUT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Purim is carnival time. Decorum is tossed out the synagogue window and surprises are the rule of the day. We are encouraged to dress up in colourful costumes and masks. Children in particular enjoy dressing up as the characters in the Book of Esther. Children also enjoy delicious Purim treats and colourful crafts. This year, blend the two together: take your children into the kitchen for a hands-on adventure. Spend holiday time with them while creating inventive and colourful treats to celebrate Queen Esther and all that she did for the Jewish People.

Queen Esther's jewelled crown cookies

These amusing cookies are great for kids of all ages. Entertaining to decorate and delightful to eat! Use a crown-shaped cookie cutter, or design your own crowns.

- ❑ 1 cup butter, softened
- ❑ 1 1/2 cups sugar
- ❑ 2 large eggs
- ❑ 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- ❑ *1 tsp. pure almond extract
- ❑ 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- ❑ pinch of salt
- ❑ 1/2 cup icing sugar
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. pure vanilla
- ❑ 1 1/2 tsp. water
- ❑ edible jewels: your choice of jelly beans, M&M's, course sugar crystals, silver dragées, assorted sprinkles, sugar pearls, candy covered sunflower seeds or cinnamon hearts

*optional, but almond extract gives the cookies an amazing boost of flavour.

In food processor, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add in eggs, vanilla and extract until mixed. Combine flour, baking powder and salt just until blended, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Divide dough into four equal pieces and flatten each piece into a disk. Wrap each disk in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour or as long as overnight.

Prepare 2 or more cookie sheets with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 350.

Remove one piece of dough from refrigerator. On lightly floured surface, with floured rolling pin, roll dough to 1/4-in. thick. With floured cookie cutter, cut dough into as many cookies as possible. Place cookies carefully onto parchment paper. Bake until edges are golden, 12 to 15 minutes, rotating cookie sheets between upper and lower oven racks halfway through.

Place cookie sheets over a wire rack to cool. Repeat with remaining dough.

When cookies are cool, mix icing sugar with vanilla and water to make an icing paste. Use paste to fasten candies to decorate the cookies. Set cookies aside to allow icing paste to dry completely, about 1 hour. Store in tightly covered container with parchment paper between layers.

Depending on the size of the cookie cutter, recipe makes 12 to 16 cookies.

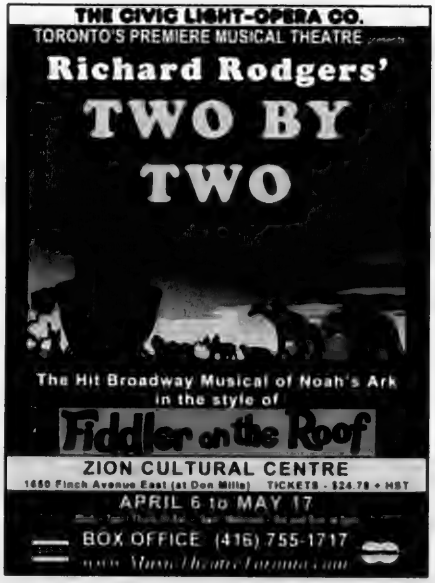
Jewelled crackle

Crackle is all the rage, showing up everywhere, made from all types of ingredients. Here is a fun crackle recipe to prepare for Purim, or any other time you wish.

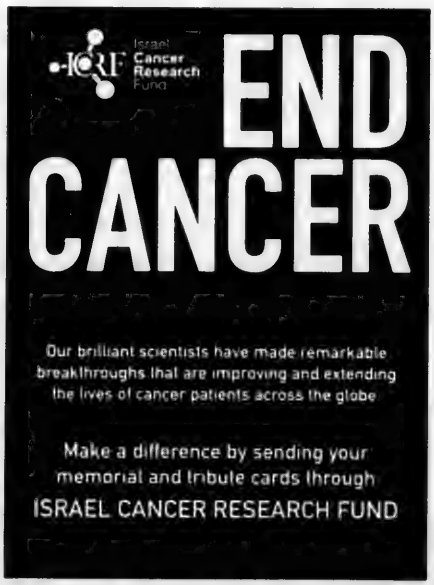
- ❑ 1 cup butter
- ❑ 1 cup brown sugar
- ❑ 2 cups pretzels, mini, twisted style
- ❑ 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ❑ 1 cup M&Ms or similar candy

Line a baking sheet, including sides, with parchment paper. Set oven to 350.

In a heavy saucepan, melt butter over medium heat and add brown sugar. Stir well with a whisk until sugar is dissolved. Continue cooking and stirring with the whisk until the mixture starts to look like toffee, about 3 minutes. Line the pretzels in rows on the parchment, then drizzle the mixture over the pretzels. Evenly sprinkle the chocolate chips over the mixture, and place in oven for 1 minute. Chocolate chips will hold their shape but become glossy. Using an offset spatula, spread the melted chocolate evenly over the mixture. Sprinkle the M&Ms evenly over the chocolate. Cool mixture in the refrigerator until set, approximately 1 hour. Break the crackle apart into cookie-size pieces and keep refrigerated until serving.


THE CIVIC LIGHT-OPERA CO.
TORONTO'S PREMIERE MUSICAL THEATRE
Richard Rodgers'
TWO BY TWO
The Hit Broadway Musical of Noah's Ark in the style of
Fiddler on the Roof
ZION CULTURAL CENTRE
1650 Finch Avenue East (at Don Mills) TICKETS - $24.78 + HST
APRIL 6 to MAY 17
BOX OFFICE (416) 755-1717

STEELES
EST DELI 1980
RESTAURANT
New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions
*SPECIAL
$2.00 OFF*
Any Adult Dinner Entrees
Dine-in Only
Passover Menu Now Available
FREE Home Delivery on orders over $80.00
(within immediate area)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Not to be combined with any other offer. Valid until 04/18/16. Special only creditable on total bill, not for each separate meal
FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT · DINE-IN · CATERING


ICRF Israel Cancer Research Fund
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Jewelled crown dessert

You will feel a twinge of nostalgia when you prepare this elegant Purim dessert. It is a blast from the past, an oldie, but a goodie! And it is worth bringing back. It is based on an ancient Jell-O dessert that many of us enjoyed as kids and your family will love now. Either prepare it as I suggest, in a crown shaped pie shell, or serve in a clear bowl, a trifle dish or in individual fruit nappies.

Crown Pie Shell

- ❑ 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. salt
- ❑ 2/3 cup cold unsalted butter
- ❑ 1 tbsp. sugar
- ❑ 1 tsp. pure vanilla
- ❑ 4 to 6 tbsp. cold water
- ❑ 9-in. spring form pan

Combine flour and salt in food processor or bowl then pulse or combine in butter, pure vanilla and one tbsp. sugar until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add in water just until flour is moistened and forms a ball. Divide dough in half and shape each half into a disc. Flatten slightly. Wrap each disc in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 450. Roll each ball of dough on lightly floured surface into a 12-inch circle. Place one circle in the spring form pan, pressing firmly against bottom and sides. The second circle will be cut with a sharp knife into zig zags around the outside of the circle. Then cut a second circle about 1 in. below the zig zag pattern, cut the zig zagged section into two pieces and carefully attach them up the sides of the pan so the zig zag pattern stands just above the crust.

Press down at the seams to make it secure. Using a fork, make prick marks all along the bottom of the pan and up the sides. Bake for10-12 minutes or until it is golden brown. Cool.

Filling

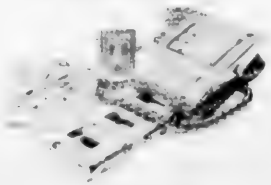
- ❑ 1 package orange gelatin
- ❑ 1 package cherry gelatin
- ❑ 1 package lime gelatin
- ❑ 1 package grape gelatin
- ❑ 1 package lemon gelatin
- ❑ 1/4 cup sugar
- ❑ 1 cup boiling water
- ❑ 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- ❑ 1 1/2 cups Cool Whip

Dissolve package of orange gelatin in 1 cup boiling water. Add 1/2 cup cold water. Place gelatin in a shallow 9x9-inch individual baking dish. Repeat with cherry, lime and grape gelatin. (There should be four different pans.) Place in refrigerator to set 4 hours or overnight.

Dissolve lemon gelatin and 1/4 cup sugar in 1 cup boiling water. Add 1/2 cup pineapple juice. Let set in large bowl in the refrigerator until thick but not solid, about one hour. Add Cool Whip. Fold it in until completely combined. There should not be any streaks. Cut the four colours of gelatin into cubes and fold into the lemon mixture. Place mixture into the prepared pie shell. Refrigerate until set, 4 hours or overnight. ■

SELLING OUT SALE
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $150-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Retail $150-$250. Now 5 shirts for $150. HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— or —
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN
We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.
They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.
Deadline for submissions is
March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.
E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 10, 2016

When a book (and a book review) is also a fan letter

NORMAN RAVVIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Some of us are in the Bruno Schulz business. As devotees, we pine for the discovery of his manuscripts that were lost in the wartime. We follow websites dedicated to his writing and illustrations. Sometimes we even daydream of visiting Drohobycz, the Galician hometown, now in the Ukraine, where Schulz lived and wrote.

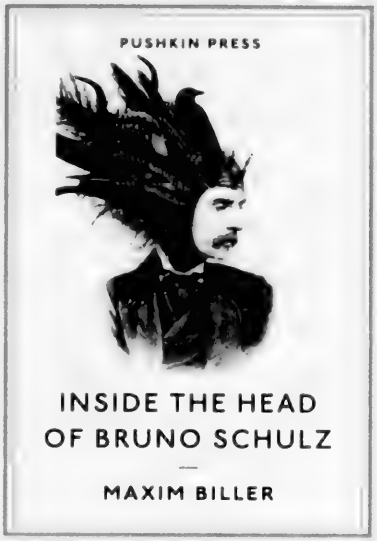
Then there are the writers who build their own fictional worlds around Schulz's life and writing: David Grossman; Jonathan Safran Foer; Nicole Krauss; Cynthia Ozick. Are they up to the task, or is their undertaking a bit like James Joyce's son trying to write a novel about Dublin? Upon reading their efforts one turns back to Schulz himself – his two slim volumes called *Cinnamon Shops* (1934) and *Sanatorium Under the Sign of the Hourglass* (1937) – to breathe a sigh of relief upon returning to the Real Thing.

New to the company of Schulzian devotees is the Prague-born, Berlin-based Maxim Biller. Biller's *Inside the Head of Bruno Schulz* is a unique addition to the catalogue of books by Schulz devotees. Published by the Pushkin Press in London, it is a lovely thing to hold in your hand, a tiny, beautifully made book that points back to the independent handmade books of the Bloomsbury era.

Inside the Head of Bruno Schulz contains three things: Biller's long short story, a surreal portrait of Schulz at work in a basement room, circa 1938; and two pieces from Schulz's *Cinnamon Shops*, including the masterpiece that bears the book's title and is a kind of blueprint for his fictional oeuvre. These are in the original 1960s translation from the Polish by Celina Wieniewska.

For newcomers to Schulz this is an attractive offering. A bit of the master supplemented and introduced by one of his recent devotees.

What does Biller make of Schulz? Certainly, something strange. In this case, the devotee comes to the master via another devotee. Biller's Schulz seems to be partly inspired by the American animation team the Brothers Quay. Their film based on Schulz's *Cinnamon Shops* is a grotesquerie of faltering puppets, collapsing machinery, and cabinets of curiousity full of hairballs and skittering insects.



Inside the Head of Bruno Schulz
By Maxim Biller.

Pushkin Press

Biller places his reader "inside the head of Bruno Schulz" in a Drohobycz basement, where Schulz writes under a "dirty skylight" that offers a voyeuristic view of "shoes and legs . . . umbrella tips and skirt hems of passersby up above in Florianska Street." Here we meet Schulz the fetishist, who is more evident in the author's cliché verre etchings, where he presents, again and again, the image of men worshipping women.

Biller's Schulz writes a letter to the German novelist Thomas Mann. Schulz in fact did this, in an effort to gain Mann's support for his German-language story *The Homecoming*.

The narrative twist in *Inside the Head of Bruno Schulz* is the appearance in Drohobycz of an impostor, a German who impersonates Mann, lords over the town's Poles and Jews, while cutting a secret deal with a Gestapo informant who seeks "a written list of all the Jews in town . . . their addresses and a brief assessment of their physical strength and financial circumstances."

In 1938 Drohobycz was in the last throes of an oil boom, and it appears, from Schulz's letters, that he was warned by a friend about the overtures of a German spy who was making grandiose promises about German language publication of his work.

Based on this anecdote Biller creates an extended set piece in which a bathroom in a Hapsburg era hotel is transformed into a torture chamber, which is evocative, not so much of wartime experience as of previous artistic attempts to explore the German penchant for domination. These include Lina Wertmüller's 1975 movie *Seven Beauties* and Leonard Cohen's second novel *Beautiful Losers*.

> *Inside the Head of Bruno Schulz is a unique addition to the catalogue of books by Schulz devotees.*

The more devoted one gets to Schulz, the tougher the detective work, the more aware one becomes of contemporary artists pushing his oeuvre in new directions. Biller's story confirms the talismanic qualities of Schulz's work and life, and his ongoing capability to motivate others to create strange new things.

Drohobycz, in the heart of still-troubled Ukraine, beckons to the Schulzian devotee. One finds oneself up, late at night, furtively checking ticket prices to Lviv, and wondering about the reliability of hotel offerings on Florianska Street. ■

Norman Ravvin is a writer and teacher in Montreal.

Sisters invite you to bite into their newest cookbook

SUSAN MINUK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The combined genius of two sisters, Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat (also known as the Bite Me sisters) has provided a culinary platform for everyone stepping into the kitchen arena.

Albert and Gnat are set to launch their third cookbook, *Lick Your Plate*, published by Random House, on March 29.

Lick Your Plate offers 160 original recipes, several 30-minute dinner ideas, tips, tricks, mouthwatering visuals, funny anecdotes, drool-worthy descriptions of every recipe, and is perfect for everyone from the beginner to the well-seasoned home cook.

"Our goal is to get people across the country licking their plate. It's going to be the go-to cookbook for easy week- night meals, entertaining ideas, and for bringing friends and family together in a stress-free way," said Albert.

Albert, armed with a masters of journalism from Ryerson University, and Gnat having earned her pastry papers at George Brown, have co-authored bestselling cookbooks *Bite Me* and *Bite Me Too*.

"Our cookbooks are our babies, and we have the stretch marks to prove it," laughed Albert.

"When we write our books, we really aim to create accessible recipes that set people up for success.

"We have put so much love and thought into creating a resource for people who really just want to get into the kitchen, or who are spending a lot of time in the kitchen looking for fun and answers to what's for dinner," said Albert.

Lick Your Plate is eye candy with a fresh aesthetic that aims to inspire people, thanks to the sisters' skills. It is all about fresh ingredients to bring out flavours without adding fat.

"Everything is real food. All the soups are creamy – but there is no cream in them. With our world-famous candy-topped challah bread, our brisket, our sour cream coffee cake, and our falafel salad, there are many recipes that speak to our Jewish roots," said Albert.

"There are many books out there telling you how to eat. We serve up the recipes, and they can each be adapted accordingly to your own personal lifestyle," added Gnat.

Lisa Gnat, left, and Julie Albert and their new cookbook. RYAN SZULC PHOTO

Gnat's passion for cooking began when she was a child.

"I would be with my mom in the kitchen all the time," Gnat said. "She showed me the love of creating, cooking, and bringing family together."

Albert added, "Lisa was a killer with her Easy-Bake oven. She had all the neighbourhood lined up. She was ruthless, selling cakes at 10 cents for one, and two for 25 cents."

Cooking doesn't need to be intimidating, and nothing needs to be perfect.

"I just sat and watched. Lisa has fed me from the beginning. When I had a family of my own, noodles with butter weren't really going to cut it anymore. I turned to Lisa, and she really taught me how to cook. Her recipes work. I feel extremely lucky to get to work with my best friend.

"I really admire what Lisa does and Lisa tolerates what I do," said Albert.

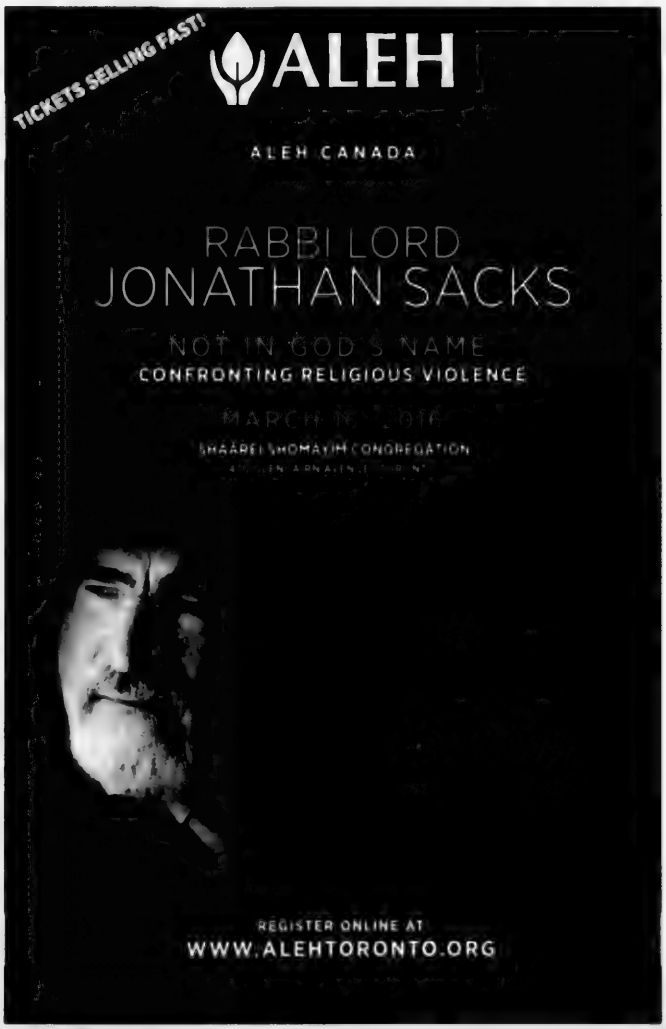
Asked what is it that sets *Lick Your Plate* apart from other cookbooks, Albert said that it is, "The mash up: the combination of fool-proof recipes with the fun factor."

Lick Your Plate has attracted a broad and diverse range of endorsements from people such as chef Michael Smith; musician Jon Bon Jovi; food critic Gail Simmons; astronaut Chris Hadfield; founder, chair and CEO of Indigo Heather Reisman, and actor Jason Alexander.

"Jason Alexander – a.k.a. George Costanza from the TV series *Seinfeld* – wrote something menschy and quite hilarious," said Albert.

"I've always had a fantasy about sisters....cooking for me. Lisa and Julie make it come true. I love to eat. I love great food. I love these girls. I ate this book," wrote Alexander.

Lick Your Plate will be available for purchase at www.bitememore.com, Amazon, Indigo and other bookstores. ■



SENIOR SIDE OF LIFE

Metal implants and travel

Dr. Michael Gordon

Many older patients of mine have metal implants in their limbs following some form of reconstructive surgery. It is the age of the bionic person. With so many "snowbirds" and with security metal detectors almost everywhere, there is often an expressed concern about whether having a metal implant in the hip or knee might delay you or lead to problems when you pass through airport or cruise security metal detectors.

I recently had a comparable experience when flying, which I do quite often. I had acquired a MedicAlert bracelet, which also is a common accoutrement of many older patients. As I passed through the security arch having already removed all my usual triggers (phone, wallet, belt, watch), the alarm went off – I realized that the MedicAlert bracelet, whose clasp is such that it is very difficult to open, clearly for safety reasons, was the culprit. I mentioned it to the agent – who took his wand and clearly identified the source of the alarm, and when he finished the rest of the scan, he let me through without any problems.

I was curious and perused the medical literature on the subject, given the high prevalence of seniors with metal in their bodies – part of the contemporary miracle of modern medicine. I recall a time when severe knee and hip arthritis left seniors either completely immobilized or chronically racked by significant, often life-altering pain.

It is not that the surgery is "easy," and it's not always successful, but for many, it can have a dramatic and long-lasting beneficial effect. No less important than the surgery itself is that there seems to be a very flexible ceiling on age – with some very elderly individuals found suitable for surgery – depending on what other medical conditions exist.

Many of the articles that discuss the issue remark on a practice in the past, when patients with metal hardware in their bodies often provided the security agents with letters or cards attesting to their condition. However, it is now felt that these are not needed nor heeded, as there is no way of verifying the veracity of the author – and the backup metal detector or full body scan will do the trick more effectively and assuredly.

> *Novel treatments that, although life enhancing or life saving may cause some modicum of inconvenience at the security gate when people travel.*

What most of the articles on the subject suggest is that the traveller should alert the security agent right up front about the issue rather than waiting for the detector to go off. I thought of having the clasp on my MedicAlert bracelet changed to one that could be more readily opened and closed but decided that the security of a bracelet that could not readily inadvertently fall off was more important than the minor inconvenience of a manual security scan.

Some things, we often say, just "come with the territory." Travel has become more complicated because of issues of security. There is no doubt that the recent tragic bombing of a passenger plane in the Middle East will result in either more intense scrutiny of travellers or some new directives on screening – just when things seemed to be easing up in North American airports.

Medicine has become more complicated because of novel treatments that, although life enhancing or life saving (such an internal heart pacemaker which also has metal wires), may cause some modicum of inconvenience at the security gate when people travel.

This seems to be a small price to pay to achieve both desirable ends – being able to walk unattended through a security gate after restorative surgery, and making sure that fellow travellers are safe in their travels.

Still, during those years when I was studying medicine all this would have been in the realm of wild imagination. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-6457

Elizabeth & Ivan Katz are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie, to Dr. Daniel Lewinshtein, son of Rhona & Dr. Sam Lewinshtein.

Kyla Tal, delivered with love by mommy, Giselle Revah, under a watchful eye of daddy, Ryan Foster – Jan. 23. Ludmila, Isaac and Valentina welcome her.

Mazel tov and happy 91st birthday to Lusia Belzycki from your family and friends all over the world. You are an inspiration to us all.

Happy healthy birthday to amazing 101-year-old racketball player and daily workout superstar Leo Goodman. Love, his children, grandchildren and the best great-grandchildren.

Email your digital photo along with a description of 25 words or less to cjnews@cjnews.com or go online to www.cjnews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Tiana Koffler Boyman, Marc Boyman, Howard Podeswa and Joy Walker

John Armstrong, Libby Hague and Yael Brotman

Alex Chalk, Ben Walker, Rachel Walker and Samantha Stillar

Jeremy Podeswa and Peter Ritchie

Art exhibit at Koffler

The work of Toronto artist Howard Podeswa was the centre of attention at a recent public reception at the Koffler Gallery. Podeswa's exhibit *A Brief History* reflects on the current state of the world with a new series of paintings articulating an end-of-times cosmology inspired by artistic and scientific visions. These immersive large-scale paintings are definitely worth seeing before the exhibit ends March 27. ■ – *The Socialite*

Georgiana Uhlyarik, Howard Podeswa, Mona Filip, Olga Korper and Barbara Astman

Katya and Jonathan Weisz

Richard Toker, Francine Zuckerman and Maddy Toker

Kim Tomczak, Stephen Andrews and Lisa Steele

Tracy Komlos, Jack Boyman, Sabine Lambot and Marc Boyman

Matthew Varey, Stefan Hancherow and Jennifer Simaitis

JORJAS PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

Give a Gift Card for Special Occasions
Kosher Dining • Spa • Hotel • Events
KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN FOR DINNER EVERYDAY (exc. Fridays)
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com
Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

MARCH 10 - MARCH 17

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, March 10

DESERT ISLAND TEXTS
Rabbis Yael Splansky and **Mark Fishman** along with *The CJN*'s **Yoni Goldstein** discuss "Desert island texts," 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

ZUMBA
Eva Aroosi leads a Zumba class, 8 p.m., Temple Har Zion. $5 for non-members.

LIFE AND DEATH
Marc Benjamin discusses "Life and death in the Jewish community," 6 p.m. at Benjamin's Chapel, 2401 Steeles Ave. W. Sponsored by Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

JEWS' MUSE
Rick Phillips discusses "What made Mendelssohn, Mahler, Copland and Bernstein tick?" in a 4-part series starting tonight, 7:30 p.m. Congregation, Darchei Noam. Register online at darcheinoam.ca

Sunday, March 13

PURIM CONCERT
Rabbi B Music and **Steve the Magician** perform at a Purim concert, 1:30 p.m., Eitz Chaim School, 80 York Hill Blvd., Thornhill. $10 for children/$5 adults.

A HIDDEN JEWISH PAST
Julie Martinez discusses "My hidden Spanish Jewish past, a journey of self-discovery," 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam.

Monday, March 14

MEDICAL HALACHAH
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Treating dental emergencies on Shabbat," 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 647-234-7299.

CURRENT ISSUES IN JEWISH LAW
Yedida Eisenstat discusses "Jewish law: history, philosophy and current issues," Tonight, homosexuality, 7 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of March 24 is March 14. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Hopping to help

The childcare and preschool students at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre recently raised $3,500 in their fifth annual Hop, Skip and Jump fundraiser, which helps make quality childcare financially accessible for all families. From left, Fiona Veneziano, Aiden Ostrovsky, Zev Oron and Lily Corless are pleased to show how much they raised.

Tuesday, March 15

JEWS FOR JUDAISM
Jews for Judaism presents a series about Judaism. Tonight, "Basics of Jewish belief and philosophy," 8 p.m., Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP 416-789-0020.

Wednesday, March 16

THE ZOHAR REVOLUTION
Rabbi Larry Englander discusses "The Zohar revolution: how can Kabbalah enrich our Jewish lives?" March 16-April 6, Holy Blossom Temple. Lunch at noon, program begins at 12:30 p.m. $10 per session. RSVP snovak@holyblossom.org

TALMUD CLASS
The weekly Talmud class resumes at 9:15 a.m. at Beth Emeth Synagogue led by **Aaron Nussbaum** studying the tractates Megillah and Taanit. 416-633-8097.

POMEGRANATE GUILD
Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles will have **Alice Vander Vennen** conducting a workshop using found objects to create a piece of textile art, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam. Non-members, $10, which may be applied to the annual membership fee. For more information, visit pomegranateguild.ca

KOSHER WINE TASTING
Club Aviva, Na'amat Canada hosts a kosher wine tasting fundraiser with a speaker from the Wine Judges of Canada, 7:30 p.m., Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Tickets $20/$25. 416-636-5425.

Thursday, March 17

TANACH CLASS
The weekly Tanach class resumes at 9:15 a.m. at Beth David Synagogue led by **Aaron Nussbaum** studying the book of Joshua. 416-633-8097.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings to March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy,** 416-225-2112, ext. 204.

CLUB SIMCHA
Club Simcha is a self-help program for adults living with mental health issues. The friendly support group meets Mondays, 11:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call **Rochelle Goldman-Brown,** 416-634-3050, ext. 5660.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
The Legal Information Service of Act to End Violence Against Women assists Jewish women who have experienced abuse to navigate the family law legal system in Ontario. Call 905-695-5374.

PURIM FUN
- Temple Har Zion holds its Purim spiel to the music of Queen, March 23, 7 p.m. Purim carnival March 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Temple Emanu-El's Purim carnival, March 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Children who need a quieter environment are invited to attend 10-11 a.m. for a quieter experience. $10.
- Beth Emeth's Purim carnival, March 20, 2-4 p.m. $8/12. *The Wonderful Megillah of Oz*, performed March 23 at 9 p.m. (after Megillah reading) and March 24, with a buffet dinner, 7:30 p.m.
- Temple Sinai presents "What Happens in Shushan, stays in Shushan," March 23, 7 p.m.; Purim carnival March 25, 10 a.m.-noon, Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd.
- Morris Winchevsky School's Purim carnival, March 20, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 918 Bathurst St. $5/$10.
- Temple Kol Ami hosts a *Star Wars Purim*, March 23, 5:30 p.m. (for pizza); 6 p.m. for Megillah. RSVP admin@kolami.ca
- The Ruach Singers release their first CD, *Crossroads*, at a Purim concert, March 23 7:15 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue.
- Jewish Russian Community Centre holds a Purim banquet, March 24, 5:30 p.m. at the Westmount Event Centre, 227 Bowes Rd., Vaughan. 416-222-7105 or jrcc.org/purim

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call Shawna Sidney, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Beyond the chupah, becoming a couple: A 5-session marriage preparation group for couples who are going to be married in the next year. Starts March 22, 7 p.m. at Temple Sinai.
- Effective parenting: A 4-session group to help parents with children aged 2-10. Starts March 28, 7-9 p.m., 9600 Bathurst St., Lebovic JCC.
- One family, two homes: A 6-session group for families experiencing separation and divorce. Separate programs for children and parents. Starts March 31, 6:30-8 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Centre.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS

Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. April 11, **Corrie Sirota** discusses "Grief is a process, not an event," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155

Dr. Randy McIntosh discusses the world's first virtual brain, March 10, 1 p.m.

Celebrate Purim and enjoy a new play from the Smile Theatre company, March 24, 1:30 p.m. Register at ext. 0.

- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112.

March 15, **Warren Green** discusses "The amazing adventure of the boats of Cherbourg," 10 a.m.; March 16, Colouring for adults, 9:30-11 a.m.; Women's discussion group, 2:30 p.m. Computer classes of all types start April 4.

- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama March 16; barber/hairdresser March 17, 10 a.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Yoga for young adults with an intellectual disability starts April 5, 7 p.m.
- A ghostly revival: Postwar Yiddish culture in North America with **Rachel Seeling**, April 6-20, 1 p.m.
- Move and mingle, social dance program for teens and adults with intellectual disabilities, Thursdays, starting March 17.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Reading music not required. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Yiddish conversation, April 4-Aug. 1, 1:30 p.m.
- Bridge level 1, April 7-June 2, 10 a.m.
- Krav maga, Israeli self-defence, open house for people over 19, March 10, 7:45 p.m.
- Film appreciation course with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "The enigmatic genius of Robert Altman," Wednesdays to March 23, 1 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa**, "Pop Art: the pop in pop culture," Tuesdays to March 22, 1 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

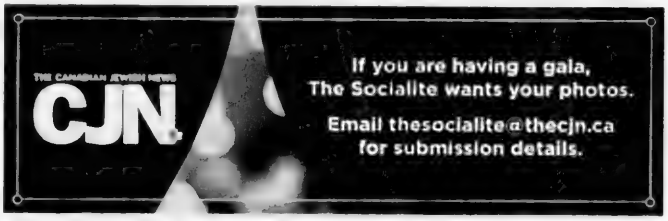
750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- Spring registration for pottery, Hebrew classes, aquatics, fitness and more is open now.
- *Dreamland: after Mark Twain in the Holy Land*. Photographer **Motty Levy** follows in the footsteps of Mark Twain, on display at the gallery until March 30.
- Toronto Israeli Film Festival. March 12, *Summer's End*, 8 p.m.; March 13, *Little Heroes*, 12 p.m.; March 13, *The Farewell Party*, 4 p.m.; March 13, *The Band's Visit*, 7:30 p.m. All films in Hebrew with English subtitles. For information, 905-764-7817.
- Accessible yoga for people of all abilities, Sundays to March 13, 1 p.m.
- **Iain Scott** teaches 4 sessions on "Opera appreciation: All in the family," starting March 21, 1:30 p.m.
- **Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi** discusses "A psychological look into Arab and Jewish relationships," March 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Purim festival, March 20, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- The Varsity Jews A Capella holds its annual fundraising concert, this year in support of JIAS, March 27, 4 p.m.
- **Rabbis Yoel Glick** and **John Moscowitz**, in conversation, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
- Opera workshop with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez**, sing your favourite opera choruses, ongoing Wednesdays to April 13, 1 p.m.; Thursdays to April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Rock in the Red Zone*, with guest speaker, Israeli film buff, **Mike Dacks**, April 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
- Pottery classes for kids and adults start April 4; Hebrew Institute classes for adults start the week of April 10.
- Improv for adults, with Second City, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m.
- Living with dementia: caring and coping. A 10-week program starts April 14. Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca
- Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

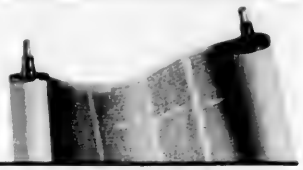
- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, April 6-June 29, 7-9 p.m.
- Bridge, Level 1, April 6- June 1, 10 a.m.
- Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani**, April 7, 7 p.m.
- Beginner mah-jong, April 7-May 19, 7 p.m.
- Experimental mix media with **Suzanne Metz**, April 6-June 15, 10 a.m.
- Family ceramics, April 3-June 26, 3 p.m.
- Prep for preschool, (1- and 2-year-olds with caregiver), April 6-June 8, 10 a.m.
- Digital photography course starts April 5, 7 p.m.
- Screening of the film *Rock in the Red Zone*, April 4, 7:30 p.m. ■



Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016 Toronto's Best Housewares Store
20 YEARS
fresco
Heavy Gauge Stainless (18/10) Steel, 6 Quart Pressure Cooker
Encapsulated Base Cooks Faster, 4 Safety Devices, 2 Year Warranty
Lowest Price In Ontario
59.99
Compare at 119.99
Save 50%
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont. One Traffic Light North of Steeles Ave. East of Yonge St.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat-Sun 10-6
WORRY FREE!!! BRIDAL REGISTRY

Parshah

Pekudei | Exodus 38:21-40:38



Yacov Fruchter considers the reasons some people go to shul, and what keeps others away
Rabbi Shalom Spira examines why the rabbis instituted 18 blessings in the *Amidah* prayer
Rachael Turkienicz observes that creating holy spaces can be a delicate and intricate affair

Yacov Fruchter

"Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud rested upon it and the glory of the Lord filled the Mishkan" (Exodus, 40:35).

The purpose of building the Mishkan was to create connection with God, a physical space for meeting with the Divine. Yet, the gathering point for the Children of Israel, the point of intersection with the Divine, was inaccessible to the Jewish People when the "glory of God" was also present – even Moses could not enter.

From a literal reading of the text, it seems that God's presence is the barrier. One way the rabbis have explained this is to distinguish between the cloud itself and God's presence. The Torat Kohanim, quoted by Rashi, suggests that when the cloud lifted, Moses was able to enter and talk to God. What then is the role of the cloud? Is it to create an aura of spirituality and a sense of formality?

In my work, I have spent a great deal of time considering why some people go to shul and what keeps others away. For many young people, there is a stigma around going into "religious" places. Most synagogues offer much more than prayer services and religious exploration, yet the religious connection tends to keep people out.

Some prefer to avoid conversations about or with God, wherever they take place, while others are happy to experience prayer in less traditional spaces. For those who are searching for spirituality and looking for meaningful prayer, is it possible that the traditional synagogues are perceived as shrouded in a "cloud" and not available when needed?

It's time to remove this stigma of inaccessibility. If you haven't been to a synagogue lately, I challenge you to check out the vibrancy of these places. I know you will find a community waiting to embrace you, and perhaps even an encounter with the divine. ■

Yacov Fruchter is director of community building and spiritual engagement at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shalom Spira

The Talmud Yerushalmi, Berakhot 4:3, offers several reasons why the Men of the Great Assembly instituted 18 blessings in the *Amidah*. One of these is that Parshat Mishkan Sheni ("the portion of the Second Tabernacle") contains 18 affirmations that the Sanctuary was completed as the Holy One, blessed be He, commanded Moses. The Yerushalmi continues that a 19th, similar sounding expression is found in Exodus, 38:22, but is not reckoned.

Rabbi Moshe Margaliyot, in *Pnei Mosheh*, explains that Mishkan Sheni is a codename for Pekudei, because the opening verse contains the word "Mishkan" twice in succession. Offering a variation on this theme, Rabbi Shlomo Siriliyo posits that Mishkan Sheni refers to each Jew, who is expected to make him/herself into "a second Tabernacle" by reciting the *Amidah* with devotion.

Why is Exodus, 38:22, not counted? Rabbi Siriliyo answers that it already has an independent meaning, as recounted by the Gemara, Berakhot 55a. It is that Bezalel correctly intuited that the edifice should be built before the utensils, even though he orally received reverse instructions.

Rabbi Velvel Soloveitchik, in his commentary to the Pentateuch, similarly writes that the instructions showcased by Pekudei are those that apply for perpetuity. Presumably, Reb Velvel means to distinguish Exodus 38:22 on the grounds that the architectural sequence which Bezalel accurately deciphered was a once-in-history phenomenon.

Of interest to the HIV research enterprise is the eighth *Amidah* benediction, which paraphrases Jeremiah, 17:14, in asking for a medical recovery. This imbues us with a sense of appreciation. Although we are obligated to use the scientific ability at our disposal to extend patients' lives (particularly as underscored by the Agudath Israel of America's newly inaugurated resource on the topic at chayimaruchim.com), we recognize that whatever success we ultimately achieve is only thanks to the Holy One, blessed be He. ■

Rabbi Spira is a research assistant at the McGill AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Rachael Turkienicz

The Torah portion Pekudei presents the building of the Tabernacle and the Divine Presence resting upon it. Details are listed, measurements and a full accounting of materials. In the end, the People of Israel, following God's instructions, create the first Jewish area of holy space.

This is no minor feat. The last time these people tried to create holy space was at Mount Sinai when they made the Golden Calf and brought about the worst covenantal betrayal of our history.

So, teaching us how to create holy space is a delicate and intricate affair. At first, we learn that it starts with an artistic vision. This moves to gathering donations. The language of construction is the language of building relationships.

Martin Buber commented that the description of the Tabernacle is parallel to that of Creation. He said building holy space is like building a new universe. But the beginning of the world was wrought with arguments, conflict and tension. Interestingly, when we try to build holy space today, we are often enmeshed with the negative side of the parallel – the political arguments, the fundraising conflicts, the design disputes and the elevated tensions. Sometimes these can be built right into the stone and brick, and instead of creating holy space, we create a place of disharmony and separation.

The name of the portion, Pekudei, means "the numbers." Yet, the same word is used in Genesis to refer to Divine memory. God remembers Sarah and she is given a child. It is a crucial lesson in understanding how holy space must connect with our memories of meaning and priority. If building a synagogue only relates to our bottom line, we are only building walls.

We built places of betrayal and places of ultimate holiness in our history. We are reminded that a space is holy because of what it connects with and not because of the amount of gold collected. ■

Rachael Turkienicz is executive director of Rachael's Centre in Toronto, rachaelscentre.org.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

CENTRAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

NEWLY DESIGNED, BUILDER'S PRIDE, CUSTOM-MADE HOME 4+1 Bdrms w/modern liv space. Absolute high-end finishes +fixtures. 3800 SF + 1700 SF Rec rm. Easy & quick access to highway,15 mins to downtown. Zelani Bhuiyan* 416-226-1987

PRIME FOREST HILL/NEVER BE DUPLICATED $1,499,888! 5 Unit Income Property, Or Renovate For Single Family, Or Tear Down. Close To Everything!!! Gary J. Pollock* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

100 ANTIBES DRIVE! BATHURST N/FINCH! $319,000! This Won't Last! Original 3Br 2Bth S/W Corner Suite Awaiting Your Renovation! Main Floor W/Panoramic Views! 2 Car Prkg! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987 SOLD

RENTAL PROPERTY

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2601-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD! $1,850/Mo! Incredible LEASED Bth West Facing Suite W/ Panoramic Views! Outstanding Amenities! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2005-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD! $1,925/Mo! Spadina N/St Clair! Amazing 1+1Br 1Bth East Facing Suite W/Panoramic Views! LEASED Facilities! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2009-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD! $2,510/Mo! Value Package! LEASED 1Bth South/West Corner W/Breathtaking Views! Fantastic Complex! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! JUST S/LAWRENCE! $3,300/MO! Fab Opportunity! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2Car Parking! Was Used As A Restaurant! Immediate Closing! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

ESSIE SHER
Bathurst/Centre
$739,000
Exceptional Townhouse, 3 bed 4 bath. Approx 2,280 Sq Ft, of living space. Huge kitchen, Hardwood Flooring, Close to Mall, Library, and great schools.
Call **Essie Sher 416-464-5281**
SUTTON GROUP-ADMIRAL REALTY, BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

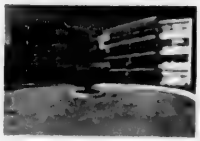
Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry, indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

Sold

Sell or rent your property quickly. Use CJN classified ads.
Call
416-391-1836
today.
CJN

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD



Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available March/April.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Soft spoken gentleman needs someone to share a lrg. 2 bdrm apt. Midtown location. For details call Michael 416-487-0931.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, Lefroy - cottage 3 bdrm water front, full season only. contact:expressions@rogers.com

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Boca West condo 2 bdrm/2bath, upper totally renovated garden apt. Move in condition. Panoramic view of the 8th hole of the Dye #4 golf course. Well priced at $149,000. Call: 514 249-9724/514 906-4637

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Exp. female caregiver looking to care for the elderly or the ill men or women. 647-739-7138

Cleaning lady and/or caregiver to care for an elderly lady, Monday to Friday. Pls. call 416-826-9691

Caregiver w/long track record & excellent refer. available to care for elderly senior, includ. house keeping duties. (416) 407-3957.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

A nurse from Israel assisting elderly, adults, children & infants w/regular or special needs. Liza-647-206-9947

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Professional attractive man looking for an intelligent, attractive, educated, fun loving woman over the age of 40. If interested please call: 647-825-1795.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militana. 416-890-9644

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

LOOKING TO SELL YOUR HOME?

CJN
Reach qualified buyers. Advertise your listing in the CJN classifieds and
GET RESULTS!

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant
COR
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905 762 0640
www.cafesheli.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9004**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Bar/Bat Mitzvah photo & video 25 Anniversary special under $1000. Call: Andy 905-763-1584

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 10, 2016

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach divinely intervenes in Canada

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Shmuley Boteach, the American Orthodox rabbi and television personality famous for his frank discussions of sex and relationships, became something of a household name for his former reality series *Shalom in the Home*, which ran on the network TLC for two seasons in 2006-2007. Rabbi Boteach is now host of a new talk show, *Divine Intervention*, which premiered Feb. 22 on the Canadian network VisionTV and runs for 18 episodes. The show features the rabbi engaged in counselling sessions with individuals and couples, addressing subjects ranging from infidelity to parenting to sexless marriages.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach counsels a guest on his new show.

How does *Divine Intervention* differ from *Shalom in the Home*?
Firstly, Canadians and Americans are really different. Americans are generally more open, less self-conscious and will speak more candidly about their problems. But the flip side is they may not always be as reflective. The people I was counselling in Canada had already put a lot of time and energy into thinking through their problems before coming to me, which made for very interesting shows. We could go deeper and get to the heart of the problems more quickly.

The premise of the show is that you provide counselling. What are your credentials to do so?
I think I have credentials that are time-honoured and tested. It's called being a rabbi. A rabbi's principal occupation was, historically, counselling, and I've been counselling people since I was 20 years old. I have thousands of years of Jewish values and tradition to guide me, which is what I employ in my counselling.

What percentage of the guests that appeared on *Divine Intervention* was not Jewish?
I don't quite know because we purposely don't ask people their ethnicity or religion. It's only come up if it was relevant to the person's issue. The Jewishness in the show lies in the host, not in the guests.

Why do non-Jews seek therapy from a rabbi?
I don't think they're coming to get counselling from a rabbi but from me. I've been a counsellor and an author and a broadcaster for a quarter of a century. A lot of people know what I represent. I think many are coming to me despite my being a rabbi, not because of it. All religious leaders – rabbis, pastors and imams – today in the west are becoming increasingly marginal, so a religious personality has to convince people they have wisdom. I think people come to me because they believe I have answers. And these answers do come from Judaism. I take my Jewish identity very seriously.

What sorts of problems did guests come in with?
Adultery and infidelity were very common. People are bored in their marriages. I don't think cheating happens to create pain, but because people are looking for something exciting. I think women feel neglected by their husbands, and when a new man shows them attention, they feel seduced – this is something I saw on both of my shows. Another common issue I saw was female depression, especially that of housewives. Women are more susceptible now to depression than ever before. They're achieving near parity in education and employment, yet women today seem to be incredibly unhappy. There are skyrocketing rates of female alcoholism and pill-popping.

A lot of my shows feature women who have no reason to be unhappy: they're in loving relationships and have kids. My own diagnosis is I think there's an incredible assault on women in western society. They're expected to be almost perfect. They're not allowed to age or gain weight. They live with a permanent sense of inadequacy. They can never look good enough or run a household and have a job perfectly enough. It's tough to be a woman. Men are judged according to one criterion only: how successful they are. But with women it's also how are you aging? What kind of wife or mother are you? The top "sins" for women are these two very natural things: aging and eating. Something's got to change.

How are you able to help them?
The difference between Christianity and Judaism is that Christians believe in the existence of a perfect being, but Jews believe in struggling beings. Our Bible is replete with flawed beings – like our forefathers, like Moses. The lesson I convey to people in my counselling is not to judge yourself by standards of perfection like Jesus, but by the standards of struggle, to ask yourself, "Am I in the fight?" It's why Oprah was so comforting to women in America. She talked about hating exercise, and she didn't look perfect. Israel means "he who wrestles with God." We need to forgive ourselves for being flawed.

You've never experienced being a woman, yet you talk a lot about these problems you maintain are particular to women. Can you speak to that?
I think every counsellor is limited by their own experiences and identity. We all have to accept the limitations of our identity, but extrapolate beyond that and do our best to be empathetic. Your question presupposes that we're not capable of empathy. We can never enter someone else's soul, but we can find shared human experience. Women are my core audience – my publicist says they're 60 per cent of my viewers – and I get their feedback. They tell me if what I'm saying resonates with their experiences or not.

You're an Orthodox rabbi. Do the problems people bring you ever conflict with your Torah values – for example, when counselling people who are homosexual?
We had two shows on homosexuality. I'm Orthodox. I have a gay brother. I've been immersed in this issue since I was 17. I've written thousands of pages about Judaism and sexuality.

I think Judaism takes the wisest approach to homosexuality that is current in society: Judaism makes homosexual sex a sin, but it also makes lighting a candle on the Sabbath a sin. I tell gay men all the time, "There are 613 mitzvot. You have 611 left to fulfil. That'll keep you busy." It's not a zero-sum game. Let gay men and women keep as many mitzvot as they can. But to judge them by one criterion and make them less Jewish or special or close to God as anyone else, that's an abomination.

Do you support same-sex marriage then?
I believe in civil unions for all and marriage for none. Marriage is the most intimate commitment people can make, and I have no idea why the U.S. Congress or, here, Parliament should be involved. Gay couples should have all the civil and financial rights as non-gay people. But marriage should be between a rabbi and the couple. As a rabbi, I'm Orthodox, so I don't perform gay marriages. I'm close to many gay couples, though, many of whom I counsel and regularly have at my Shabbat table.

Do you believe you've made Judaism more accessible to people as a result of your shows?
Many people have said, "Wow, how do I become a Jew?" I absolutely believe I make Judaism more accessible. My life's work has been to make Judaism a light unto the nations.

Your ideas about marriage and sex typically frame the man as seducer, while the women is desperate to feel wanted or chosen by the man. How do you respond to the critique that your philosophy about relationships is outdated?
My response is we all want to be desirable. You may say it's outdated. I say, show me whatever works. If people believe they have solutions that work better, let them promote those.

I don't believe my way is the only way, although, for those who dismiss what they call old-fashioned, maybe they need to take a closer look at our society. The world as a whole is progressing, yes. We're doing better macrocosmically, but microcosmically, we still have something like a 50 per cent divorce rate. In the United States, we have a prescription drug problem. So maybe it's time to look closer at things people consider solutions.

I'm interested in whatever works that's based on a moral and ethical foundation. ■

Glueckel of Hameln

Backstory

ALLAN LEVINE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Some aspects of Jewish life have been constant through the ages. Just as we are today preoccupied with making a living, raising a family and ensuring our children succeed, so too was Glueckel of Hameln (in Hebrew, Glikl). Born in 1646 near Hamburg, Germany, she was not only a wife and mother of 14 children (two of whom died at young ages), but also a business partner to her husband Chaim and continued working after his death.

This is all the more remarkable in that Glueckel lived in an era when most German Jews were discriminated against. They were subjected to a wide-range of restrictions that affected every aspect of their daily lives – where they could live, which streets they could walk on, even when they could marry. They faced heavy and humiliating taxes, including the *leibzoll* or body tax.

Every Jew – the exception were wealthy Jewish merchants, or "Court Jews," who provided important financing to rulers– who passed through a city, town or village was required to pay this toll, a demeaning charge that was not eliminated in the German states until the end of the 18th century. At the gates of Mainz, for instance, custom officials greeted visitors with a sign for duties to be paid under the following headings: "Honey, Hops, Wood, Jews, Chalk, Cheese [and] Charcoal." Jews were still victims of what years earlier was sarcastically called a "sponge policy": they "were allowed to absorb the money required by the rulers, which was then squeezed from them by varying degrees of pressure."

Glueckel wrote of such problems in her memoirs. Soon after Chaim had died in 1689, she began writing her diary in Judisch-Deutsch, a German dialect written in Hebrew that eventually evolved into Yiddish. Her writing was initially a self-reflection, as she noted, to "stifle and banish the melancholic thoughts which came... during many sleepless nights." Later transformed into a manuscript by one of her sons, it was eventually published in German in 1911 and then translated into English in a 1932 edition.

Glueckel had been betrothed by her parents when she was only 12 years old to the son of Joseph Baruch, a prominent gems dealer from the town of Hameln in Hanover. They were married two years later. For the next three decades, Glueckel worked side-by-side with Chaim, who was, like his father, a trader in gold, silver, pearls and money. Chaim traveled throughout Europe, while Glueckel looked after their many children as well as kept tabs on his contracts and account books. As a trader at fairs in Leipzig and Frankfurt, Chaim moved in a circle that brought him into contact with the wealthiest Jews of the age.

Still for much of their lives together, Glueckel and Chaim were always worried about the many bills they owed and worked diligently at arranging marriages for their children that included large dowries. One of Glueckel's proudest moments was when her eldest daughter, Zipporah, married Kossman Gomperz, the son of a distinguished Jewish family in the duchy of Cleves. Attending the ceremony and celebrations were young Prince Frederick (the future King Frederick I of Prussia) and Prince Moritz von Nassau. "For a hundred years," wrote Glueckel, "no Jew had such a high honour."

Chaim's death naturally paralyzed her for a time. She believed that he had died because of her sins. But she still had eight children at home to take care of and took solace in the trust that her husband placed in her. Before Chaim died, he said, "I have no instructions. My wife, she knows everything. Let her do as she has done until now."

Glueckel did just that. She expanded the gem-trading business and opened her own shop. Worried, however, that she would fail and become a burden to her children, she remarried. Her second husband, a widower Cerf (Hirsch) Levy of Metz, France, was a banker and community stalwart. Yet soon after their marriage, his business failed. He lost his money as well as much of Glueckel's. She lived with her daughter, Esther, in Metz and spent the next 12 years surrounded by her children and grandchildren until her death in 1724 at 78. ■

Historian Allan Levine's most recent book is Toronto: Biography of a City.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Shirley Osman	Feb 21/16	2 Neptune Drive
Yael Gisela Cohen	Feb 19/16	80 Antibes Drive
Douglas Donnenfield	Feb 14/16	10274 West Deerwood Lane
Edith Levine	Feb 21/16	662 Sheppard Avenue, East
Shirley Sperling	Feb 20/16	10 Trench Street
Myrna Ross	Feb 21/16	71 Barrydale Crescent
Robert Miller	Feb 21/16	74 Patton Street
Stephen Kamin	Feb 23/16	200 Gateway Blvd.
Art Gotlieb	Feb 23/16	19 Rean Drive
Ruth Shapiro	Feb 24/16	31 Maxwell Court
Charles Joshua	Feb 24/16	101 Clancy Drive
Shirley Rotstein	Feb 24/16	14 St. Matthews Road
Ben Helfan	Feb 25/16	1 Clark Avenue West
Izia Khosid	Feb 25/16	12 Carriage Lane
Joseph Berlind	Feb 23/16	Lucayan Towers South
Paul Moscoe	Feb 25/16	2 Covington Road
Dolores Szego	Feb 25/16	26 Valleyview Road
Ellis Piener	Feb 26/16	46 Purdon Drive

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Friedmann, Lilly	Feb. 25, 2016	54 Toledo Cres
Levitt, Zena	Feb. 28, 2016	4003 Bayview Ave
Spector, Marvin	Feb. 28, 2016	10 Carscadden Dr
Brenner, Laurence Sidney	Feb. 29, 2016	27 Miriam Garden Way
Weiss, Joseph	March 1, 2016	6 Elder St
Bogomolsky, Alexander	March 2, 2016	Private
Yizhar, Monica	March 2, 2016	56 Crown Heights Cres
Kestenberg, Fred	March 2, 2016	5444 Yonge St

ERMAN, Dr. Robert L. ז"ל

Passed away suddenly at the age of 65 on February 17, 2016. Beloved father of Michael (Margaret) Erman. Dear brother of Renee Lipman and Russell (Margaret) Erman. He will be sadly missed by his loving partner Rosalie Golab, family and friends. Funeral Services were held at Steeles Memorial Chapel.

THE DONALD BERMAN Chai Lifeline CANADA

Chai Lifeline Canada is currently providing critical support to over 400 children affected by illness. Whether a child is diagnosed, or a parent facing an illness that has young children, Chai Lifeline is here to help.

Chai Lifeline Canada is providing integral, compassionate and comprehensive care to every member of a family that is struggling with the repercussions of illness.

Chai Lifeline Canada provides the following programs and services to their children and families:

- Tutoring
- Counseling
- Hospital Services
- Family Events
- Financial Assistance
- Bereavement Support
- Parent Support Groups
- Sibling Support Groups
- Heart to Heart Big Brother/Sister Program
- Shining Stars After-School Program

Chai Lifeline Canada is making a difference with your support!

Over **8,000** Israeli Big Brothers & Sisters paired with Chai Lifeline kids

Over **2,000** family members receiving support

Over **400** hours of tutoring

Over **100** hours of therapeutic support groups

30 kids attended Camp Simcha and Camp Lifeline this Summer.

Over **320** hours of Art Therapy

If you, or someone you know, needs Chai Lifeline's support, please have them reach out immediately.

647-430-5933 | www.chailifelinecanada.org

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MARCH 17, 2016 • 7 ADAR II, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Conservative shul to close after 44 years

Markham synagogue Shaar Shalom succumbs to membership decline. **PAGE 12**

Are York and Waterloo universities safe?

Students send a message that it's OK to be openly Jewish on campus. **PAGE 14**

Vayikra

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:06 p.m.	8:10 p.m.
Montreal	6:46 p.m.	7:51 p.m.
Ottawa	6:55 p.m.	7:59 p.m.
Toronto	7:10 p.m.	8:13 p.m.
Winnipeg	7:21 p.m.	8:29 p.m.
Calgary	7:29 p.m.	8:39 p.m.
Vancouver	7:05 p.m.	8:13 p.m.

Why genetic testing matters

Greater awareness can help in the battle against diseases. **First of a two-part series** **PAGE 8**

Grappling with a disturbing survey

Israeli Jews reflect on a new poll that shows almost half want Arabs expelled. **PAGE 21**

The problem with assisted suicide

With legislation looming, observant doctors wrestle with patients' right to die. **PAGE 16**

Was Abraham the first Jewish lawyer?

In a new book, Alan Dershowitz surveys our attraction to the legal profession. **PAGE 29**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 @irvish.com

Oscar winner learns about his roots, and honouring a heroic cyclist

An emotional genealogy lesson

Dustin Hoffman didn't even know the names of his paternal grandparents when he appeared last week on the PBS show *Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates*. But after learning of his family's tragic past and how his great-grandmother survived a Russian concentration camp to come to America, the Oscar-winning actor broke down in tears. Gates showed him Libba Hoffman's Ellis Island records, which said she'd battled health issues, such as losing an arm and poor vision, to arrive at age 62. "This is the hero of your family tree," Gates said. Hearing that, Hoffman couldn't hold back his emotions. "People ask me today, 'What are you?' I say, 'I'm a Jew,'" he said, struggling through tears. "They all survived for me to be here."

Dustin Hoffman breaks down in tears.

Israeli team pays tribute to Bartali

Israel's pro cycling team will cover the route Italian champion cyclist Gino Bartali took secretly in World War II to save Jews escaping from Nazi persecution. The March 20 ride by the team will begin in Florence, Bartali's native town, and finish in Assisi. Recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations in 2013, Bartali is one of the most popular cyclists of all time. He won the Tour de France twice, as well as the Italian Giro d'Italia multi-stage race three times. "Bartali, who was a courier for the Resistance, came to play an important role in the rescue of Jews within the network initiated by [Archbishop Elia Angelo] Dalla Costa and Rabbi Nathan Cassuto," Yad Vashem says on its website. Bartali, who covered large distances while training, transferred forged documents hidden in the handlebars and seat of his bike. He also hid a Jewish family in his apartment.

Actor explains why he won't play Mercury

British actor Sacha Baron Cohen says he quit the planned biopic of flamboyant Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury because surviving band members wanted "to protect their legacy." Baron Cohen told radio host Howard Stern that Mercury would have died halfway through the film, and the rest of it would have depicted how Queen carried on without him. That would have made it "less interesting of a movie," said the star of *Borat*, *Bruno* and the *The Brothers Grimsby*. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	26	Parshah	36
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	34	Q&A	38
Cover Story	8	International	21	Social Scene	32	Backstory	39

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

2 to 1

Jewish Israelis prefer Hillary Clinton for U.S. president over Jewish Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, 40.5 per cent to 16.5 per cent, a margin of more than two to one, a new poll found.

112

The age of Haifa Holocaust survivor Yisrael Kristal, confirmed by Guinness as the world's oldest man.

Quotable

When I look around, I think we can do better.

— Sharon Abraham-Weiss, executive director, Association for Civil Rights in Israel. See p. 38.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz looks at ways you can volunteer in Israel.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG *Monuments*

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Counting our chickens

When I read the front page of *The CJN* March 3, and noticed the headlines "The cost of keeping kosher" and "Where are all the kosher chickens?", I had to send in my response straight away.

Anyone who wants to keep kosher always knows they will have to pay more. And most are and are still willing to do so. Therefore, when I go to the meat counter, I shop carefully and try to buy what I truly need for the week. I am careful to make sure there is very little waste.

What really has made me angry over time, however, and especially, since Marvid has had the monopoly to supply all of the chickens in Toronto, is that when I bring home my packaged chicken, I feel that I have been gouged twice over.

First, because the prices have gone up quite considerably, and I really don't think that it's all due to the dollar exchange rate. Second, and most important to me, is that when I open the package, I have to deal with removing all of the fat and extra skin that are left on each piece before I can use them for cooking. When I have finished removing all of this from each piece, or from a whole chicken, I am left with a handful of extra weight that I had paid for to be thrown out in the garbage.

It seems to me that there is no control on how kosher meats and products are really priced. It is truly sad to read that there are some people who say that they only can afford to buy kosher for Shabbat or the holidays. Instead of encouraging people who want to keep kosher, these companies seem to only care about their bottom line. And for me, when I am opening up a nice package of chicken legs, or what have you, and have to then throw away the extra fat, after paying the price of wanting to keep kosher, it makes me just want to scream.

Miriam Abbou
Toronto

I am saddened by the bureaucratic foot-dragging of the Chicken Farmers of Ontario on your community's chronic need for safe, great-tasting, nutritious, affordable, locally produced, kosher chickens.

Small Flock Poultry Farmers of Canada was approached by one of the kosher chicken proponents, and we attempted to aid them in understanding the issues, and proposed solutions.

One possible solution discussed was to consider small flock poultry farmers and pastured poultry. If you start with an inferior chicken, the world's best kosher processing plant can't make it much better than the mediocrity of the bird's upbringing. The scientific evidence contrasting the "factory chicken" from "pastured small flocks" is significant and reliable.

There are only 1,400 or so chicken factories in Ontario, but there are more than 16,000 small flock poultry farmers. Small flockers would like to be a part of the solution for your kosher chicken. Let a small flocker near you understand and help.

Glenn Black, president, Small Flock Poultry Farmers of Canada
Providence Bay, Ont.

Celebrate instead of tolerate

How interesting that you chose the headline "Tolerating differences among Jews" (March 10) to highlight the difference of opinion between Rabbi Daniel Korobkin and Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, regarding how traditional and liberal Jews treat one another.

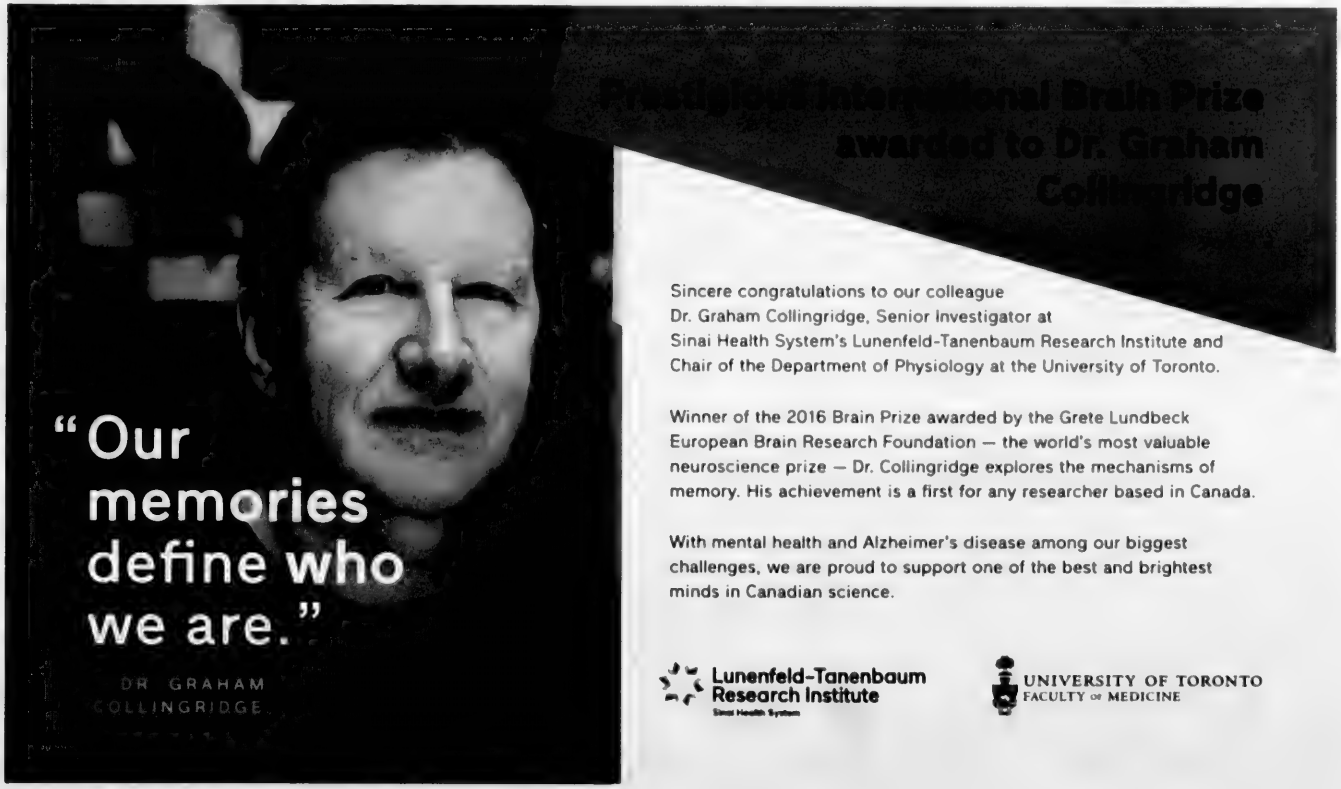
It was Rabbi Korobkin's use of that word "tolerant" that is actually quite upsetting. On the surface, it sounds like an admirable quality to possess. But how does it sound if we talk about being tolerant of women, or tolerant of gay people? It now sounds like a very condescending attitude. There is a hidden implication that our views are correct, but everyone else who is different is quite wrong, and we will "tolerate" them.

Perhaps a better choice of a word, which would reflect the attitude someone is trying to convey, would be to say we are "accepting" of different forms of Judaism, or perhaps even "celebrating" the different forms.

This attitude would be no different than how we look at different forms of music. Although we have our favourites, we don't just tolerate other kinds of music. We celebrate the different kinds, and our world is enriched because of the many varieties. How wonderful it would be if all factions of Jews could "celebrate" one another's views instead of just "tolerating" them.

Len Phillips
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.


"Our memories define who we are."
DR. GRAHAM COLLINGRIDGE
awarded to Dr. Graham
Collingridge
Sincere congratulations to our colleague
Dr. Graham Collingridge, Senior Investigator at
Sinai Health System's Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute and
Chair of the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto.
Winner of the 2016 Brain Prize awarded by the Grete Lundbeck
European Brain Research Foundation — the world's most valuable
neuroscience prize — Dr. Collingridge explores the mechanisms of
memory. His achievement is a first for any researcher based in Canada.
With mental health and Alzheimer's disease among our biggest
challenges, we are proud to support one of the best and brightest
minds in Canadian science.
Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum
Research Institute
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

When my husband died suddenly, my whole world stopped. I didn't even know where to begin with the arrangements. It was 2am. I called Benjamin's. To my surprise, Michael Benjamin himself answered the phone. They took care of every imaginable detail. They even had umbrellas for guests when it rained at the gravesite. I will never forget their wonderful care.

"They thought of everything."

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel
Through the generations ...a sacred trust.

416-663-9060
We are here to help.

RABBI·2·RABBI

Is it OK to get drunk on Purim?

There's a role for alcohol or drugs in the Jewish religious experience, but we can create a joyous atmosphere without turning to mind-altering substances

RABBI ADAM CUTLER
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI ADAM SCHEIER
CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Scheier: As Purim approaches, I think of a story Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach would tell about a rabbi who walked around wishing people a "kosher Purim" and a "happy Passover." Someone pointed out to him that he must be confused, for Purim is connected to happiness and Passover is associated with kashrut.

The rabbi responded: "On Passover, we become so obsessed with ensuring our homes are kosher that we often forget to rejoice. On Purim, we sometimes get carried away with rejoicing, so we need to remember to keep our behaviour kosher!"

I recall Purims before I entered the rabbinate that were marked by excessive drinking. I am proud to say that this is not the case at my synagogue's Purim celebrations. However, in some parts of our community, religiously sanctioned alcoholism is a major problem, and it's not only relegated to Purim.

Have you encountered this in your experience, and have you seen any efforts to maintain a joyous atmosphere without instinctively turning to the bottle?

Rabbi Cutler: I am very conscious of the way alcohol is presented at my shul, whether during Purim, kiddush or other moments. Yet, I am also aware of teenagers who may choose to go to other synagogues on Purim or Simchat Torah because of perceived easy access to alcohol.

Those who feel compelled to imbibe on Purim to the point of no longer being able to distinguish between the cursed Haman and the blessed Mordechai should study the many modern responsa on the topic, including one by my teacher Rabbi David Golinkin, which advocate drinking before going to bed and allowing the alcohol to serve as a sleep-inducer. Once asleep, one can certainly no longer distinguish between Haman and Mordechai.

Drinking on Purim, it strikes me, addresses two demands. The first is a desire on this most joyful of days to increase our happiness by any means necessary, including through inebriation. The second, on a holiday that marks our near annihilation and notes the thin line between salvation and destruction, drinking can serve as a coping mechanism, a means of escape from the brutal realities of life, if only for one day a year. Such an approach to alcohol may be understandable on a very small scale, but transforms into alcohol dependency if engaged in more regularly.

Meanwhile, a team out of Johns Hopkins University is currently recruiting rabbis to participate in a study on the spiritual effects of psilocybin, a psychedelic substance found in some mushrooms. Is there a legitimate role for alcohol or drugs in the Jewish religious experience?

Rabbi Scheier: The problem of alcoholism in the Jewish community neither begins nor ends with Purim. A few years ago, a major Jewish organization issued a statement discouraging Shabbat morning kiddush clubs – not because of the alcohol dependency issues, but because the gentlemen who participated in the drinking would then go home, fall asleep at the Shabbat table, and miss out on important family time.

While we avoid extremism with most actions, alcohol undoubtedly plays a role in the mature Jewish experience. Wine, for example, is imbibed at essentially every Jewish ceremony and festival. Our responsibility, in my view, is not to present alcohol as an evil. Instead, it is to teach how to live holy lives, which involves education and moderation. At the same time, we must be vigilant to ensure that laws concerning minors and alcohol consumption are respected in our houses of worship.

How, in your view, does one teach or model this moderation?

Rabbi Cutler: With words and with actions.

Occasionally, someone will bring a bottle of scotch to weekday breakfast at the shul. Since I don't think it especially appropriate to consume alcohol at one's place of employment – especially at 8:15 a.m. – my position is that at breakfast, I will only drink liquor that is older than me.

I am also acutely aware that there are recovering alcoholics who regularly attend synagogue events and I'm mindful of the commandment not to put a stumbling block in front of the blind. When alcohol is served, non-alcoholic alternatives must be present. Additionally, I think it generally unwise to include an alcoholic beverage in the name of a synagogue program, as if consumption of said beverage is an intrinsic part of the experience, which – barring beer or scotch tasting – it rarely is. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 11 (2,237)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933 E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

MOUNT CARMEL
DINNER | 2016

IN TRIBUTE TO

ROBERT LANTOS C.M.

SUNDAY - MAY 1 - 2016
THE FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL

ROBERT LANTOS, C.M. will receive an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Haifa in recognition of his lifelong contribution to the Canadian film industry as a visionary executive, award-winning filmmaker, and passionate, unwavering supporter of the State of Israel and its people, particularly as it relates to combating antisemitism, anti-Zionism and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

Robert has been bravely outspoken in his opposition to the pernicious BDS anti-Israel campaign that seeks to delegitimize and isolate Israel, both in film and on campus.

The conferment ceremony will take place on May 1st at the Canadian Friends of Haifa University 2016 Mount Carmel Dinner.

Proceeds will establish *The Robert Lantos Scholarship Fund* for students who wish to enroll in the University's Israel advocacy program, *Ambassadors Online*, housed within *The Elizabeth & Tony Comper Center for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism.*

Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be **J. Robert S. Prichard, O.C. O.Ont.**

For reservations or more information contact
Hetty Shapiro, Executive Director
Canadian Friends of Haifa University
416.972.9400 hshapiro@haifa-univ.ca
To view the invitation and response form:
www.haifa-univ.ca/events

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HAIFA UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Arnie Aberman, C.M., M.D.

DINNER PATRON
Tony Comper, C.M

HONORARY TRIBUTE CHAIRS
Annette Bening
David Cronenberg, C.C., O.Ont.
Atom Egoyan, O.C.
Ralph Fiennes
Paul Giamatti
Norman Jewison, C.C., O.Ont.
Rosamund Pike
Christopher Plummer, C.C.

TRIBUTE DINNER CO-CHAIRS
Michael Bregman
Susan Harris
Ellis Jacob, C.M.
Sharyn Jacob
David J. Kassie
Melanie Munk
Peter Munk, C.C.
Katie Osborne
Heather M. Reisman, C.M.
Gerald W. Schwartz, O.C.
Isadore Sharp, O.C.
Rosalie Sharp
Dr. Barry Sherman
Honey Sherman
Judith Tanenbaum
Lawrence M. Tanenbaum, O.C.

TRIBUTE COMMITTEE
Barry Avrich
Norman Bacal
Michael A. Baker, C.M., O.Ont., M.D.
Laszlo Barna
Georgina Bencsik
Philip B. Berger, M.D.
Lawrence S. Bloomberg, C.M., O.Ont.
Paul A. Bronfman
Lawrence B. Cohen, M.D.
Sara R. Cohen
Susan Cohen
Barry Corbin
Ruth M. Corbin, Ph.D.
The Hon. Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C.
Anna Dan
Leslie L. Dan, C.M., O.Ont.
Michael W. Davis
Anna Day, M.D.
Kiki Delaney, C.M.
Arthur Dodek, M.D.
Wendy R. Eisen
I. George Fantus, M.D.
Elham Farah
Kenneth E. Field
Oshrat Freedland
Senator Linda Frum
Sonny Goldstein
Allan S. Gordon, M.D.
Carol Gordon
Harold Sonny Gordon, Q.C.
Jesse Guberman
Piers Handling
Donna Holbrook
Simcha Jacobovici
Allen Karp, Q.C.
Ari B.Kashton, CPA, CA•IFA, CBV
Hon. Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Miriam Kerzner
Jay A. Lefton
Michael A. Levine
Jeremy S. Levy
Madeleine Levy
Mo Lidsky
Justin Linden
Laurie May
Norman May, Q.C.
Susan McArthur
Kenneth R. Melvin, M.D.
Barbara Merkur
Ephry Merkur, Q.C.
Karen R. Mock, Ph.D.
David C. Nathanson, Q.C.
Debbi Nathanson
Anna Porter, O.C., O.Ont.
Howard Price, M.D.
J. Robert S. Prichard, O.C., O.Ont.
Arlene Perly Rae
Hon. Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., O.Ont., Q.C.
Alex Raubvogel
Marsha Raubvogel
Jeff Rayman
Robert Robinson
Marvin A. Sadowski
Jeff Sagansky
Gina Scola
Marilyn Seltzer
Dr. Phillip A. Seltzer
Saul Shulman, Q.C.
Lawrence Smith, Ph.D.
Marsha Elser-Smith
Howard Sokolowski, O.Ont.
Goldi Steiner
Helga Stephenson
Frank A. Stronach, C.M.
Marvin Tile, C.M., M.D.
Hon. Gerry Weiner, P.C.
Sasha Weisz
Thomas J. Weisz
Sam Wineberg
Sylvia Wineberg
Oscar Zimmerman
Moses Znaimer, O.Ont.
Bernard Zucker, M.D.
Carole Zucker

אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa
جامعة حيفا

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus, George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Benson's Auto Shop

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Abe Benson, the man in the middle, with his dog Fluffy and Mary Goldbach and an unidentified man in front of Benson's Auto Paint on Dufferin Street between Dupont Street and Dovercourt Road in Toronto.

SeeJN | Campus chocolate lovers

The Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus held its annual fundraiser Feb. 27 at the DANI café in Thornhill. The theme of the evening was chocolate, with students and parents mingling as they enjoyed various delicacies. Pictured are JLIC board members, from left, Ariel Shields, Kayla Shields, Yakira Begun, Alyssa Naor, Shula Diena, Robyn Rosenblum, Zach Starr and Shimmy Jesin.

From Yoni's Desk

Iran's latest provocation

"Israel should be wiped from the pages of history." Those were the words reportedly scrawled on two ballistic missiles launched by Iran last week in tests Tehran confirmed were designed to "confront the Zionist regime."

Add this latest public threat against Israel to a growing list of hostile acts by Iran in recent months, including the successful firing of new ballistic missiles in October 2015, an act many argued employed technology banned by the United Nations Security Council; the launch in late December 2015 of rockets near American warships; and the seizure in January by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards of two U.S. Navy vessels and 10 crew members, after the boats accidentally entered Iranian waters.

One week later, the Iranian nuclear deal went into effect, and now, less than two months after the deal's implementation, more aggression.

In the days since the most recent launch, some world leaders have floated the possibility of new, or renewed, sanctions against Iran. U.S. presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton called for sanctions, joining a significant number of American politicians, both Democrats and Republicans. The Obama administration, meanwhile, has said thus far only that it is investigating the incident, while the French government offered that sanctions could be implemented "if necessary." For its part, the Canadian government, which reduced sanctions against Iran in February, has not said much of anything.

Strictly speaking, last week's launch did not breach the nuclear deal signed last year, but that should hardly matter. If anything, this latest round of bellicosity from Tehran should prove the fundamental problems with that deal. And besides, if Iran has breached a UN resolution, then it should be called out and punished, regardless of whether doing so might endanger a nuclear deal some world leaders are clearly counting on being a major part of their political legacies.

And yet, days after the launch, there has been no concrete action, leading to the questions: how far will Iran go before the world, Canada included, responds meaningfully? And can Israel wait that long?

• • •

Last week, I had the honour of seeing one of my first successful shidduchim in action when rabbis Yael Splansky and Mark Fishman gathered at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto for the inaugural Rabbi 2 Rabbi Live event (for more, see page 15).

When we set out to redesign *The CJN*, one of our first projects was to identify eight rabbis to participate in weekly conversations about religion and Jewish life in a new feature called Rabbi 2 Rabbi. The rabbis were organized into four pairs, each of which, we hoped, would bridge gaps – denominational, geographic, political, age and gender – in the Jewish world. Nearly 100 columns in, I'd like to think Rabbi 2 Rabbi has made a difference.

Each duo has chosen its own approach to Rabbi 2 Rabbi. As they explained at Holy Blossom, for Rabbis Fishman and Splansky the goal has been to focus on the things their respective communities – modern Orthodox and Reform – share, and to engage in Jewish learning in ***chevrutah*** to build bridges. The fruits of their effort are certainly evident, and I hope last Thursday's event helps set the stage for more Rabbi 2 Rabbi Live gatherings in the future. ■ — YONI

MEMOIR

Torontonian recalls his 'parallel' Holocaust story

Frances Kraft

Jerry Blitzer was born in Poland in 1929 and spent his early years growing up in a comparatively well-to-do family in Kolbuszowa, a small town in central Poland. His father, part owner of a lumber mill and a flour mill, employed 120 people before the war.

Blitzer lost 31 family members in the Holocaust, among them his sister, three grandparents, aunts, uncles and first cousins. But he calls his survival a "parallel" Holocaust story because it happened "alongside" the Holocaust. Blitzer and his parents were among more than a quarter of a million people whose lives were unintentionally saved by Soviet leader Josef Stalin. They endured their own hardships in Siberia, unaware of the Holocaust that was taking place at home.

At the urging of Blitzer's adult children, he wrote a book about his experience, called *Through Ten Time Zones*. In 2014, he printed 125 copies of the hardcover, 118-page volume for friends and family.

The book was edited by Farla Klaiman, a freelance editor who now works for the Azrieli Foundation. To the best of Blitzer's knowledge, there isn't another full-length memoir that reflects his experience.

Klaiman said that while she's not familiar with every Holocaust memoir, there probably aren't many about survivors who ended up in Siberia. She noted that it was not Blitzer's choice to leave his home – he saw his town divided, and he saw many people die. "He was definitely affected by the Holocaust, both personally and in terms of his extended family."

She added that she was struck by Blitzer's sense of humour and his openness to learning and taking advantage of new opportunities after his education was interrupted at a young age.

Jerry Blitzer sits in front of plaques in his home that testify to his community involvement.
FRANCES KRAFT PHOTO

> *People can't believe that I remember everything.*

In 1940, Blitzer and his parents were living in Sambor, in the Soviet-occupied part of Poland, and they were sent to Siberia for refusing to become Soviet citizens. Blitzer's younger sister had been left in the German-occupied area with her grandparents.

Blitzer's mother had intended to return to her parents the same day she took her son to his father, one of many Jewish men who had fled east to avoid being sent to German labour camps. The crossing, at a border that was supposed to be open, didn't go as planned. Mother and son endured a harrowing river crossing on foot and spent two days in jail before they were reunited with Blitzer's father.

The trio was sent on an arduous journey in overcrowded trains with no toilets. They travelled beyond Irkutsk to an old Siberian mining town that Blitzer described in the book as "thousands of kilometres and 10 time zones away from home, " where temperatures would dip as low as -60 C.

Isolated for the duration of the war, the displaced group of which Blitzer was a part refused to believe the stories they eventually heard about the fate of friends, family and an unfathomable number of other Jews who had been killed by the Nazis. At first, they thought the stories were propaganda.

Blitzer, who speaks seven languages, had a piecemeal education during as well as after the war, when he lived with relatives in Paris, then Antwerp.

In Paris, he attended the ORT school, which offered a combination of vocational and regular classes, and in Belgium, he became a diamond cutter and studied Jewish texts with a rabbi. Private English lessons that he had taken earlier proved useful when he moved to New York, where he lived for 15 years and became co-owner of a luncheonette.

In 1965, he and his wife, Fila, moved with their children to Toronto, where Jerry joined his brother-in-law in the lumber business.

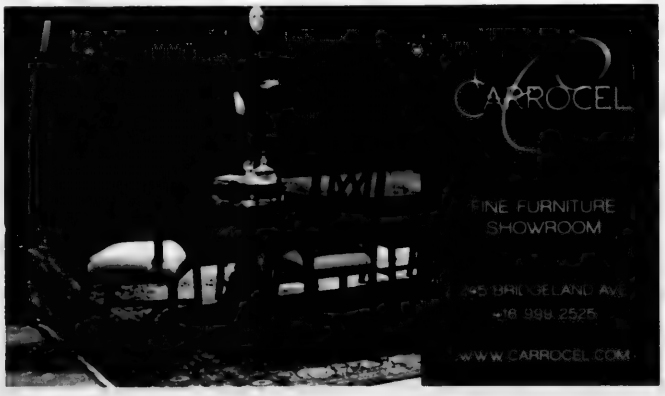
Now a grandfather of six, Blitzer retired at age 61 to devote himself to community work. Plaques, certificates and letters of appreciation testify to his dedication to organizations including Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa (now Jewish Free Loan Toronto), Jewish National Fund, State of Israel Bonds and B'nai Brith Canada.

He has been a frequent traveller to Israel, and went back to Poland with his wife in 1975, before such visits were common.

"People can't believe that I remember everything," Blitzer said, referring to the number of details he included in the book. On his visit to Poland in 1975, he directed a taxi driver to his grandfather's house, recalling landmarks that he used to see when he visited every summer as a child.

He would encourage other survivors whose lives "were parallel to the Holocaust" to write about their experiences too. ■

Frances Kraft is a freelance writer who lives in Toronto.



The battle to eradicate genetic diseases

Expanded testing is good news for the Jewish community, but it's still too early to declare victory over Tay-Sachs and other afflictions

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

Jacob Schwartz was just a few weeks old when his parents noticed something was wrong. His eyes didn't seem to track, and he was having difficulty holding his head up.

Within a few months, they received the devastating diagnosis that their first-born child had Canavan disease, a fatal, incurable genetic disorder.

Adding to the family's anguish was the knowledge that in the United States, Canavan was among the genetic diseases that were part of the standard screening for Ashkenazi Jewish couples. At the time, 1997, in Canada, Jews were only being routinely tested for Tay-Sachs, the most common of the genetic diseases identified in the Ashkenazi Jewish population.

Jacob, now 18, has lived far longer than was ever expected, but his mother Ellen lists the things he can't do. He can't see, eat or move, and suffers from severe scoliosis. Recently, the family learned his disease has "severely progressed."

"I love Jacob with my heart and soul. He's changed my life for the better, but his life is very difficult, and he struggles so greatly," she said.

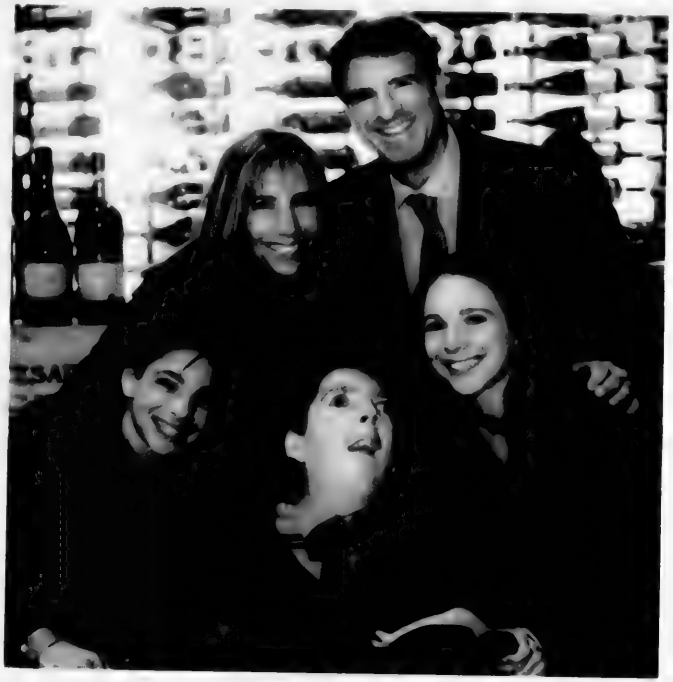
"I'm so grateful he's here. Knowing I'm going to lose him is quite devastating."

Not long after learning about Jacob's prognosis, Ellen and her husband Jeff, along with National Council of Jewish Women Canada (NCJWC), began lobbying to have provincial health care plans offer and cover a wider range of genetic tests, and to expand the community's awareness of testing.

The Schwartz family's foundation, Jacob's Ladder, has raised almost $3 million for awareness about genetic testing, research and therapy programs.

Today, in Canada, seven genetic diseases are on the standard testing panel for Ashkenazi Jews. All the diseases are recessive, meaning both parents must be carriers to have an affected child.

Jews of Sephardi background are advised to be screened for Tay-Sachs and thalassemia, according to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.



Ellen and Jeff Schwartz, with their children, from left, Benjamin, Jacob and Beverly at Benjamin's bar mitzvah. DARREN LEVANT PHOTO

Lorraine Berk, chairperson of Jewish genetic diseases project for NCJWC, recalls the first mass screening for genetic diseases NCJWC organized in 2001 attracted about 300 people.

Initially, NCJWC volunteers across the country focused on educating doctors and rabbis, professionals who would see young couples, about the need for genetic testing.

Now, as testing becomes one more routine task at the doctor's or midwife's office, NCJWC organizes fewer large screenings. However, every few years, it sponsors one and every time, even when just 40 to 60 people come out, carriers are discovered, Berk said. About one person in 30 in the Ashkenazi Jewish community is a carrier for Tay-Sachs, the most common of the genetic diseases.

For Schwartz, genetic testing has become paramount. "We celebrate every day he [Jacob] is alive," she said. "But would I knowingly bring someone into the world who is going to suffer? I don't think I would do that."

In many ways, expanded testing and awareness has been an unheralded good-news story.

While no numbers are available, Dr. David Chitayat, head of the prenatal diagnosis and medical genetics program at Mount Sinai, said the incidence of babies born with Tay-Sachs to Jewish parents in Ontario is very low, because of testing. Most Tay-Sachs babies today are born to non-Jewish parents.

At the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association in Boston, executive director Sue Kahn said the group once saw about 100 Jewish children born with Tay-Sachs annually. Today, the association – which also represents Canadians, since the Canadian branch closed several years ago – sees five or fewer. But it's too early to declare a victory, she cautioned.

"Some people say Tay-Sachs has been eradicated. It makes us crazy," Kahn said.

Children are still being born with the disease, because intermarried Jewish couples and their physicians don't see a need for testing, when in fact, Tay-Sachs is prevalent in other ethnic groups, such as French Canadians. (The association is currently involved in a study looking at the incidence of Tay-Sachs in the Irish population in the United States.)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Helping our clients
focus on what really matters

Allan Newman
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Greg Newman
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Discretionary Asset Management can be an ideal solution for busy professionals, business owners, retirees, frequent travellers, or those who simply do not wish to deal with the **day to day demands** of portfolio management. Allowing you to take a hands-off approach, this full service program ensures that your financial goals are met with expertise, **convenience and peace of mind**.

www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com

The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI") SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

On occasion, children conceived using untested donor eggs or sperm can also have the genetic disease, Kahn said.

There is also a risk of complacency. Unlike the large-scale efforts to eradicate infectious diseases, genetic testing is an ongoing process. Some people assume that because there is no family history of disease, they are unaffected. However, because these diseases are recessive, there is still a risk, Kahn said.

She also hears people say their mother was screened, so they don't need screening, not realizing that many more diseases have been identified since Tay-Sachs screening began.

For ultra-Orthodox families, where arranged marriages are the norm and strict halachic rules about family planning apply, genetic screening takes on a different complexion.

Dor Yeshorim, an organization started by a rabbi who lost four children to Tay-Sachs, screens thousands of haredi young people in North America, Europe and Israel annually.

In Toronto and Montreal, a representative from the New York-based group visits annually and tests Grade 12 students in girls' high schools and boys' yeshivas. In Toronto, about 300 young people are tested annually for nine fatal or debilitating recessive genetic diseases, said Marianna Dyman, the Toronto representative for the organization.

A similar number of teens are tested in Montreal, said a Montreal spokesperson, who did not want to give her name. In fact, few people would enter a shidduch without first consulting Dor Yeshorim, she said.

But in an age when consumers seek to know everything about their health, Dor Yeshorim's results are cloaked in secrecy, so that individuals don't know if they are carriers of a recessive gene or which disease it is. Those tested receive only an identifying number.

Matchmakers call Dor Yeshorim with the identification numbers for a proposed couple, and the introduction only takes place if the two numbers are cleared.

"The person who is a carrier is not sick," said Dyman explaining the confidentiality policy. "But for some people, maybe those who are less educated, that would carry a stigma for that person."

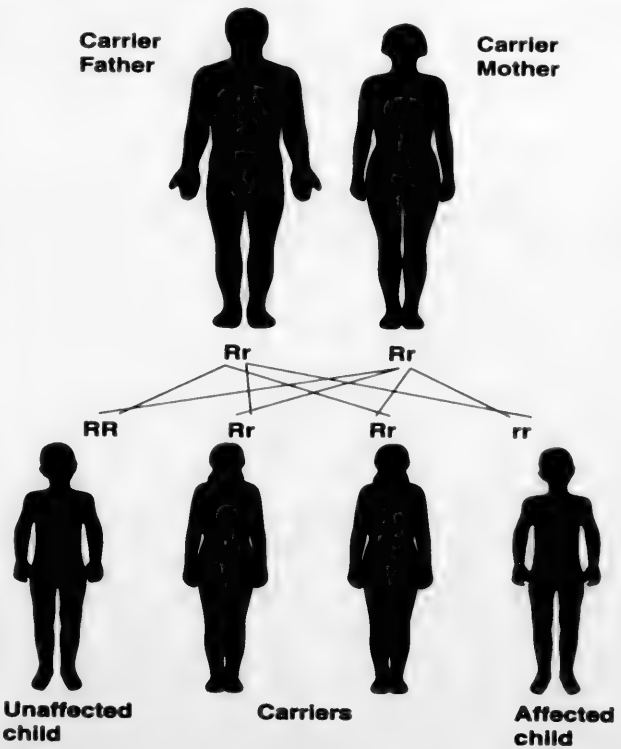
Since the organization started, about 400,000 individuals have been screened, and about 1 in 100 matches are incompatible, or as a letter from founder Rabbi Yosef Ekstein in Dor Yeshorim's newsletter states, "sparing over 4,200 families the horror of losing children."

Dyman says it's a privilege to assist in the screening program. "It's quite beautiful to remove the sorrow from the family. It's such a mitzvah." ■

The seven genetic diseases in the Ashkenazi Jewish screening panel

DISEASE	CARRIER FREQUENCY IN THE JEWISH POPULATION
BLOOM SYNDROME	1 IN 102
CANAVAN DISEASE	1 IN 57
FAMILIAL DYSAUTONOMIA	1 IN 32
FANCONI ANEMIA GROUP C	1 IN 89
MUCOLIPIDOSIS IV	1 IN 100
NIEMANN PICK DISEASE	1 IN 90
TAY-SACHS DISEASE	1 IN 30

Source: **Hospital for SickKids**



CIJA among groups pushing for law against genetic discrimination

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

Canada is the only G7 nation that does not have legislation that protects individuals from having their own genetic information used against them by employers or the insurance industry.

It's a cause that the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has thrown its weight behind, primarily because a number of genetic mutations and illnesses have been identified first in the Jewish population.

All three political parties support the idea in principal and said so during the recent federal election campaign, said Richard Marceau, general counsel and senior government adviser for CIJA.

Getting actual legislation passed, however, is a much slower process. A bill sponsored by Liberal Sen. Jim Cowan is back in committee for a second time, with a second round of hearings now being scheduled.

A bill sponsored by the Conservatives in the House of Commons died when the election was called last year.

CIJA has joined forces with a number of disease-focused groups to ensure that Canadians cannot be compelled to submit to genetic testing or reveal information, as a condition of employment or to get insurance, Marceau said.

It's becoming an increasingly urgent problem, he said. Thirteen years ago, there were genetic tests for 100 diseases. Today there are more than 32,000.

"As we move toward personalized medicine and more widespread genetic testing, we would not want that advance in medicine to have the flipside of causing people to have trouble with insurance or with employment," Marceau said.

During the first round of hearings in the Senate in 2014, medical experts testified that patients had turned down genetic testing because they were concerned they or their children could be denied life insurance or long-term disability coverage.

While the insurance industry said that this type of legislation would make insurance costlier and more problematic, in the G7 nations and Israel, which have instituted genetic non-discrimination laws, there has not been an issue, Marceau said. ■

BDS: bullying, demonization and slander

Gil Troy

On Jan. 31, 1961, Israel's ambassador to Canada, Yaacov Herzog, 39, visited McGill University to debate famed 71-year-old British historian, Arnold Toynbee. Five days earlier, while lecturing at McGill, Toynbee had denied Israel's right to exist while unfairly comparing Israelis to Nazis. In the ensuing debate, the older historian ultimately disavowed his comparison, while the Israeli diplomat eloquently defended the rights of Jews, like all peoples, to a homeland. Fifty-five years later, McGill's students produced another righteous do-over, refusing to ratify an unfair, insulting student union resolution targeting Israel.

The 512 McGill students who supported the BDS movement – pushing for boycotts, divestments, and sanctions – disrespected democracy, trying to impose this destructive resolution for a third time in 18 months. In championing boycotts, they undermined bridge-builders who seek Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. In endorsing divestment, they encourage extremists and reward terrorism, further poisoning the atmosphere. In applauding sanctions, they failed to understand that the more you want Israeli territorial concessions and peace-processing, the less you should support demonizing boycotts. And in bullying Israel, they voted to make thousands of pro-Israel and Jewish students uncomfortable: on a campus that abhors micro-aggressions against women, blacks and LGBTQ students, they injected offensive anti-Semitism-laced macro-aggressions.

The BDS movement is dishonest. While it claims "only" to oppose Israeli settlement in the West Bank, its founding document opposes Israel's existence. Falsely claiming, in the original 2005 call for an international boycott, that Israel "was built mainly on land ethnically cleansed of its Palestinian owners," essentially calls Israel a criminal state that should be eliminated. This phrasing floats on a cesspool of Palestinians' daily cries to kill the Jews and destroy the Jewish state. Most Palestinian BDSers admit that their fantasy is to destroy Israel, but most BDS campus activists hide those exterminationist intentions in a cloud of human rights rhetoric – which returns us to Herzog's triumph over Toynbee.

BDS, Toynbee and the Red-Green, far left-Islamist alliance all stem from one historic poisonous plant. Despite Jews' legitimate national rights, only Israel is subjected to a systematic campaign questioning its right to exist. BDSers, like Toynbee, weave any Israeli imperfections into a broader, ultimately anti-Semitic, demonization of Jewish actions – and repudiation of Jewish rights. For millennia, bigots have exaggerated criticisms of Jewish individuals or Jewish communal acts to caricature Jews as a global threat and Judaism as threatening. Today, that same hatred targets Zionism and the Jewish state. Israel is now treated as "the Jew among nations," in the words of former justice minister Irwin Cotler, who watched Toynbee and Herzog debate as a 20-year-old McGill student.

Just as women, African-Americans, and gays endure insults today in the context of historic humiliations they suffered, today's obsession with Israel reeks of historic Jew hatred. Anti-Semitism's long pedigree, compounded by the Arab world's vicious medieval expressions of anti-Jewish bigotry today, explains the anguish these repeated BDS attempts have caused so many who revere McGill as a centre of higher education, dialogue, reason and reasonableness.

So, no, McGill's pro-Israel voices were not overreacting by resenting the resolution's insensitivity and bigotry. And yes, Jews take Israel personally, because it is the Jewish state built after millennia of Jewish suffering. Jews take Israel personally because most anti-Zionism echoes the historic demonization of Jews. And Jews take Israel personally because those attacking Israel usually attack Jews, too.

Kudos, then, to the McGill majority that created a broad left-right coalition, not for or against Israeli policy – that wasn't the issue – but for a fair debate on campus, a safe space for all McGill students, and a reasonable, productive approach to campus discussion in ways that don't demonize, polarize or marginalize. Let's debate Israel's actions – and others' actions – substantively, passionately, but let's drop the BDS BS – bullying, demonization and slander. ■

Facing the past is more important than ever in Poland

Sara Horowitz

My Polish colleagues and students are understandably sensitive when the terms "Polish death camps" and "Polish concentration camps" are used to refer to such places as Auschwitz, Treblinka, Chelmno and Sobibor. With good cause, they contend that such nefarious places were located in occupied Poland and under direct Nazi control. They note that when these sites of atrocity and death were operational, they were on German – and not autonomous Polish – soil.

I'm sympathetic to this desire to place blame squarely where it belongs. The Nazi genocide was, of course, a plan that emanated from Germany under Nazism, not hatched in Poland by Poles. My Polish colleagues note that their country and their countrymen were also victims of Nazism. They're right. Many, however, will add that the record of their countrymen toward Jews during the war was mixed. Many acknowledge that the victimization of Poland by the Nazis didn't preclude some Poles from also acting as victimizers of their Jewish neighbours.

That mixed record has been at the heart of the struggle of Polish national memory about World War II and the Holocaust: how to talk about the suffering of Poland under German occupation, and, at the same time, not use the memory of that suffering to cover up the collaboration of many Poles.

It's a natural, but not productive, impulse for both people and nations to shy away from shameful things in the past. In our millennium, Poland has been trying to look with honest eyes at the complexity of the historical record. Thanks to the work of pioneering historians of Poland such as Princeton professor Jan Gross, along with bold and committed researchers, educators and activists within Poland, there's been a movement to be accountable for Polish collaboration, alongside a commemoration of Polish rescuers, resistors and victims.

A look at two Polish films about Jewish victimization during the war – one from 1989 and one from 2013 – makes the change in attitude apparent. The 1989 made-for-TV film by renowned Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski – No. 8 in his *Decalogue* series – features a Polish-born American woman who has come to Warsaw to confront a distinguished professor of ethics. The American interrupts a university class to ask the professor how she understands the ethical issues involving a Polish woman who had agreed to help shelter a little Jewish girl during the Holocaust, provided the girl underwent baptism, and then reneged on that commitment because the baptism entailed a false promise to God. We soon learn the ethics professor was that Polish woman and the American woman was the little girl she'd turned away. The plot centres on a challenge to Polish behaviour toward Jews during the war, but as we see the past unfold, the film vindicates the professor and the complexity of her motives.

By contrast, Pawel Pawlikowski's 2013 film *Ida* dramatizes the discovery of the shameful behaviour of a Polish farmer who murders a Jewish family he'd been paid to shelter, so that he could lay claim to their property. Unlike the earlier film, *Ida* doesn't soften its presentation of Poland's ambivalent treatment of Jews during war. It emerges from a different moment in Polish culture and a willingness to examine its past.

Many of us who research and teach about the Holocaust or eastern Europe fear signs that – in the name of restoring national pride – the present Polish government is working to reverse the accountability and honesty that reshaped Polish national memory in recent years. New legislation now under consideration would make it punishable by law to "blame the Polish nation for Nazi or Stalinist crimes." And there's a move afoot to strip Gross of the prestigious Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit awarded to him in the 1960s.

Perhaps the attention now being focused on Poland will reverse this ominous trend. Meaningful national pride emerges from facing history, not obscuring or falsifying difficult aspects. ■

Trump might be a nut, but he's not anti-Semitic

Michael Taube

To call this year's U.S. election cycle "crazy," "turbulent" and "circus-like" is an understatement. It's been, to put it mildly, downright nuts.

And the nut-in-chief, who could become the next commander-in-chief, has been Donald Trump.

The businessman is the front-runner for the Republican Party presidential nomination. He's built an impressive coalition of supporters, including new party members, and he's won primaries and caucuses in every corner of the country.

At this point, it's hard to see Trump losing the nomination. That's a huge concern for many small "c" conservatives, including me.

Trump has run a vicious campaign based on fear, intolerance, maliciousness and arrogance. His ideas and policies are, for the most part, the complete antithesis of what political conservatism represents, or should represent, in a democratic society.

Yet there's been an intriguing aspect to his Pyrrhic-like campaign. For all the personal and political attacks he's engaged in, one group has been left alone: Jews.

There are some reasons for this. Trump has worked with Jews in the real estate business for decades. Some of his friends and political supporters are Jewish, including Carl Icahn and Steve Wynn. His daughter, Ivanka, married *New York Observer* owner Jared Kushner and converted to Judaism in 2009.

There's also no evidence that Trump is, or has ever been, anti-Semitic.

But wait, some may argue. Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino's former president, John R. O'Donnell, wrote in his 1991 book *Trumped!* that his old boss reportedly said, "Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are little short guys that wear yarmulkes every day."

Is that true?

During a 1999 *Playboy* interview, Trump expressed his disdain for the author, but said "[t]he stuff O'Donnell wrote about me is probably true." He later told NBC's *Meet the Press* (in part) on Oct. 24, 1999, "He was fired. We fired him because he wasn't doing a very good job. He wrote this nasty book. He made up stuff… This guy, I hardly know him. He made up this quote. I've heard the quote before, and it's nonsense… I've never said anything like it, ever."

The *Washington Examiner's* Eddie Scarry also noted in a July 8, 2015, article that the news outlet *Fusion* reprinted the quote without acknowledging it's "second-hand from a former Trump employee, and not directly from Trump himself."

Since the air of doubt is pretty thick, we'll set this matter aside.

How about Trump's Dec. 3, 2015, speech to the Republican Jewish Coalition? He said he's a "negotiator… like you folks," and asked, "Is there anyone in this room who doesn't negotiate deals?" He also believes the Jewish community won't support him, because "I don't want your money. And you want to control your own politicians."

Let's try to get inside Trump's (warped) mind to understand his viewpoint.

Many Jews have been successful in business. This includes the art of negotiation, right? Meanwhile, the Jewish community may not want to "control" politicians, but, as financial donors, they obviously want to have some influence and input. All communities think along these lines.

So, while these are foolish, insensitive remarks, there's nothing anti-Semitic about them.

Fine. What about Israel?

Trump told *Politico's* Michael Crowley on Feb. 26, "I am totally pro-Israel." He also said, "I have very close ties to Israel. I've received the Tree of Life Award and many of the greatest awards given by Israel."

Yet he wants to be a "neutral" broker in the Middle East. Trump isn't interested in taking "sides," since it's "probably the toughest negotiation anywhere in the world."

It's not a wholly positive stance, but it sounds remarkably similar to the Trudeau government's decision to be an "honest" broker with Israel, don't you think?

Donald Trump may be a lot of things. Anti-Semitic isn't one of them. ■

An open tent requires an open mind

Bernie Farber

As we navigate our way through the perilous early 21st century, the question for our community is how big should we make our Jewish communal tent?

As we confront such problems as anti-Israel boycotts, Palestinian activism (as opposed to terrorism), anti-Israel invective (especially on university campuses), and the role of domestic social advocacy, we must address this issue.

From urging Jewish leadership to adopt a more active role in tikkun olam to addressing progressive views on Israel not aligned with mainstream beliefs, these are the issues we face.

Take, for example, CUNY professor Peter Beinart, a committed Jew and Zionist. Recognized as a brilliant scholar of modern Judaic thought, he was also a member of the debating society at Yale University, a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and a former editor of the *New Republic*–the youngest person ever to hold that position. Beinart attends an Orthodox synagogue in New York, keeps kosher and sends his children to Jewish day school.

In 2010, he wrote a searing commentary that challenged the norms of the community. An opponent of BDS (though he does support limited boycotts of goods from the occupied territories), he has questioned mainstream Jewry's commitment to an open tent that would have room for such discussions, no matter how disturbing or how opposed we are to these ideas.

Beinart's goal is to take the blinders off North American Jewry's very staid leadership when it comes to Israel and criticism of Israeli policy. In a recent speech to the left-wing U.S. Zionist group J Street, Beinart said, "Any Jewish leader who conflates disagreement in policy with anti-Semitism should be fired."

Beinart has good reason to feel put upon. Official Hillel policy across North America is to disallow him from speaking to students at Hillel events. Even here in Canada, a couple years back, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs' official recommendation to Canadian Hillel organizations was to refuse to engage with him.

Another case in point: last month, JNF Canada cancelled its co-sponsorship of a community Yom Ha'atzmaut concert in Vancouver featuring celebrated Israeli songstress Achinoam Nini, known as Noa. It seems that a mischievous and now retracted Feb. 12 *Jerusalem Post* article was to blame. It wrongly asserted that Noa is sympathetic to the BDS movement. Truth notwithstanding, JNF held firm. Thankfully, the Israeli Embassy stepped in to co-sponsor the event with the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

Regarding social advocacy, in a recent edition of *The CJN*, dozens of well-respected Jewish academics, thinkers, authors, rabbis and teachers signed a letter decrying the demise of Jewish activism on social justice. I was among the signatories. Many, however, were afraid to sign, fearing the potential wrath of community leaders.

I understand this fear. Late last year, a senior Jewish communal professional took me to task simply for criticizing the way Jewish advocacy is conducted in our community. In a public rant on my Facebook page, a national spokesperson for the Jewish community claimed, "Your constant false and misleading attacks would be humorous, but for the fact that they damage the community… You mischaracterize X's work, and you do it deliberately, because you are angry and bitter… your complaints have little to do with social justice and everything to do with your own personal venom. Your motives are suspect, your tactics are loathsome."

I have a thick skin, but such public exhortations against me have the direct effect of silencing others who may now think twice before offering even constructive criticism to Jewish leadership.

In my view, short of hatemongers and those who will deny the right for Jews to a state of their own, all voices must be heard. Public bullying must be replaced with respectful listening. We may not like everything we hear, but in order to have an open tent that embraces the community, we also must have an open mind. ■

News

Shaar Shalom Synagogue to close after 44 years

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

After 44 years as a house of worship, Shaar Shalom Synagogue will close its doors on June 30.

A perfect storm of circumstances conspired to bring to an end the life of the Markham synagogue, which was started in a house basement by several families living in the Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue area.

Two hundred and sixteen members gathered in the shul March 9 to hear the Conservative synagogue's officials describe the events that led to the announcement.

"It was a shock to a number of members," said synagogue president Seymour Hersh. "A number of members were very sad. There were tears. There was some anger."

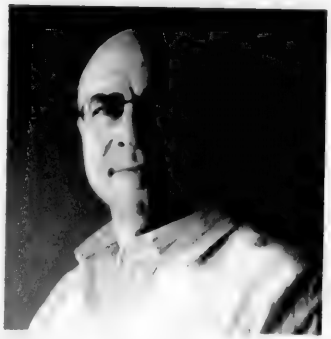
While many were shocked, there were plenty of indicators going back several years to suggest the synagogue was facing an existential crisis.

Four years ago, Hersh and other synagogue officials already saw disturbing trends emerge. Some 15 to 20 family units – membership varies from individuals to large families – were leaving each year. That, of course, impacted current and future revenues.

With membership and financial trendlines heading south, the shul embarked on a renewal project aimed at stopping the bleeding and salvaging a cherished institution, Hersh said.

The synagogue adopted a position on "relational Judaism" that focused on becoming more welcoming, open and inclusive.

At the same time, 325 members agreed to pay an assessment of $750 each to give the synagogue some financial breathing room and stability.



Seymour Hersh

The shul is located near Don Mills and Steeles.

> *A number of members were very sad. There were tears. There was some anger.*

But over the years, the negative trends continued, and demographic realities suggested the future looked bleak.

Many children of original members left the synagogue's neighbourhood, moving west toward Bathurst or south towards downtown. Often their parents moved with them to be close to their children, Hersh said.

Some of the older members downsized as well, leaving their homes and moving to condos in other parts of town. And as some older members retired on fixed incomes, their dues were subsidized by other members, adding to the financial strain.

"Our average age has been rising rapidly. It's now 64 years old. It should be much younger," Hersh said.

Over the years, membership dropped from a peak of 555 member units to 380 paying members, he said.

In January, Rabbi Steven Schwarzman, an American who was hired in 2014, informed the board he would be leaving, probably to a congregation south of the border.

"The red flag went up high," Hersh said.

Then in mid-February, the synagogue received more bad news. Cantor Ben Silverberg notified the shul he would be leaving to take a similar position at Beth Torah Congregation.

"That was a seismic event for the synagogue," Hersh said. "If you don't have clergy, especially clergy that have taken you through birth, death and bar mitzvahs, that's an important piece.

"That creates an emptiness for our members."

With an absence of clergy, $545,000 still owing on a mortgage, declining membership and bleak prospects, the executive and board decided to close the institution, Hersh said.

The synagogue has reached out to developers to determine what price the building might fetch, and Hersh said any proceeds available after satisfying liabilities will go to ensure the continued viability of the synagogue's cemetery plots, which number more than 300.

As for the future, Hersh said the synagogue has reached out to other Conservative congregations to determine what options are available for Shaar Shalom members.

"We're gathering information and having discussions," he said.

He expects to have a better sense of the future in four to six weeks, and he will present options to the members at that time.

But given all the circumstances, it's clear that Shaar Shalom as it has existed will come to an end.

"Shaar Shalom faced a perfect storm," he acknowledged. "The only thing we didn't have was an ark." ■

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337 including all taxes.
Book by March 18, 2016
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
	Apr. 19 – May 01	July 03-14
		July 24 – Aug. 04
	Winter Break	Aug. 07-18
	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017	Aug. 21 – Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

Misogyny 'alive and well,' says rabbinic pioneer

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

As a little girl, when Rabbi Lila Kagedan was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, she said "rabbi."

"I looked up to rabbis. I loved going to shul on chagim and Shabbat, and during the week when I could."

While her grandmother would say "that's not a job for a nice Jewish girl," her late father encouraged her to dream, saying, "Maybe you'll be the first Orthodox rabbi as a woman."

Now she is indeed the first Orthodox woman in North America to call herself "rabbi," a change that she describes as "incredible progress."

In 2015, after earning her smichah from New-York-based Yeshivat Maharat, founded in 2009 as the first yeshiva to ordain Orthodox women in North America, Rabbi Kagedan was hired as a spiritual leader at Mount Freedom Jewish Centre, an open Orthodox shul in New Jersey.

Although the only one to take the title "rabbi," there have been 11 graduates of the yeshiva, who call themselves either "rabba" or "maharat." There are 22 other women currently enrolled.

"My title is an accurate descriptor of what it is that I do – much like calling a doctor a doctor. Rabbi, after all, means teacher," Rabbi Kagedan said in a lecture March 7 at the National Council of Jewish Women, organized by the Toronto Partnership Minyan.

Speaking about her path to becoming a rabbi, she shared the challenges she faced as an Orthodox woman.

"I was drawn to ritual. I felt committed to the halachic process, but to be honest, I became absolutely disgruntled several times growing up," said Rabbi Kagedan, who grew up in Montreal and Ottawa.

One of those times was when her 13-year-old brother was permitted to sit on a beit din for the annulment of vows before Yom Kippur. "Meanwhile, I felt like I had no status."

Rabbi Kagedan, a clinical ethicist with degrees from institutions such as University of Toronto and Harvard University, said that "it always amazed me how much was expected of me in terms of my secular education… while virtually nothing was expected of me in terms of ritual or religious leadership… It was just sufficient that I show up, and even that was not mandatory."

She said she knew that if she were male, she would have the freedom to pursue the rabbinate, "but it wasn't possible for me."

Rabbi Lila Kagedan

She said that when she met Rabba Sara Hurwitz, the Yeshivat Maharat dean, she was studying privately for the Jerusalem rabbinate ordination tests and she was in graduate school at the time, "but there was something graduate school was not offering me. There was a void. And the idea of studying with a community, rather than alone, and the idea of having institutional backing and the idea that I could be a part of the change that I had always envisioned for world Jewry was too compelling to decline."

Speaking about the resolution passed in 2015 by the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) that reaffirmed its 2010 position that women should not be ordained, nor should women be hired for rabbinic positions in Orthodox institutions, Rabbi Kagedan said it elicited anxiety and concern among women in the field.

But despite the ruling, Rabbi Kagedan did not criticize the RCA for its stance.

"I am a product of RCA teaching, so I don't have anything negative to say about the RCA, mostly because I don't have anything bad to say about my teachers."

But, Rabbi Kagedan added, "there are no shortages of obstacles" for Orthodox Jewish women. "Even if this feels normal to some, there is no question that it is a struggle and a fight. Misogyny is alive and well, especially in the Jewish community, and we must not give up this fight."

She said she's taken her father's advice to combat those who oppose women in leadership roles with the very texts they use to try to provide halachic reasons for keeping women out of leadership roles.

"I guarantee you, the community will be better off with women in these roles… People who have experienced marginalization… people who have struggled so much to achieve what is obvious to others… are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the community in different ways and to be sensitive to the need of the community in a variety of ways." ■

ANTIQUE ESTATE AUCTION
TUESDAY MARCH 22ND AT 11AM
Featuring a collection of French and English
Antique Furniture & Objects

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

My father has dementia and needs to be cared for, so we cancelled our holiday plans...again.

One Kenton Place offers flexible respite stays.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One.

- Activity based programming
- Personalized care plans for every need
- New state-of-the-art dedicated residence

Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto

COR

We feel safe on campus, York and Waterloo students say

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

From left are Waterloo Hillel students Leeat Perlman, Valerie Michailovich, Aryeh Fortinsky, Maytal Perlman, Jacqueline Shrewsbury, Andrew Kravetsky and Jeremy Spira. JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

Despite the hype about anti-Semitism on Canadian university campuses, a handful of Jewish students involved with Hillel at York University and with Hillel in Waterloo stressed during meetings with prospective students that they feel totally safe being openly Jewish on campus.

Organized by Hillel Ontario, the March 7 and 9 meetings enabled high schoolers interested in attending York, Wilfred Laurier University or the University of Waterloo, as well as their parents, to hear first hand about Hillel's activities at those schools and what Jewish life there looks like.

On March 7, at a private residence in Thornhill, about 20 people – prospective York students and their parents – listened to members of the Hillel executive and students who participate in Hillel events discuss their experiences and answer questions.

Natalie Slavat, president of Hillel at York; first-year student Michael Paskaru; and third-year student Ricki Birnbaum, reassured the audience they feel very safe at York, despite the recent controversy surrounding a mural hanging in the school's student centre that depicts a person wearing a Palestinian flag about to throw a rock at what looks like an Israeli bulldozer.

"I felt really lonely at York at first. But I've met so many friends through Hillel. Hillel promotes unity among so many Jews, from atheists to those who are Orthodox," Birnbaum said.

In addition to hosting social events and providing a lounge where students can relax, Hillel has helped the students with things such as getting religious accommodation to move exams scheduled for Shabbat or holidays, panelists said.

"I went to a public high school. Through Hillel at York, I feel I've gained a sense of community and belonging," Paskaru said.

Slavat said Hillel has helped her carve out her own Jewish identity and "express my Judaism my own way."

In response to a question from an audience member about anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on campus, Slavat said the mural controversy and politics surrounding the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement – in 2013, the York Federation of Students passed a resolution to endorse BDS – sometimes make things "tough." But she stressed that Hillel has a strong working relationship with York's administration and campus security, which makes the Jewish community on campus feel looked after.

Adir Krafman, Hillel Ontario's associate director of advocacy and strategic communications, said Hillel helps Jewish students counter anti-Israel activity by encouraging them to learn more about the political situation in the Middle East and reinforcing positive messages about Israel on campus.

"We have interns on campus whose job it is to engage students about Israel. We work to explain to people that, for example, Israel has checkpoints because of security concerns, but also to get people to associate Israel with things other than war," he said.

At the Hillel Waterloo meeting March 9, held at a home in Forest Hill, a different panel of students shared their experiences.

They praised Hillel for providing social opportunities and enriching their sense of Jewish community life, and addressed the group's recent victory in campaigning to defeat a recent motion calling for the severing of ties between the University of Waterloo and Israeli academic institutions.

"The school administration really supported us," said student panelist Leeat Perlman.

She added: "These things aren't enjoyable, but it brought people out of the woodwork. People we didn't know were part of the Jewish community... and even non-Jews were all walking around until the last minute [before the motion went to a vote] talking to people about the issue." ■

TD Wealth

Discover "Tax-Smart Investing"

"Before meeting Michael I was paying too much in tax. Michael used his special knowledge and experience as an investment advisor with a tax legal background to arrange my portfolio so that I paid much less tax and kept more in my pocket. Thank you Michael for all of your help." – Gary Teicht

Most investors worry about the total return on their retirement portfolio. But the biggest cost of a portfolio is usually the tax bill. In fact, at the highest tax bracket, every tax dollar you save is equivalent to more than two dollars earned by you. That's why we urge you to contact Michael and his team today at **416 308 9084** or **Michael.Marcovitz@td.com** to see whether you qualify for a free, no obligation tax smart-evaluation of your retirement plan.

Michael Marcovitz MBA, LL.B
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
michaelmarcovitz.com

The Marcovitz Group

The Marcovitz Group consists of Michael Marcovitz, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor, Jason Edmunds, Client Service Associate, Jane Ly, Assistant Investment Advisor, and Laura Coutu, Client Service Associate. The Marcovitz Group is a part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. – Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund. ® The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. 1A0324.30PC

Scholars celebrate diversity at Rabbi 2 Rabbi event

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Diversity of thought and opinion should be welcomed, Rabbi Mark Fishman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal told Rabbi Yael Splansky of Holy Blossom Temple and some 100 people who had gathered at the Reform temple for an evening of dialogue between these two senior rabbis.

"Differences can be celebrated," said Rabbi Fishman, who is Orthodox. "We should not be divided over the things we cannot agree on. Each of us has to know who we are and become that in the fullest sense of possibility, so differences are OK. How we care for the other and how we treat the other who's different than us is the key."

The two rabbis had been corresponding by email for two years on a variety of religious and other topics and appearing monthly in the *CJN* column *Rabbi 2 Rabbi*. The weekly series features a dialogue between two rabbis of different denominations and different cities (Montreal and Toronto) with four rotating pairs of clergy.

On March 10, the column came alive as rabbis Splansky and Fishman held a dialogue in real time on a variety of texts. The two rabbis had never met until last week.

Each one had chosen texts that would keep them interested if they were ever stranded on a desert island. The evening was moderated by *CJN* editor Yoni Goldstein, who dreamed up the *Rabbi 2 Rabbi* series.

He said he thought these dialogues would help readers get a sense of rabbinical thinking and how rabbis interact. "What's special about this grouping over the two years is the camaraderie that has developed."

Rabbi Fishman likened his participation in *Rabbi 2 Rabbi* to a study partnership. "I have learned a tremendous amount from Rabbi Splansky from a Jewish study perspective."

Rabbi Splansky, in turn, thanked Goldstein for "pushing boundaries and building bridges." This kind of dialogue is rare, she said. "It's hard in Toronto for rabbis of different denominations to speak honestly. Things are changing thanks to this *CJN* platform."

She said she, too, enjoyed studying with a peer. "You don't study Torah alone. It's meant to be studied in partnership."

Rabbi Mark Fishman and Rabbi Yael Splansky
BARBARA SILVERSTEIN PHOTO

One of the desert island texts Rabbi Fishman's chose was in Genesis, Chapter 3, verses 11 to 12, when God asked Adam if he had eaten from the tree of knowledge, and Adam blamed his transgression on Eve.

He called Adam and Eve "a paradigm for humanity." Adam had "blown it" and could no longer live in paradise, because he didn't take responsibility for his actions. "To err is to be human... We make mistakes all the time. It's OK if we can learn from them."

Rabbi Splansky offered another interpretation: "What if Adam was afraid of the God who made the world? Maybe God could have done more for Adam to be less afraid."

"That's a stunning question," Rabbi Fishman replied. "I'll need months [to study it]."

He disagreed with Rabbi Splansky's interpretation of Genesis 39:1. She said Abraham is drawn to a burning palace that's "radiating God's glory" because he's a "spiritual seeker."

"The flames are too religious for my liking – too frummy," he said. "I like the picture of Abraham seen in the glow of the palace... I just don't think that's the Abraham of Lech Lecha."

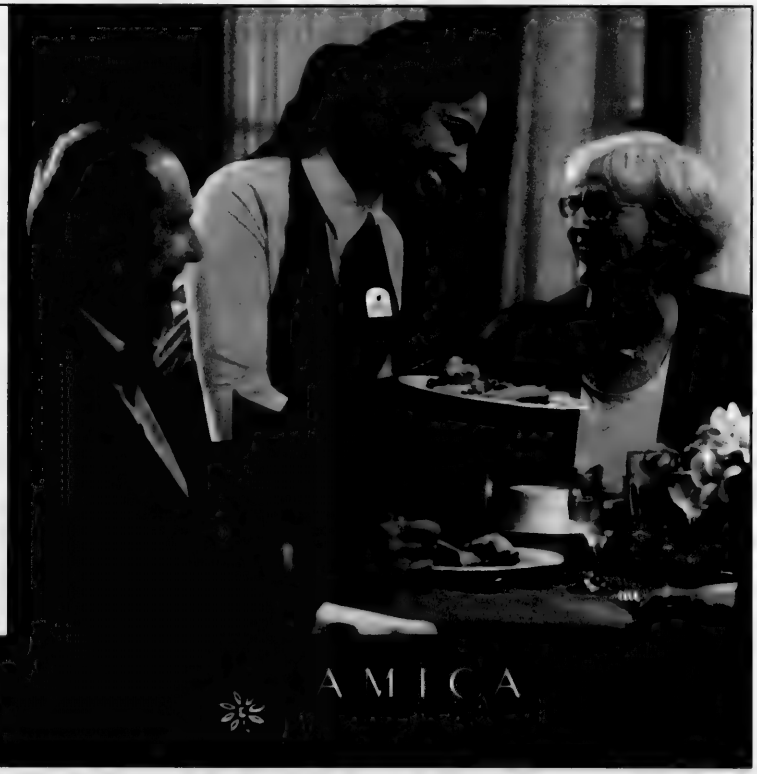
Rabbi Splansky gave another interpretation: when Abraham saw the palace on fire, he recognized danger and took charge of the rescue and repairing the damage. He is a "champion of justice," rather than a "spiritual seeker." This view is closer to Rabbi Fishman's, who sees God urging Abraham to repair the world. "The fire is the breakdown of society," and God tells him to create a society that can function. ■

Let us do the cooking.

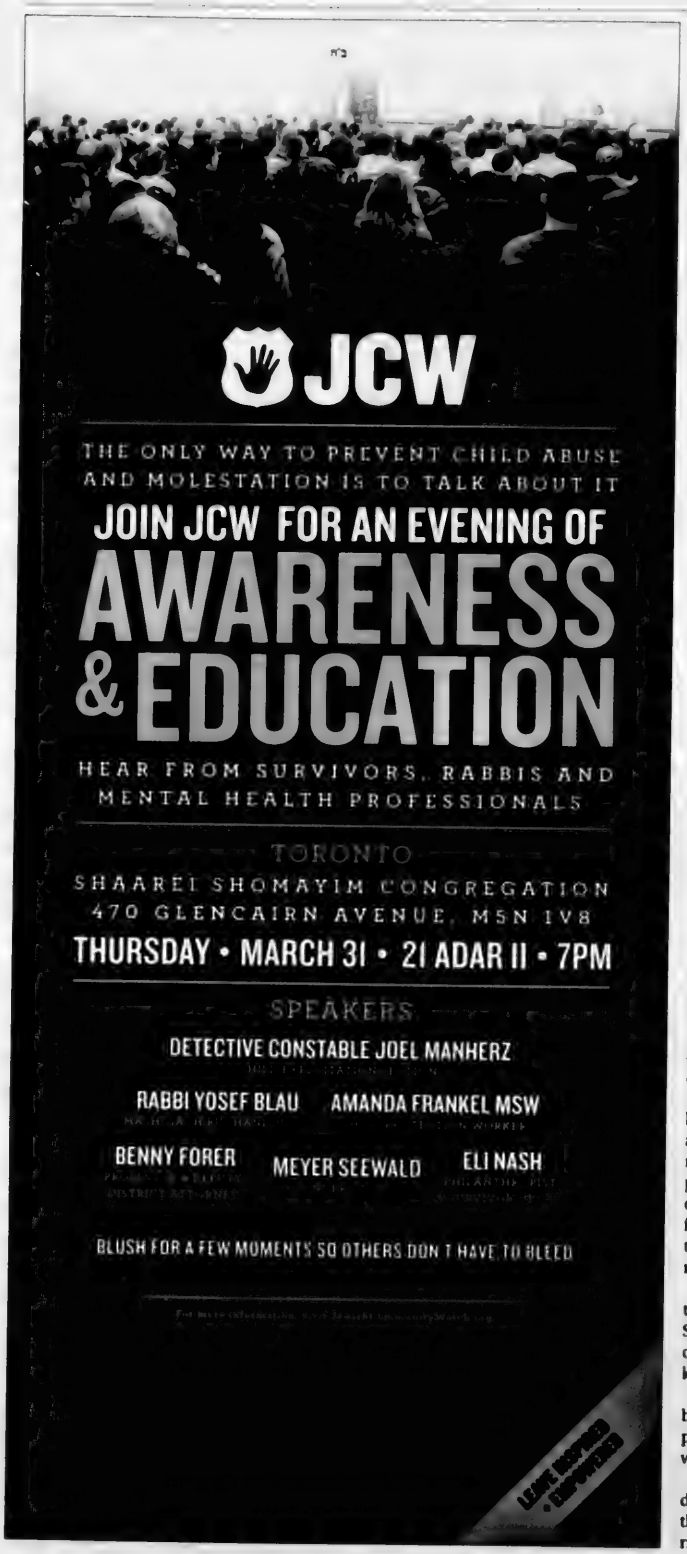
Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!

Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca



Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400


JCW
THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND MOLESTATION IS TO TALK ABOUT IT
JOIN JCW FOR AN EVENING OF
AWARENESS & EDUCATION
HEAR FROM SURVIVORS, RABBIS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
TORONTO
SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 GLENCAIRN AVENUE, M5N 1V8
THURSDAY • MARCH 31 • 21 ADAR II • 7PM
SPEAKERS
DETECTIVE CONSTABLE JOEL MANHERZ
RABBI YOSEF BLAU
AMANDA FRANKEL MSW
BENNY FORER
MEYER SEEWALD
ELI NASH
BLUSH FOR A FEW MOMENTS SO OTHERS DON T HAVE TO BLEED

Doctors wrestle with ethics of 'assisted suicide'

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Dr. Albert Kirshen said it's just a matter of time before one of his patients asks him for assistance to die. Kirshen, an observant Jew who is a physician at the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mount Sinai Hospital, said he is bracing himself for the inevitable.

Kirshen is "personally conflicted" and struggling with the new Supreme Court-mandated policy that will permit physician-assisted death (PAD), he said, explaining that while the medical college will require him to accommodate patients' requests to die, Jewish law does not permit him to make a referral to end a life.

Kirshen spoke to the issue at a town hall meeting on "the implications of the proposed federal assisted suicide legislation on the practice of medicine," held March 7 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto. About 300 people, many of them physicians, packed the shul's social hall to learn more about the issue from an Orthodox perspective that reflected the views of rabbis, physicians and a legal expert.

Presenters included Kirshen; Dr. Nathan Herrmann, head of geriatric psychiatry at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Charles Wagner, a lawyer who specializes in estate and trusts; and Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner, rosh beit midrash, Yeshiva University Torah Mitzion Beit Midrash Zichron Dov.

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Shaarei Shomayim introduced the issues, Rabbi N. Daniel Korobkin of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation (BAYT) gave closing remarks, and Dr. Janice Halpern, a psychiatrist affiliated with Mount Sinai and the University of Toronto, moderated.

Rabbi Strauchler explained that the town hall – jointly held by Shaarei Shomayim and the BAYT – was organized because many observant physicians have been approaching their rabbis to ask about their options as doctors and Jews as they confront the upcoming new legal reality, and they want to know how the Jewish community can address it.

"We are wrestling with difficult emotional and ethical challenges," Rabbi Strauchler said. "Physicians are asked to control the dying process. They are gatekeepers of a new right to die."

Although conscientious objection may be legal, he said there might be cultural pressure on physicians to comply with what could become the norm.

Wagner said the law must balance freedom of conscience, which is protected by the Charter of Rights, and a person's legal right to die. He explained that the Supreme Court's landmark decision in 2015 (Carter vs. Canada) gives competent adults with intolerable medical suffering the right to seek physician assistance to die, as long as the patient's consent is clear.

From left, Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner, Rabbi N. Daniel Korobkin, and Rabbi Chaim Strauchler BARBARA SILVERSTEIN PHOTO

He pointed to the discrepancies between the Carter ruling and the more recent parliamentary report, which he likened to the European model of PAD.

While the American model is limited to severe, terminal illness, the parliamentary report has expanded the parameters of PAD to allow competent minors to terminate their lives after three years, as well as people with severe depression.

Herrmann said people with depression should not be candidates for PAD, because in most cases, depression can be treated with drugs and most people improve over time. As well, advanced Alzheimer's disease or other types of severe dementia should also not be criteria, even if people have given such directives, he said. While their quality of life may be limited to music and food, they're not unhappy. "The vast number of patients do not suffer. Their families suffer."

Kirshen told the physicians in attendance to start devising a strategy for dealing with the new reality. "You're going to be asked, so be prepared by sorting out for yourself what your answer will be."

He stressed the importance of investigating the reasons why a person would want to end his or her life without being judgemental. "Look for what makes the person vulnerable." He also advised physicians to keep written records of such encounters and to consult with colleagues and rabbis.

Rabbi Torczyner discussed several rabbinic opinions on PAD. He said according to one, physicians should not jeopardize their ability to make a living by refusing to make a referral for it, as they're stipulated to do by their medical colleges.

"It doesn't mean it's morally permissible. It doesn't mean we should welcome it," he said. "You don't want all the observant physicians to resign. There's a great communal need for observant doctors to serve."

Rabbi Korobkin urged people to oppose the legislation publicly. "We are not yet at the point where the rules are set in stone... A society that sanctions death is not a society." ■

GSU divestment petition backed by U of T faculty

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

More than 130 University of Toronto faculty members and librarians signed a statement in support of a Graduate Students' Union's (GSU) petition that calls on the university to divest from three companies that do business with Israel.

"These three companies have been singled out because they manufacture and sell weaponry and other technologies that are being used to destroy Palestinian lives and welfare on a daily basis," said the statement, titled, "Declaration of Faculty and Librarians in Support of the GSU Campaign for Divestment from the Israeli Occupation."

U of T Divest, a GSU committee formed to promote the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, drafted a petition that calls on the University of Toronto Asset Management (UTAM) to divest from three companies – Northrop Grumman, Hewlett Packard, and Lockheed Martin – because they're "directly profiting from the ongoing military occupation of Palestinian territories."

"Given the long-term failure of diplomacy alone to address the rapidly deteriorating situation of Palestinians, it is imperative to take further action. We must identify the injustices, speak out against them, and support the Palestinian appeal for solidarity," the statement said, urging the university to form a governing council committee to "refrain from investing in all companies involved in such violations of international law."

The petition comes on the heels of a similar initiative at York University called YUDivest, which was endorsed earlier this month by the York University Faculty Association.

B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn said that for an institution ranked as highly as U of T, the position taken by members of its faculty is alarming.

"The Canadian government has condemned the BDS movement, a movement steeped in anti-Semitism," Mostyn said. "That so many members of the faculty are willing to endorse divestment from Israel demonstrates how ignorant they are to the facts… I worry about what our children are being taught."

Hillel Ontario CEO Marc Newburgh said the fact U of T faculty and librarians single out Israel for condemnation and hold it to a higher standard of fairness than other democracies is "deplorable."

He said an article in U of T's campus newspaper the *Varsity* originally reported faculty supported the BDS movement, but Hillel intervened, and the article was edited to remove the BDS reference. "After Hillel asked for the original press release, that article was edited to report that a group of 125 random faculty have put together a petition calling for a divestment from only three companies, and removing the reference to a blanket support of BDS."

Despite that distinction, Omar Sirri, a member of the GSU's BDS committee, told the *Varsity* that faculty support is "wonderful news for the BDS movement on campus. This level of faculty support is further indication [that] support for the BDS movement is steadily growing."

Newburgh said Hillel, its partners and U of T students have worked to "defeat BDS three times this year" and "will continue to support students in fighting BDS province-wide."

Requests for comment from UTAM and U of T Divest went unanswered. ■

metro
my savings & my metro
HAPPY PURIM
SAVE $2.00
4.99 ea.
APPLE & EVE TETRA PACK JUICES
8 x 200 ml
Selected Varieties
2.49
1.49
1.79
2.99
KEDEM SPARKLING JUICES
750 ml
Selected Varieties
SAVE $2.00
3.99 ea.
69¢
1.79
2.49
3.49
KEDEM MINI CONCORD GRAPE JUICE
187 ml
Selected Varieties
SAVE $1.00
99¢ ea.
5.99
7.99
1.99
79¢
1.49 /lb
RED PRINCE APPLES
Product of Ontario, Canada Extra Fancy Grade
3.28/kg
7.99
2.88 /lb
ALL PRICES & ITEMS ARE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY MARCH 17TH UNTIL WEDNESDAY MARCH 23RD, 2016
AT THE FOLLOWING METRO LOCATIONS ONLY:
• 119 OSLER DR., DUNDAS • 1030 ADELAIDE ST. N., LONDON • 250 GREENBANK RD., NEPEAN • 291 YORK MILLS RD.
• 1050 DON MILLS RD. • 3080 BATHURST ST. • 600 SHEPPARD AVE. W. • 20 CHURCH AVE, NORTH YORK • 4111 THICKSON RD. N., WHITBY
• 786 COLLEGE ST. • 425 BLOOR ST. W. • 696 EGLINTON AVE., TORONTO • 16640 YONGE ST., NEWMARKET

Please join us for
Ketubah Buying 101
Sunday March 20th, 1-4pm
Sunday March 27th, 1-4pm
View Canada's largest selection of ketubahs and get tips on how to select your perfect ketubah!
PETROFF GALLERY
1016 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario, M6C 2C6
Telephone 416 782 1696
www.petroffgallery.com

Reuben Cipin
HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living
• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations
One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

SAVE THE DATES
"Raw Colour"
First Toronto Art Exhibition by
J. W. Dimitry
Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2016
Coldstream Fine Art Gallery
80 Spadina Avenue, Suite 208, Toronto
Gallery hours: Fri 12-5 pm | Sat 12 noon-4 pm | Sun 12-4 pm
Special VIP Showing: Sat evening 6:30-10:30 pm
All individual donations and all proceeds of the art sales will be donated to the Sick Kids Hospital Foundation
SickKids
For more information:
drjoel@rogers.com www.sickkidsfoundation.com

Temple partners with mosque to sponsor Syrians

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

From left, Rabbi Cory Weiss, John McCallum and Imam Hoseini Nasab SHERI SHEFA PHOTO

At the launch of a joint Jewish-Muslim initiative to sponsor two Syrian refugee families to resettle in the Toronto area, federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship John McCallum thanked the participants for their commitment to helping those in need.

"The collection of Muslims and Jewish people, coming together in a single room to work together for the national good, and for the good of the refugees – from the bottom of my heart, I really thank you all," said McCallum, who spoke at Temple Har Zion synagogue in Thornhill at the March 6 launch of its refugee project in partnership with the mosque next door, the Imam Mahdi Islamic Centre (IMIC).

Andrew Hazen, a co-chair of the THZ-IMIC Refugee Project, noted there are four million people trying to escape the civil war in Syria, and even those living in camps are still under threat.

He said the objective is to raise about $60,000 to sponsor two families through Jewish Immigrant Aid Service (JIAS) Toronto.

"[JIAS] has been doing this kind of work, helping refugees and immigrants resettle in this area for 100 years," Hazen said, adding that the funds will go toward providing financial support for the families' first year in Canada at the same level as government-assisted refugees.

Lia Kisel, JIAS' language and settlement director, said JIAS requires 60 per cent of funds to be raised before the application to sponsor a family can be submitted.

But raising the funds is the easy part.

"The settlement plan is going to be created in partnership with Temple Har Zion. We not only need your assistance to secure the funds, but we need your assistance also to volunteer your time after the refugees arrive, which is when the real hard work begins, to settle and integrate the families," Kisel said.

McCallum said the 25,000 refugees who have come to Canada are a "very vulnerable group."

"They came from a list provided by the United Nations, and typically, they do not speak a word of English or French, they don't have as much education, they have large numbers of children and they are probably on an airplane for the first time in their lives when they came to Canada," he said.

Hazen said that in the months since the government announced its commitment to welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees, the question of security and screening has been a concern for many Canadians.

"We've looked at it carefully, and the folks who come through the refugee program are screened and vetted and interviewed and fingerprinted and photographed and run through databases by the UN. And then Canadian immigration officials do it all over again, making sure their stories match, their places match, names match, faces match and so on… Honestly, if someone with nefarious intentions wanted to get into the country, there are so many easier ways to do it than through the refugee program," Hazen said.

Rabbi Cory Weiss spoke about the commandment in the Torah to love the stranger, "one whose colour, culture, creed is different from yours."

He said in the Torah, there are 36 references to the commandment to love the stranger.

"'You shall not oppress a stranger, for you understand the soul of the stranger, having yourself been strangers in the land of Egypt,'" Rabbi Weiss said, quoting the Torah.

"Jews certainly understand this feeling. The phrase, 'None is too many,' was coined for us, for our ancestors trying to flee Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Only 4,000 Jewish refugees were permitted in Canada before and during World War II. We know, all too well, the fate that befell the rest who tried to come, but were stopped at the door," he said.

McCallum spoke about his emotional experience meeting refugee children in Jordan, seeing the conditions they were living in, and then welcoming them when they arrived in Canada.

"I think in a time when so many countries are closing their doors on refugees, it is good that we are saying, as long as we are doing it right, they are welcome. I think it sends a message to the world that the world needs sending," McCallum said. ■

To donate, visit www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/temple-har-zion/thz-refugee-project.

High schoolers learn about Shoah at annual symposium

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Pinchas Gutter YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

Toronto Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at Winnipeg's annual high school Holocaust symposium, which is being held two months earlier than usual this year in an effort to attract more students.

Gutter, a child survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto and several concentration camps, is slated to speak March 17 at the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's 15th Holocaust and Human Rights Symposium for students in grades 9 to 12.

In years past, the event was always held in May. "We decided move the date up to accommodate schools' busy schedules," said Belle Jarniewski, chair of the Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre. "Each year we send out a post-symposium poll, and schools have told us that May is a busy month for them. We weighed this against possible issues with weather and decided to try an earlier date this year.

"As well, we have not been able to invite the University of Winnipeg Collegiate students in the past, as they have already finished their academic year in May. We are pleased to welcome a large number of its students this year."

Average attendance has been about 1,200 students from high schools in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. "We hope to have many more students attend this year," Jarniewski said. "Registration is still ongoing."

Gutter – whom Jarniewski called "an extraordinary individual" – was born into a family that can trace its roots back 400 years in Poland. Originally from Lodz, he was seven years old when the war broke out. He and his family lived in the Warsaw Ghetto for 3-1/2 years until April 1943, the time of the ghetto uprising. They were deported to the Majdanek death camp, where the rest of Gutter's family was murdered. He survived six concentration camps and a death march toward the end of the war. Russian forces liberated him in May 1945, and, under the auspices of the United Nations, he was taken to Britain with other children for rehabilitation. After spending many years in South Africa, he immigrated to Canada.

Gutter divides his time between speaking about the Holocaust and volunteering as a cantor at a Toronto synagogue, and as a lay chaplain at Baycrest and a local prison. He has spoken to many young people in Canada and around the world about his struggle for survival.

The Freeman Holocaust Centre is located on the Asper Jewish Community Campus. Its exhibits consist of artifacts donated by local survivors and their families.

"Our mandate is to raise awareness and understanding of the history of the Shoah through education," Jarniewski said. "We address the fact that society continues to witness genocide due to continuing racism and hatred and that we must all be vigilant in opposing racism, anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.

"The purpose of our symposium is to allow students to have the exceptional opportunity to learn first hand about the Shoah and what we need to learn from it. Each speaker brings with him or her their own moving and special story that defines for the students why the Shoah is the ultimate prototype for the study of human rights violations, what they can learn from it and what they can do in their everyday lives to make a difference."

Previous speakers have included Holocaust survivors Eva Kuper, Robbie Waisman, Ely Gotz, Max Eisen and the late Leon Leyson, the youngest of the *Schindler's List* survivors. Also addressing the symposium in the past have been Father Patrick Desbois, author of *Holocaust by Bullets*, chronicling the French Catholic priest's efforts to learn the fates of numerous eastern European Jews who perished in the Holocaust; and Leon Bass, an African-American soldier who witnessed the liberation of Buchenwald.

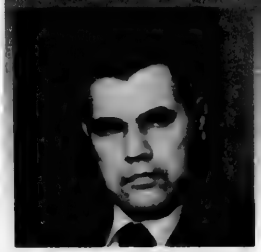
Students also hear from more recent survivors of mass murder. This year, Kobra Rahimi, a Kurdish refugee, will speak about her experiences. Rahimi was born in a refugee camp in southern Iraq after her parents fled their town in Iran when the Iran-Iraq War began in 1979. The family spent 22 years in the camp, and Kobra lived there until age 15. She came to Canada in 2001, making Winnipeg her home. Despite having attended school for only grades 1 and 2, Kobra went directly into Grade 9, but still managed to graduate high school and earn a BA in criminal justice from the University of Winnipeg. She's now in her second year of law at the University of Manitoba.

"After coming to Canada, Kobra struggled with her identity, both as a Muslim and a Kurd, in particular when members of her family were injured in the war in Iraq in 2007," Jarniewski said. "Because of these experiences, Kobra is now active in different community initiatives to bring people together of different faiths and ethnicities."

CIJR ICRJ CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH
PRESENTS IN TORONTO
IN COMMEMORATION OF ILAN RAMON ז"ל

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, SECURITY
ISRAEL IN SPACE:
BEYOND THE BLUE (AND WHITE) HORIZON
28TH ANNUAL CIJR GALA
APRIL 12 2016, 11:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Tal Inbar (Israel)



Head, Space Research Center, Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies

The Israeli Space Endeavor:
Achievements and Future Challenges

Greetings from Israel:
DJ Schneeweiss, Consul General of Israel (Toronto)

Fighting BDS on Campus:
Special Address from **Ariella Daniels** *(York U.)*

- Special *Ilan Ramon Video* Presentation
- Greetings from the Canadian Space Agency

Luncheon	HYATT REGENCY	Registration deadline
Tuesday, April 12	370 King Street West	April 5, 2016
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Toronto ON M5V 1J9	

Council suspends publisher over violent jihad remarks

RON STANG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, WINDSOR, ONT

A local publisher of an Arabic language newspaper has been suspended on unpaid leave from the Windsor multicultural council for allegedly calling for violent jihad against Israel.

The issue was brought to light by B'nai Brith Canada, which received a tip on its anti-hate hotline about Mohamad Hisham Khalifeh, founder and publisher of the *Al Forqan* newspaper. Windsor police have also launched an investigation

Khalifeh was working as a life skills coach with newly arrived immigrants, including Syrian refugees. Kathleen Thomas, executive director of the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, said Khalifeh was suspended once the charges appeared in local media. "We immediately took action and placed the individual under unpaid investigative suspension, until we conduct an investigation into the matter," she said.

Khalifeh was near the end of a three-month contract as a life skills worker. Asked if he was associated with the council prior to that, Thomas said "not as an employee."

B'nai Brith Canada called for improved vetting of people working with newly arrived immigrants. CEO Michael Mostyn said the suspension is an "important first step," but questioned the extent of vetting of people who work with immigrants.

"It does call certain matters into question," he said. "And certainly the fact that this did miss their radar screen for whatever reason, whether through a lack of vetting or perhaps they just missed this one." He urged the council to resubmit its staff and volunteers for improved screening.

But Thomas said Khalifeh was already vetted at the highest level of police checks, "and we do that on a normal basis."

This vetting is known as the "police vulnerable sector check" and includes information related to convictions, outstanding warrants, charges, judicial orders and sexual offences "for which the individual has received a record suspension where authorized by the minister of public safety and emergency preparedness."

Asked if the council will step up its vetting, Thomas replied, "We've been doing work since 1973 and working in the resettlement process since 2001, and we've worked with many newcomers, so therefore we've always done our due diligence with regard to hiring and screening practices."

Mohamad Hisham Khalifeh FACEBOOK

Khalifeh's editorial appears to defend the ongoing knife attacks against Israeli citizens as a form of jihad. It appears in *Al Forqan*'s October-November 2015 edition.

A translation is titled "The Duty of Jihad" and among other things, states that "the Palestinian teenager is [standing] alone wielding a knife in his hand, defending the honour and dignity of every Arab and every Muslim, and moreover every person. He [the Palestinian teenager] does not accept the injustice in the face of the Zionist usurper." Also, "I'm asking Allah to give victory to the youths of Palestine and every freeman who does not accept injustice and shame."

Khalifeh's violent rhetoric allegedly appeared in more places, including an online video that shows rocket attacks on Israel accompanied by the poem: "Fire [at Israel], Fire because you are courageous, Fire because you are the typhoon, Show them your bravery, raise your head, show them the descendants of the [Caliph Omar] al-Mukhtar [conqueror of Jerusalem], Break your shackle, show your sword, destroy the siege imposed on you, Destroy the brutal Zion [Israel]."

Khalifeh allegedly also published incendiary remarks on his Facebook page, since removed, according to sources.

The Windsor Jewish Federation sent a letter to the Jewish community about Khalifeh. Acting president David Robins said the federation is "very concerned about this activity, because we believe it is anti-Semitic and may be a hate crime," adding that "we believe the celebration of violence and jihad poses a threat to the security of Windsor residents and undermines the values that make our community safe and diverse."

When contacted by *The CJN*, Khalifeh declined comment and referred to his statements in the *Windsor Star*, and said he was contacting a lawyer.

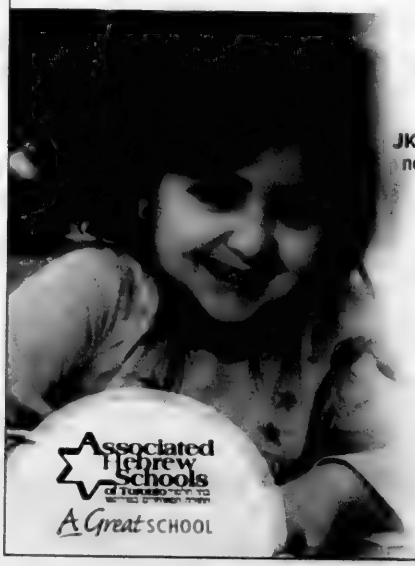
Khalifeh told the *Star* he was only defending Palestinians right to resist Israeli occupation, especially regarding resettlement, which the United Nations has condemned as illegal. But he didn't take issue with his suspension at the multicultural council.

"They have the right to investigate," he said. "But I believe I have been accused of something I did not do," adding that B'nai Brith misinterpreted him. "My opinion was quoted in a wrong way." However, he said he supports "all kinds of resistance."

Mostyn said it was "disturbing" the comments didn't come to anyone's attention until after his organization raised it, long after the newspaper was published. "It wasn't reported to authorities or anyone else in the community from the readership of that paper," he said. "So these very, very foul views were basically hiding in plain sight."

B'nai Brith is urging police and federal and provincial officials to do a full investigation. ■

3 more reasons to pick Associated Hebrew Schools, from the start!



NEW full-day JK at Associated Cedarvale campus for 2016/17

JK and SK tuition support now available at all campuses

Reduced fees for Nursery at Associated Cedarvale for 2016/17
$2,840 tuition decrease for full-day
$1,575 tuition decrease for half-day

Register today!
Contact Pearl Greenspan
pgreenspan@ahschools.com
905.889.3998 ext. 508

For more information, visit
ThisIsAssociated.com

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great SCHOOL

The Board of Directors and Staff deeply mourn the passing of Past National President

Lucy Alt ז"ל

and extend our deepest condolences to the Alt Family.

May God comfort you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

act! end VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mark S. Anshan
Chair, Board of Directors

Penny Krowitz
Executive Director

INTERNATIONAL

Israelis grapple with results of new Pew study

BEN SALES
JTA, TEL AVIV

In a survey that spanned politics, religion and interfaith relations, one statistic stood out: nearly half of Israel's Jews support expelling the country's Arabs.

The Pew Research Center's study of Israelis' attitudes, which had its findings released March 8, had asked respondents whether they agreed that "Arabs should be expelled or transferred from Israel." Forty-eight per cent of Israeli Jews agreed, while 46 per cent did not. Among self-described right-wing Jews, 72 per cent agreed, along with 71 per cent of religious Zionists.

The figure was inconsistent with the findings of previous studies and provoked strong reactions in a country that sees its Arab minority as proof of its commitment to democratic values and respect for diversity. It has also shined a spotlight on what has been seen previously as a fringe proposal. No party in the Israeli Knesset advocates mass population transfer, and it has never been seriously discussed as a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The idea that the State of Israel could be a democracy only for its Jewish citizens is unconscionable and we must find a way to address this," Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said at a meeting with officials of the Washington-based Pew centre. "I believe that also our democratic values are born out of our Jewish faith, a love for the stranger and equality before the law."

Rivlin called on the public to engage in "soul-searching and moral reflection."

But Alan Cooperman, the Pew study's lead author, says support for expulsion comports with other data points in the survey. Cooperman pointed to survey findings that nearly four out of five Israeli Jews say Israel should give preferential treatment to Jews, 60 per cent of Israeli Jews believe God gave the land to them, and that majorities of religious Zionists and haredi Orthodox also feel Jewish law should be the law of the state.

"You see it really makes sense," he said. "Support is strongest among [religious Zionists], very high among settlers."

Analysts say Jewish animosity toward Israeli Arabs has been exacerbated by the recent wave of Palestinian terror attacks and a government response that some consider inflammatory. Rawnak Natour, the co-director of Sikkuy, a non-profit that works toward Arab-Jewish coexistence, pointed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech decrying "two nations within Israel" following a January terror attack in Tel Aviv.

"I think there's a feeling of fear here that's strengthened by the political echelon," Natour said. "There's a lack of familiarity of the other side."

The Pew finding on expulsion is significantly higher than other recent polls that have sought to measure Israeli attitudes toward coexistence. The 2015 Israel Democracy Index, a survey published annually by the Israel Democracy Institute, found 37.5 per cent support for the government merely encouraging Arab emigration.

A 2015 poll by Haifa University Prof. Sammy Smooha found that six in 10 Israeli Jews felt "it would be good for Arabs and Jews to always live together in Israel." That survey also found 32 per cent of respondents in favour of encouraging Arabs to leave Israel in exchange for compensation.

Israeli pollsters have laid blame on the question itself, calling it vague and misleading. Is the question about Israeli Arabs, West Bank Palestinians or both? When would this expulsion occur, and under what conditions? Would the Arab refugees be compensated?

"It was asked in a very unclear way," said Tamar Hermann, academic director of IDI's Guttman Center for Surveys. "If we didn't get a majority on a more cautious and less aggressive version [of the question], what happened here? I would say take it with a grain of salt."

The statistic is a sign not only of extremism but also of polarization in Israeli society, says Steven M. Cohen, a sociology professor at New York's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion who consulted on the Pew study. Regardless of the exact level of support, he called the figure a "warning sign" for Israeli and Jewish leaders.

"There's a lot of support for this notion that God gave this land to me – not to them, to me," Cohen said at a panel discussion of the survey last week in Tel Aviv. "Is there a context in which it seems the authorities are trying to diminish the place of minorities in this country? Is that happening? If that's happening, then this question becomes very critical." ■

Arabs buy pastries in the Old City of Jerusalem on March 4. A recent Pew poll showed that nearly half of Israel's Jews support expelling Arabs from the country.
CORINNA KERN FLASH 90 PHOTO

SeeJN | A farewell to fallen American

FLASH 90 PHOTO

Former MK Dov Lipman participates in a goodbye ceremony March 11 for Taylor Force, the American citizen killed in a stabbing terror attack in Jaffa last week, before his body was sent back to be buried in the United States. Members of the U.S. military in the area also attended the service.

How stabbing victim turned the tables on attacker

BEN SALES
JTA, PETAH TIKVA

Only after Yonatan Azriaev grabbed the terrorist's arms and threw him against a wall of soft drinks did he think he was about to die.

Azriaev, a member of the Breslov chassidic sect, had been handing out religious pamphlets in the open-air market when he stepped inside a shop at around 4 p.m. on March 8, hoping to give one to the cashier. Then he felt sharp blows to his back and shoulders.

Feeling like he was punched, Azriaev said he figured he was being attacked by someone who hated religious people. But then the shop owner started yelling, "It's a terrorist! It's a terrorist!"

Realizing he had been stabbed, Azriaev said he followed his instincts. He swiveled around, grabbed the attacker by the arms, swung him in a circle – "like you would with a kid," he explained – and threw him against the wall. The attacker fell to the floor and Azriaev realized he was bleeding from the neck.

"I thought that was it, I wouldn't live," Azriaev told *JTA* in a bedside interview last Thursday from Rabin Medical Center where he is recovering from his injuries. "I saw he was fighting with someone else. When I saw that, I said, 'I won't live.' So, I said, he shouldn't kill more people."

> *I thank God for the miracle He did for me...What can save us is just a short prayer to God.*
> **Stabbing victim Yonatan Azriaev**

After slamming the attacker against the wall, Azriaev's memory went blank and he doesn't remember what happened next. Some of the details remain unclear, but the story that has emerged sounds like something from an action movie.

Azriaev, still bleeding from his wound, pulled the knife from his own neck and stabbed his attacker, reportedly a Palestinian, who died a few minutes later. According to one report, Azriaev initially fled the store before returning to confront the attacker, but Israeli police were unable to confirm that, telling *JTA* only that some part of the incident occurred inside the shop and some part outside.

The next thing Azriaev remembers is leaving the store and paramedics rushing to help him. Upon returning home from hospital, Azriaev said he plans to resume his mission in life: distributing the pamphlets.

"I thought, if there was one thing that could save me, it would just be that I would keep handing out these pamphlets," he said. "That's why God would save me."

A burly man with a calm face engulfed by a bushy black-and-white beard, Azriaev, 35, has spent the past 16 years studying religious books. He lives with his wife and five children in Yavniel, a 4,000-person agricultural village near the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel. He served in a non-combat position in the Israeli army. He doesn't exercise.

Azriaev joined the Breslov sect at 19 after reading one of its pamphlets. Today, he spends his mornings studying Torah and afternoons traveling around Israel distributing the glossy, palm-sized booklets with chassidic texts to passersby. On that Tuesday, he was distributing one titled *You will succeed.*

Azriaev's story was one of the few silver linings in a day marred by tragedy. Two stabbing attacks and one shooting in three Israeli cities left 11 injured and one American tourist, Taylor Force, dead.

Every day, when he leaves home and when he returns, Azriaev thanks God for keeping him healthy and whole. He doesn't take credit for saving lives on Tuesday – not even his own. He still doesn't know exactly how he did it but says God, not him, deserves praise.

"I thank God for the miracle He did for me," Azriaev said. "As much as someone takes care of himself, it's not enough. What can save us is just a short prayer to God." ■

Israel Cancer Research Fund cordially invites you to the 15th annual

WOA
Women of Action
LUNCHEON

Recognizing the Outstanding Achievements of Women

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016** at The Carlu, Toronto

2016 WOMEN OF ACTION HONOUREES

Dale Ponder
Business Honouree, Receiving the Catore Tanenbaum Women of Action Business Award

Laurie Davis
Community Honouree, Receiving the Vicki Campbell "VAST" Community Award

Rabbi Yael Splansky
Inspirational Story Honouree

Dr. Lillian Sung
Scientific Honouree, Receiving the Wendy Lack Women of Action Scientific Award

EVENT CO-CHAIRS
Dianne Gould and Joanie Smith

For Sponsorship opportunities or to purchase your tickets, call 416.487.5246 or visit www.icrf.ca

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Recently Married ?

In honour of your marriage,

The Canadian Jewish News

*would like to give you a 12-week subscription **

Go to www.cjnews.com/weddings-promo/ and complete the subscription form.

*CANADIAN DELIVERY. NEW SUBSCRIPTION ONLY

Design: MYMEDIA

OPINION

BDS and the Purim story: disturbing parallels

Gerald Steinberg

The Purim Megillah, with its many tragi-comic twists and turns, keeps us entertained every year, while today's headlines remind us that the plotline is far from unique. Mordechai, Esther and Achashverosh, the buffoon king, are (somewhat) exaggerated, but it seems that every generation has its Haman characters – including anti-Semites filled with hate, dedicated to attacking the Jewish People.

Today's version is known as BDS – the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement – whose leaders have the same goals as Haman. BDS is no laughing matter, but it has plenty of jokers – for example, Omar Barghouti, a perpetual student at Tel Aviv University masquerading as the "Palestinian" face of the boycott movement, and Ali Abunimah, the ranting head of an organization that calls itself Electronic Intifada, who spreads myths of Palestinian victimization from the comfort of Chicago.

Like Haman and his gang in the Purim story, the leaders of BDS warfare had a run of successes, but appear to be losing momentum and may be headed, if not to the gallows, at least to the dustbin of history. In Britain, where hatred of Israel and Jews flourishes, the government recently prohibited the boycott of Israeli products and firms by any public body, citing anti-discrimination laws. The Paris municipality confirmed a parallel policy, while in Spain, which has spawned a number of radical anti-Israel hate groups, the city of Aviles backed down from a boycott after facing legal action.

In the United States, a number of states have passed legislation prohibiting boycotts of Israel, and Congress included an anti-BDS clause in important trade legislation, instructing negotiators to give high priority to this issue in talks with the European Union. The EU has singled out Israel by requiring the special labelling of products from "occupied territories" – which is a preliminary form of BDS, designed to pave the way for boycotts of Israeli banks and other institutions. Going further, Congress is debating the Combating BDS Act of 2016, which would reinforce the power of state and local governments to "identify and divest from entities engaged in BDS activities against Israel."

In a similar spirit, the Canadian House of Commons' voted 229-51 in favour of a strong resolution calling on the government to denounce and condemn the BDS movement, which, as a columnist noted "has become such high fashion among the anti-Israel crowd in Canada." The resolution, which was introduced by the Conservative opposition, was supported by the governing Liberals (the NDP voted against it).

And on a number of university campuses, there are signs that tolerance for BDS hate and the wider demonization of Israel is thinning out. Recently, McGill University students rejected a BDS resolution in an online vote involving thousands of students. In contrast to the resolutions steered by marginal radicals, led by Arab and Muslim activists with a thin veneer of fringe Jews, when the general student population is involved, they reject this immoral form of warfare. Some of the inadvertent funders are also clamping down: a major law firm that gave student groups at the Harvard Law School a $1-million donation changed course after learning that some of the money went to promote campaigns that single out Israel.

These successes are impressive, but they don't mean the threat has passed or that the BDS war has been defeated and we can celebrate another victory of good over evil, as in the Purim saga. The BDS money continues to flow, and as some government funders in Europe close the taps, others – particularly the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York – are playing the role of Achashverosh in affixing their seals to absurd decrees (in the form of grant requests from BDS groups). We are at best half-way through the Megillah, after Mordechai realizes that the Jews are in danger, but before Esther succeeds in destroying Haman, winning over the king, and saving the day. ■

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto

APRIL 3 - 13, 2016

DONATE TODAY

SO ALL CAN CELEBRATE

Thank you for Caring for Our Community

DELIVERY DAY: APRIL 17, 2016 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

416.633.5100 · pfd@ncjwctoronto.org · www.PassoverFoodDrive.org · www.NCJWCToronto.org

Our Sponsors: UJA Federation of Greater Toronto · Barrday · Dov Capital · Durante's No Frills · Pat's No Frills · Circle of Care · Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Foundation · Liberal · Great Gulf Homes · Carlo's No Frills · Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Jewish Family & Child · Brampton Brick · Metroland Media · Sobeys Hilda & Clarke · Terraplan Landscape Architects · DMS Property Management · Universal Lighting · Jewish Immigrant Aid Services · HomeSweetHomeToronto.com · Jewish Youth Network · Burnbrae Farms · Y5 Creative Studio

Wave of Palestinian terror shows no signs of abating

NOGA TARNOPOLSKY
JERUSALEM

Eyewitnesses to the point-blank shooting of two Jerusalem police officers March 8 on a main east Jerusalem street described a remarkable scene. One shopkeeper said it was "like the Wild West, but right outside my door."

Mid-morning on the day following the attacks, Salah Ad-Din Street, which would normally be thrumming with street traffic, was all but deserted with at least half of its shops shuttered.

Merchants were cautious and fearful. "Are you a police investigator?" one asked *The Media Line*.

Ibrahim Moaket, who with his brother Faez runs a spice shop on the very corner where the police officers were felled, described how "everyone heard the shots. First thing we did was close the [metallic] shutters."

Their shop had been full of clients that Tuesday afternoon. "This thing that happened, the shooting," Ibrahim said, "its not good. It's terrible. For all of us."

Imad Muna, one of two brothers who own the Educational Bookshop, a popular café/bookstore, described handing a customer a book "and while I was giving it to him, I heard the first shot." He said that most of his customers ran upstairs to the cafeteria while he ran to the window to see what was going on.

He saw a man standing with his legs planted wide apart, both hands firmly holding a gun, shooting at a pair of police officers across the narrow street.

> *This cannot be viewed by civilized people as an appropriate way to behave.*
>
> **U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden**

"I saw him running down the road and a shootout started. For 10 or 15 minutes there was shooting and police cars, motorbikes and horses flooded the street. "I heard at least a hundred live bullets. I saw the injured cop lying on the ground at the corner."

The dramatic events witnessed by Muna in the late afternoon came at the same time U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden was landing in Israel.

The rapid sequence of attacks comes at a time when the uprising of Palestinian "lone wolf" attackers enters its sixth month, with no signs of a cessation.

In one of Tuesday night's attacks, a U.S. citizen, 29-year-old Vanderbilt graduate student Taylor Force, was stabbed to death in Tel Aviv.

By midday the next day, only hours before Biden was scheduled to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority had issued no condemnation of the attacks.

Israeli leaders across the board assailed the violence and the lack of Palestinian reaction.

Speaking to journalists as he exited the meeting with Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "unfortunately it's not just that President Abbas refused to condemn these terror attacks, his Fatah party actually praised the murderer of an American citizen as a Palestinian martyr and a hero."

Netanyahu was referring to Palestine TV broadcasts that referred to Bashar Masalha, the 22-year-old stabber, as a "martyr." One report described the attack in which Force died as "a complex operation ...carried out by a martyr."

Biden, at the same press briefing, started out by saying that "the United States condemns these acts and condemns the failure to condemn them. This cannot become an accepted modus operandi.

"This cannot be viewed by civilized people as an appropriate way to behave. This is not tolerable in the 21st century. The U.S. stands firmly by Israel's right to defend itself."

Almost concurrent with the Biden-Netanyahu meeting, a double shooting attack took place in Jerusalem, with two terrorists initially taking aim at a bus full of passengers. For reasons that remain unclear, the pair desisted, fled in a car and continued shooting several kilometres away, near Jerusalem's Old City.

An Arab Israeli man was severely wounded when he was shot in the head. Both shooters were later killed by police.

On Salah Ad-Din Street, Asil, a young girl in a headscarf, walked into a chocolate shop and admitted that she was "a little afraid to be out on the street." Most residents were less courageous and stayed at home.

Shopkeepers described the scene the night before, as police forced them to lock up, keeping them on site for two hours as they went door-by-door checking the cellphones and ID cards of sellers and customers in the vicinity.

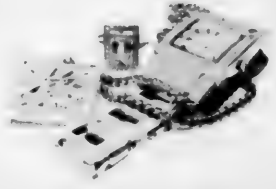
Tamer Izhiman, who together with his brothers and his father, Adli, operates the coffee and chocolate shop that bears the family name, foresees a loss of "90 per cent of our business for the next week, and 50 per cent for the next month."

Speaking with *The Media Line* Izhiman described an active and enthusiastic social media scene that Tuesday night, with young Palestinians gleefully claiming to know the shooter of the two policemen, both of whom remain hospitalized in serious condition. "Everyone gets on Facebook saying 'he's from my neighbourhood!' or 'no, he's from my neighbourhood!' because the guy shot at cops and didn't kill innocent people on the street."

Not all Palestinians feel this way, he added. "Some people care more about their business. About their families." ■

The Media Line
themedialine.org

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

PARTY ROCK
"Lots more for less....& with a smile"
PURIM MADNESS
Masks • Beads
Accessories • Costumes
Decorations
Spend $30.00 and receive $10 in Party Bucks to be used after April 1, 2016. (Must present this advertisement at time of purchase.) No rights accepted.

905-764-5457
Follow us on Facebook
92 Doncaster Ave. • Thornhill
www.party.ca

From Weddings & Holidays, to Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, You'll find what you need at
MATANA *Judaica*
PURIM March 24th, 2016
Costumes, Books, Masks and much more
Come Visit us at our newest location
855 Alness Street, Unit 1, North York, ON M3J 2X3
(South of Steeles Ave. W. between Superfest Rd. & Dolomite Dr.)
905-731-6543
For the Finest Judaica in the GTA
Registration for Weddings & Bar/Bat Mitzvah available
Store Hours: Monday through Thursday 10:00 - 3:00
Friday & Sunday 10:00 - 2:00
Email: gifts@matanajudaica.ca
SAVE 10% PST with this ad on Regular Priced Merchandise before the tax.

Thornhill's finest retirement community. Home to Thornhill's finest.

So, who are Thornhill's finest? They are the parents who raised their families here, and built the GTA into Canada's most vibrant Jewish community. Best of all, they continue to volunteer throughout the community – making it a truly special place to live.

It's people like this who inspire us daily at V!VA to fulfil our simple purpose: *Making Today Great!* From our warm and caring Team, to our delicious and healthy dining, modern amenities, inspiring activities and so much more, we look forward to becoming home to more of Thornhill's finest.

ALL-INCLUSIVE | JEWISH CUISINE | INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING

DAILY TOURS AVAILABLE!

Second Person Free!*
Plus, ask about our
Spring Into V!VA Savings

Purim Celebration
Tuesday, March 22nd at 2:00pm
Enjoy hamentaschen and live entertainment

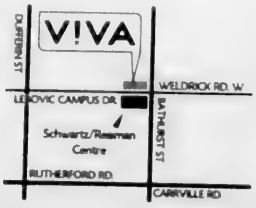
Healthy Brain Aging Presentation
Thursday, March 31st at 2:30pm
Join Baycrest's Dr. Nicole Anderson, as she presents on memory and aging.

Call Wendy at 905-417-8585 to RSVP!

V!VA Retirement Communities
THORNHILL WOODS
Making Today Great!

9700 Bathurst Street
at Lebovic Campus Drive

Call 905.417.8585 or visit vivalife.ca



*Conditions Apply

Jewish Life

Renzo Massarani pictured , far left. In the middle photo he is pictured in 1943 with his family and at right, Luca Buratto.

Prize winner influenced by great-grandfather's legacy

STEPHEN CERA
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Like anyone else, a musician's genealogy can hold some surprises.

Last September, first prize of the Honens Piano Competition in Calgary, was awarded to a 22-year-old Italian pianist, Luca Buratto, the youngest of 10 semifinalists. This was reportedly the world's largest piano prize: $100,000, plus a comprehensive artistic and career development program valued at half a million dollars.

It turns out that the Prize Laureate has a partially Jewish background.

Buratto had first caught the public's attention in 2003, at the age of nine, when, at the Milan Conservatory's Sala Verdi, he performed music composed by his great-grandfather, Renzo Massarani, at an International Holocaust Remembrance Day event.

Massarani (1898-1975), a student of composer Ottorino Respighi, was a promising young composer whose career was interrupted by the imposition of racial laws in 1938.

"My great-grandfather had to stop writing music because he was Jewish," says Buratto. "And in Italy before World War II, his music was banned. Though he survived the war and the persecution, he decided to stop writing music because he was disgusted with mankind." Massarani ended up in Rio de Janeiro as a music reviewer.

During earlier and better times in Italy, Massarani was the music director of a famous puppet theatre, the Teatro dei Piccoli, and travelled widely with them during the 1920s.

Buratto's grandfather (on his mother's side) is Jewish, however this grandfather was the only one of his siblings to marry a Catholic. (Luca's mother grew up Catholic and so did Luca.) However they always celebrate the major Jewish holidays even though his grandfather was not observant. (Luca has close relatives who are Jewish: a cousin of his mother is Orthodox, and one of his cousins lives in Israel where he is studying to become a rabbi.)

Massarani decided not to publish more music after immigrating to Brazil, and in fact wanted to destroy his music. Luca has played some of his chamber works, usually in performances tied to the January 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Massarani's story mirrors the vexed plight of Jews in Fascist Italy. Benito Mussolini, the founder of modern fascism, wrote in the newspaper *Il Popolo d'Italia* in 1920: "In Italy there is absolutely no differentiation between Jews and non-Jews, in all fields, from religion to politics to the military to the economy...Italian Jews have their new Zion here, in this adorable land of ours." But one year earlier, Mussolini had inveighed in the same newspaper against the powers of "International Judaism."

A more recent article by Gregorio Nardi, "The 'Aryanization' of Italian Musical Life", suggests that for musicians, the ominous signal came at the end of 1933 in the form of a ban on radio broadcasts of pieces by Jewish composers. Until then, new prospects seemed to be appearing for younger Jewish composers such as Massarani. Ironically, the Mantua-born Massarani was at one time considered a representative of fascist officialdom; he had participated in the March on Rome, and despite Nazi policies his "Danza Atletica" was entered in the international music competition at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

But that same year, specific racist policies were implemented, then consolidated in 1938 with the promulgation of the so-called Racial Laws. Individuals "belonging to the Hebrew race" were expelled from public positions, Jewish performers were banned from concert halls, as were works by Jewish composers. When his music was proscribed, Massarani departed for Brazil, where he did all he could to ensure that his works would never be played. He left just in time: as of June 1940, Jews were being interned in Italian concentration camps.

This painful legacy of his great-grandfather has affected Luca Buratto, who says "this has been a big influence on me." Meanwhile, his debut CD recording has just been released on the Honens' own label. Another solo recording, on the prestigious Hyperion label, is due to be released next year, when Buratto will also make his debuts in Carnegie Hall and London's Wigmore Hall. ■

YIDDISH CORNER

א נס! אַן ענדע צו דער בלוטיקער שלאַכט צווישן יידיש און העברעיש.

GERRY KANE
yankele635@gmail.com

איך האָב נישט געגלויבט אז אין מײַן לעבן וועל איך דערלעבן צו זען אַן ענדע צו דער מיאוסער אָפּיציעלער באַציונג אין ישראל צו יידיש ווי אַ גלות שפּראַך און נישט אַן אוצר פֿאַר אַלע יידן – ספּעציעל פֿאַר יידן אין ישראל. דעם נס האָב איך געפֿונען אין "דער דערוסאַלעם רעפּאָרט" אַ מאַנאַט שריפֿט וואָס קומט פֿון ישראל און איז געדרוקט אויף ענגליש. אַבער דעמאָלט, וען איך האָב עס געעפֿנט האָב איך מיט אַ מאָל געזען, בלעטל נאָך בלעטל געדרוקט אויף יידיש מיט אַן אַרײַנפֿיר פֿון מירי רגב די קולטור און ספּאָרט־מיניסטערע.

איידער איך ציטיר אירע ווערטער וויל איך אײַך געבן אַ שטיקל געשיכטע – באַהאַלטן אין אַ מאַניפֿעסטאָ וואָס ליגט אויף מײַנע ביכער פֿאַליצעס שוין מער ווי פֿערציק יאָר. די קאַנפֿערענץ פֿאַר יידיש און יידישער קולטור וואָס איז פֿאָרגעקומען אין ירושלים האָט אויסגעדרוקט אַ וווּנטש: *"די וועלט קאַנפֿערענץ אָפּעלירט צו דער רעגירונג פֿון מדינת־ישראל צו דער סוכנות, ציוניסטישער אָרגאַניזאַציע, צום יידישן וועלט- קאָנגרעס, צו די יידישע סאַציאַלע פֿאָנדן אין פֿאַרשיידענע לענדער און בכלל צו אַלע אינסטיטוציעס, וואָס זאָרגן פֿאַר אַ וויטערדיק נאַציאָנאַל יידיש לעבן, אז זיי זאָלן העלפֿן שטאַרקן דאָס יידיש לעבן בײַם אויספֿירן די שעפּערישע ראָל פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק. כדי דאָס צו דערגרייכן דאַרף יידיש איינגעשלאָסן ווערן אין די פּראָגראַמען פֿון יידישער דערציונג אין די תּפֿוצות און אין ישראל."*

נו, נאָך פֿערציק יאָר האָבן מיר אָן אָפּיציעלן ענטפֿער צו דעם רוף פֿון דער וועלט קאַנפֿערענץ פֿאַר יידיש. גוטע וועלטע שיינע וועלטער וואָס וויסן אָפּ דעם ציניזם מיט וועלכן איך האָב אַלעמאָל באטראַכט דער ישראל רעגירונג לגבי יידיש. אָס האָס איר די וועלטער פֿון מירי רגב דער מיניסטער פֿון קולטור און ספּאָרט:

"איך בין זיכער, אז א פֿאָלק, וואָס היט ניט אָפּ און פֿאַרגעסט זײַן פֿאַרנאַנענהײַם, קען ניט בײַשטײן די שווערע אויפֿגאבעס, וועלכע שטייען פֿאַר אים אויפֿן וועג אין דער צוקונפֿט. אזוי אַרום, כ'האָב בדעה אונטערהאַלטן די נעזעלשאַפֿטלעכע איניציאַטיוון, וועלכע דינען די אינטערעסן פֿון כלל־באַפֿעלקערונג פֿון מדינת־ישראל, און צווישן זיי אויך די יידיש־ירושה. דאָס איז אונדזער וועג צו פֿאַרבינדן דעם קומענדיקן דור מיט זײַנע וואַרצלען, און פֿאַרזיכערן, אז אויך וויסער וועט יידיש ממשיך זײַן צו חידושן, ממשיך זײַן און פֿריַען, וועט באַרירן די הערצער פֿון אַלע נאָכפֿאָלגער פֿון יידיש און וועט צוציען אַלע נײַע און נײַע ליבהאָבער":

אפֿשר זײַנען רגבס ווערטער אַ היסטאָרישער מײַלשטײן אויפֿן וועג צו פֿולער האַרמאָניע צווישן הערבראיש און יידיש. אפֿשר וועלן די וואָס פֿירן אָן מיט די טאָג שולעס ברענגן יידיש צו אונדזערע קינדער וי מער וי וועלכע וואָס געפֿינען זיך אין ענגלישן סלענג נאָר ווי אַ וויכטיקער מיטל אויסצופֿורמען זייער באַציונג צו יידישקייט און צו פֿאַרשטאַרקן דעם קיום און המשך פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק.

דאָס וואָלט אויך געווען אַ נס.

DIVORCE AND ADULTERY

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B. A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 33 years

It makes no difference what causes the split. I can't count the number of times a new client will come to me with the details of their spouse's infidelity. "I came home one day and he/she was with my best friend. What was that? I could never forgive him/her." Surprisingly, Canadian law no longer rewards catching your spouse in *flagrante delicto*. You don't get extra spousal support, better rights to your kids, such as custody or more access. You also don't get a bigger slice of the pie. I recall a BC Judge awarding one lady compensation for severe mental suffering because her husband was having an affair. But that was an oddball case. Generally the Courts don't' make such rulings because under Canada's *Divorce Act* conduct can't play any role in calculating spousal support.

Normally, a spouse waits one year from the date of separation to obtain a divorce order. So the only "benefit" under the Act when a spouse claims for a divorce based on adultery is that he/she is entitled to a divorce without waiting out the year. However, this benefit has little practical benefit. Most people who are the victims of adultery are hardly in an emotional place where they are ready to remarry right away. It usually takes at least a year for many people to readjust and socially reintegrate after being the victim of an adulterous affair in any event. However, for the adulterer, it may be a great benefit, since if his spouse wants a quicker divorce then, in some cases, the adulterer gets a license to consummate his adultery legally by marrying the person with whom he or she has been cheating much earlier than expected. I would imagine that this is hardly the result that was anticipated when these amendments were enacted. In any event, most Courts are so slow that it can easily take 6 months or longer even if you claim adultery and the other side doesn't oppose: and it often costs a lot more. So, why not just wait out the year?

Adultery usually traumatizes but the reaction will vary. You can only bend a tree so far. Some try marriage counselling. Others leave the marriage as quick as a rabbit. And then there are those who feel so dependent, so trapped by their economic or social circumstances that their fear traps them. They internalize their hurt, look the other way and fall into the hole of denial. If you find it hard to believe that someone can actually live this way, try to fill their shoes. Some spouses live this nightmare for years and many never break loose.

If you know of anyone quietly suffering, be a good friend. It's a very lonely experience, akin to the death of someone close. His or her entire family and many people you've known suddenly disappear. And the law simply no longer gives any remedy.

Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, with experience in family law for 33 years. Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit

www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.

Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.

Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.

Frozen Chosen make first appearance at Friars' Briar

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

No one can ever know for sure what God is thinking, but it's likely that when he made the Jews his Chosen People, it wasn't because of their ability to draw the four-foot circle or execute a raise takeout.

No, not at all. It was pretty clear from their 0-5 record to start the annual Friars' Briar and their assignment to the relegation round that the "Frozen Chosen" are much better at matters of faith than in faithfully performing on the pebbled ice.

Perhaps they were daunted by the presence on the ice of a rather un-kosher sounding "hog line," but still, the four Toronto-area Jewish clergymen and woman, who adopted the "Frozen Chosen" moniker for the tournament, managed to win Game 1 of the relegation round. In doing so they defeated a team from Winnipeg, where curling is, if not a religion, then something pretty close.

They managed to go 3-0 in the relegation round playoffs, winning the Hugh Christmas Award.

Contacted in Ottawa, where the tournament runs parallel to the Tim Hortons Brier, Rabbi Cory Weiss was upbeat and full of good humour, enjoying the camaraderie of his teammates and opponents.

"Everybody is in good spirits," Rabbi Weiss said on the phone, no doubt referring to something other than curling's post-game ritual of imbibing frothy beverages.

From left, Rabbi Cory Weiss, Cantor Katie Oringel, Rabbi Michael Dolgin and Rabbi Jerry Steinberg

The Friars' Briar brings together rinks from across Canada, and this year, for the first time since the genesis of the event in 1978, Jews joined their Christian confreres in sliding granite rocks down pebbled ice.

Rabbis Jerry Steinberg (of B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah in Ajax, third), Michael Dolgin (Temple Sinai, skip), Weiss (Temple Har Zion, second) and Cantor Katie Oringel (Temple Sinai, lead) made up the Frozen Chosen.

Interestingly, of the four, only Rabbi Steinberg grew up playing the sport, in his hometown of Regina. The others, all originally from the United States, are Moshe-come-latelies to the game.

The four play on separate rinks once a week in the Greater Toronto Interfaith Curling Club, but teamed together for the national bonspiel.

Playing only once a week is a bit of a handicap, conceded Rabbi Weiss, especially when the other rinks play more often. But that didn't take away from the collegiality and fun of playing with other men and women of faith.

Asked if HaShem might have a stake in who wins the event, Rabbi Weiss said, "It's all in God's hands. Prayer and faith have a lot to do with it. But everybody here has prayer and faith. God doesn't takes sides in curling."

True enough, but a few more brachot and mitzvahs wouldn't hurt.

As it happened, the schedule for the Friars' Briar couldn't have come at a better time. Because it was held relatively close to Toronto and didn't fall on Purim, the four holy throwers could get together and see their dream come true.

Although Rabbi Steinberg's curling pedigree goes back to his high school in Regina, where a school janitor created a shortened sheet of ice and the kids crafted rocks out of tin cans and cement, the others came on board in just the last few years.

Before their weekly games at the Annandale Golf & Curling Club in Ajax, the religious leaders get together for a shmeer and shmooze.

"It's my favourite morning of the week," said Rabbi Weiss. "I love the collegiality and the friendliness."

Sometimes they're joined by Christian clergy, and they acknowledge the weekly games helps create fraternal bonds between members of the two faith groups.

Rabbi Weiss points to a number of joint programs held by synagogues and churches, such as concerts and pulpit exchanges.

As for the Friars' Briar, Rabbi Steinberg said, "It's been a good experience. It's created a lot of good relationships between Christian clergy and us."

Next time around, other religious representatives might take part. Rabbi Steinberg has invited an imam from the local Islamic society to participate.

If one day you hear him tell his congregation, "Hurry, whoa, hard, hard, hard, whoa, whoa," he might have taken another step in adopting to native Canadian curling culture. ■

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System

PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439

PTP www.ptpads.com

KOSHER & NATURAL FOODS

UNIQUE PURIM BASKETS & TRAYS

WE DELIVER

La TRAVIATA
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA

It's our First-Year Anniversary at
La Traviata
and it's Time to Celebrate!!
Dine with us during the month of April and receive 50% of that meals value toward a future visit!!

Voucher will be based on food cost. Vouchers will be valid on dates specified. Vouchers do not include liquor or sales tax.

Accepting reservations 7 days a week!

852 Wilson Avenue, North York, ON
416 635 8891 www.latraviata.ca

Dershowitz's take on the world's first Jewish lawyer

MARTIN LOCKSHIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University is a scholar and activist that the Jewish community can be proud of. He has dedicated his life to the pursuit of human rights for Jews and others, while at the same time establishing an impressive record as a criminal lawyer. He is also a strong and effective defender of Israel on campuses and beyond.

The author of over 30 books, Dershowitz's latest offering is *Abraham: The World's First (but Certainly not Last) Jewish Lawyer*. Dershowitz provides a unique analysis of the Abraham stories in the Bible, with frequent references to how they were understood in the Jewish tradition.

Two Bible stories about Abraham are central to the thesis of the book. For Dershowitz, Abraham's speech to God about the impending destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was his finest hour. Abraham challenged God, "Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?" He spoke truth to power, demanding that God exercise justice and fairness: "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" (Genesis 18:23, 25).

Dershowitz feels that Abraham fell short in the story that appears a few chapters later in Genesis 22, when God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Abraham acquiesced too willingly, according to Dershowitz. He should have argued against God for giving him this patently immoral order. Instead he behaved like a religious fundamentalist, not a compliment in Dershowitz's worldview.

Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions consistently praise Abraham's selfless behaviour and deep faith in God as demonstrated in the story, but Dershowitz's atypical understanding underlies the rest of the book, his survey of Jewish lawyers through the ages. He praises the ones who ostensibly follow the model of Abraham, courageously arguing with God, and criticizes those he sees as unthinkingly following the law.

Among the meritorious Jewish lawyers, Canada's own Irwin Cotler gets special mention, with lengthy praise for Cotler's commitment to human rights for Jews and others. Dershowitz quotes from a letter he wrote, nominating Cotler for the Nobel Peace Prize. And he dedicates the book to Cotler, "a modern-day Abraham... who boldly confront[s] injustice and who aggressively demand[s] a single standard of justice."

This book is part of the "Jewish Encounters" series published jointly by Schocken and Nextbooks. I have previously reviewed here the volumes dedicated to Rashi, Hillel, and Yehuda Halevi. All the books in the series are reasonably well written, and most are authored by Jews with some name recognition.

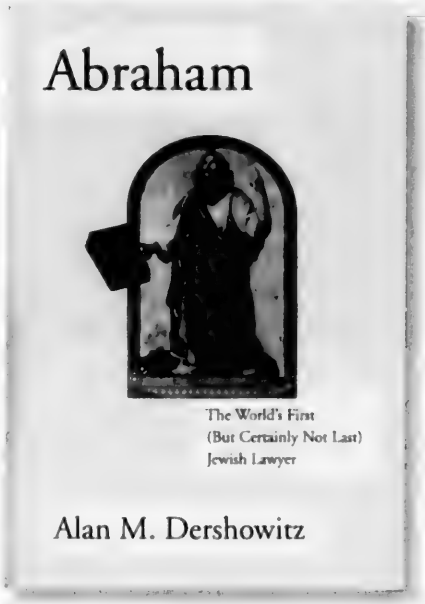
Unfortunately, none of the books about pre-modern Jews were assigned to authors with expertise in pre-modern Judaism. For some reason, authors of books about the modern period are often genuine subject matter experts.

Dershowitz tries hard to overcome his lack of expert background in classical Judaica. He is, without a doubt, a knowledgeable and educated Jew, and he has relied on a number of research assistants with subject expertise, whose help he graciously acknowledges. He also wisely spends only the first 54 pages of *Abraham* talking about Abraham. For those who might wonder if there is enough to write about Abraham to fill more than 54 pages, I recommend an excellent new Hebrew book, *Abraham: A Story of a Journey*, by a rising Israeli academic and rabbi, Jonathan Grossman, written for both scholarly and lay audiences (566 pages, published by Yedioth Ahronoth Books), a book that builds careful literary readings of the Abraham stories upon expert knowledge of the ancient near east and the rabbinic tradition. I hope it will be translated into English so it can reach a wider audience.

Dershowitz is indeed an expert on the bulk of his book, the survey of Jewish lawyers through the ages. And his references to Abraham and Jewish tradition contain only a few gaffes. One example: Dershowitz presents an English quotation from Maimonides' *Book of Commandments* as "translated from the original Hebrew." Maimonides did not write his *Book of Commandments* in Hebrew, but in Judeo-Arabic.

The attraction of Jews to the study and practice of the law may be traceable in some sense to Abraham, as Dershowitz suggests. At the end of the book he mentions another possibility: "I chose to become a criminal lawyer at least in part because I am Jewish. I was taught from the earliest age that Jews must always remember that they were persecuted and that they must stand up for those who now face persecution."

Perhaps another reason for Jews' attraction to the law lies in the centuries-old ultimate Jewish intellectual pursuit: study of the Talmud, which was always seen as a way of coming to understand this world, and God's blueprint for it. Any synagogue, yeshiva, or school where Jews study Talmud exposes them to contracts, agency, torts, and criminal law from a young age, thus encouraging us to think like lawyers. Arguing with God, as Abraham did, has a place in Jewish tradition, but much smaller than the place of study of God's law. ■



> *Dershowitz provides a unique analysis of the Abraham stories in the Bible, with frequent references to how they were understood in the Jewish tradition.*

Abraham: The World's First (But Certainly not Last) Jewish Lawyer, *by Alan Dershowitz*

Nextbook/Schocken

Israeli trio make a splash in Yemeni-Arabic

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

A-Wa has seen a steady rise to fame in Israel and beyond. TAL GIVONY PHOTO

Tair, Liron and Tagel Haim, three sisters raised in a small village in southern Israel, recognized that it would be safer to release their breakout album in Hebrew or English, but instead they decided to record it in Yemeni-Arabic.

"We decided to go with it and do things our own way and, thank God, people are enjoying it and have received it well," says Tair, the spokesperson for A-Wa.

A-Wa has seen a steady rise to fame in Israel and abroad since last year, when their single *Habib Galbi* became the first ever full Arabic-language song to top the Israeli charts.

In addition to their success in Israel, A-Wa has begun to cultivate a following in the Arab world and in Europe, and this month, they embark on their debut North American tour, with a performance at Toronto's Mod Club presented by the Ashkenaz Foundation.

All 12 tracks on the debut album, which was produced by Tomer Yosef of Israeli musical group Balkan Beat Box, are in Yemeni-Arabic, a dialect spoken by Yemeni Jews. Further, all are takes on traditional Yemeni folk songs, but fused with funk, reggae, electronica and hip-hop.

The sisters, whose grandparents went to Israel from Yemen as teenagers in a 1949 rescue operation, grew up exposed to Yemeni music and culture, as well as the Yemeni-Arabic dialect.

Tair recalls going to visit them in their home in the centre of Israel and seeing, "the Yemenite women drumming on tin drums and singing and hearing our grandpa praying with the exact Yemenite pronunciation."

She said they felt a particular affinity for the original folk songs that form the foundation of their album, as all were part of an oral tradition created and passed on through the generations by Jewish Yemeni women, who were typically illiterate and prohibited from participating in synagogue services with men.

"They created their own folklore. These are secular songs written about love, hatred, their expectations and dreams. It was like an outlet. From generation to generation, one woman would take a song and add a verse or slightly change the melody – that's the characteristic of the oral tradition," Tair explained.

The sisters are part of a family of six siblings who grew up in Israel's Arava Valley, near the Egyptian border.

In a home infused with myriad musical influences, from jazz, R&B and Motown to traditional Greek and Yemeni music, all three sisters studied music and dance and eventually began meeting up at their childhood home to record music, which they would film and upload to YouTube.

It was there that Yosef, who also has Yemeni roots, discovered them and came to collaborate with the sisters on the album.

The music video for *Habib Galbi*, which Yosef directed and shot in the desert, saw A-Wa go viral, garnering 2.5 million views.

"I think we're very original and surprising to people," Tair said. "Because all of a sudden, they're seeing three young ladies that sing like three old ladies with Yemenite songs, fully in Arabic, and then it tops the charts in Israel. It's crazy. People are accepting us a lot, and we don't take that for granted."

While one might be tempted to read A-Wa's music as political, given that they're arguably breaking ground for bringing Arabic and elements of non-Ashkenazi culture to Israel's mainstream, Tair said, "I do think the Mizrachi culture is more well known and better accepted nowadays. We really just do what we love and what feels right. Rather than a political message I think we bring more of a social message, of freedom, and of encouraging people to be comfortable in their own skin. Also, we want to empower women and bring people together."

While traditional Yemeni music was heavily vocally-based and not accompanied by instruments other than drums, making it, Tair stressed, "very rhythmic, very groovy," A-Wa has added diverse genres of music to the songs and vocal harmonies, also not a component of the Yemeni tradition.

"In a way, we feel like we're continuing on the oral tradition of Yemeni women by taking these folk songs and telling the old stories but with a new perspective, a new twist," Tair said. ■

A-Wa peforms at the Mod Club Theatre in Toronto on March 20. For tickets go to ashkenaz.ca or at the door.

AUTHORS & POETS
The CJN is pleased to announce its
Annual Passover Literary Supplement
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN
We invite readers to submit unpublished, original short stories or poetry that explore Jewish themes.
They should not exceed 2,000 words. Selected submissions will appear in the Passover Supplement of The CJN on April 21, 2016. Not all submissions can be published, and not all those selected will appear in both Toronto and Montreal editions. We look for originality. Please don't send more than three entries. We cannot correspond with submitters.
Deadline for submissions is March 25, 2016 at 3 p.m.
E-mail submissions to:
cjnliterarysupplement@gmail.com
We can only accept email submissions. We prefer Word documents.

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

JEWISH & INTERFAITH
WEDDINGS
OFFICIATED BY
CANTOR DEBORAH STAIMAN
416-483-9532
www.jewishlifecycles.ca

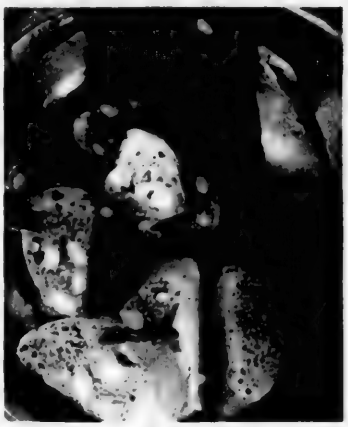
SALES AND MARKETING BY
ONEWORLD PROPERTIES
Michael Mann 786-478-8180
Yoram Lieberman 305-458-8346
EMAIL: fl.caproperties@gmail.com
One World Properties
SE HABLA ESPANOL
NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL YOUR FLORIDA VACATION PROPERTY!
With the Canadian dollar at levels not seen since 2003, sell your Florida based property and take advantage of both capital appreciation in both property value and US dollar vs. the Canadian dollar. Contact our team of professionals for an analysis of your property value and what exactly to expect in the selling process!

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small **REPAIRS**
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

Stay updated anywhere, anytime
at www.cjnews.com
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS CJN

Purim, Sephardi-Style

NORENE GILLETZ
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



If you grew up in an Ashkenazi Jewish family, you probably ate traditional hamantashen filled with sweet poppy seed filling, prunes, or jam. Recent updates include filling them with Israeli chocolate spread, a Hershey's Kiss, or a spoonful of chocolate chip cookie dough. Some families like a cookie-type dough, while others prefer to use sweet yeast dough.

However, if you grew up in a Sephardi Jewish family, your Purim traditions were definitely different. Linda Capeloto Sendowski of Beverly Hills, Calif., author of *Sephardic Baking from Nona and More Favorites* shares some of her favourite Purim recipes as well as other Sephardi specialties.

Folares

Dough

- ❑ 5 cups all-purpose unbleached flour
- ❑ 2 tsp. salt
- ❑ 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ❑ 1 cup ice water
- ❑ 3/4 cup safflower or sunflower oil

Eggs

- ❑ 21 extra large, hard-boiled eggs (optional: dye eggs blue, following dying kit instructions)

Place flour in a large bowl, add salt and Parmesan and stir. In a bowl or two-cup glass measure, add ice water and then whisk in oil. Add liquid to flour mixture and combine with your hands. Dough should be pliable but not too soft.

Divide dough into 21 portions. Break off a walnut-sized piece from each portion and roll into a smooth ball. Flatten ball into a disc about 2 1/2–3 in. in diameter with a rolling pin or your hand. Placed cooked, coloured egg in centre of disc. With the remaining dough from each portion, roll out two or three ropes, 1/3 in. in diameter and long enough to go from one side of the disc to the other. Twist the rope and then attach it to one side of the disc, stretch it over the egg, and attach to the other side of the disc. This creates a cage over the egg. Twist ropes for a better look.

Heat oven to 400. Place folares on parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Bake until dough is golden brown and crisp, about 15 to 20 minutes. Enjoy warm or at room temperature. Yield: About 21 folares

Pistachio biscotti

That first bite of biscotti is sublime. These are just sweet enough, with a subtle blend of flavours that will not interfere with your demitasse of espresso, and crisp enough to withstand dunking in hot tea. Pistachios, dried cherries and orange rind make a great taste combination. Linda's family enjoys them, and she likes to put them in little bags to give away or add them to her Purim platicos.

- ❑ 6 cups all-purpose unbleached flour, plus 1 additional cup for kneading
- ❑ 2 tsp. baking powder
- ❑ 2 tsp. ground anise
- ❑ 2 tbsp. fresh lemon zest
- ❑ 2 tsp. sea salt
- ❑ 4 extra large eggs
- ❑ 2 1/2 cups sugar
- ❑ 1 cup sunflower oil
- ❑ 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- ❑ 1 tbsp. orange juice
- ❑ 2 1/2 cups unsalted pistachios, ground
- ❑ 1 cup tart dried cherries, chopped into medium pieces
- ❑ 3/4 cup whole unsalted pistachios

Preheat oven to 350. Line rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Combine 6 cups of flour, baking powder, anise, zest, and salt in a medium bowl and set aside. Place eggs in bowl of a stand mixer. Add sugar and beat on medium speed until light in colour and thick and smooth. Add oil. Beat, starting at lowest speed and increasing until medium, until well combined. Add lemon and orange juice and mix. Add ground pistachios and mix then, add flour mixture. Mix on lowest speed until flour is incorporated. Lastly, add dried cherries and pistachios and mix until just distributed.

Remove dough from mixer bowl and place on a wooden or stone work surface dusted with flour. Dough may be slightly sticky. Knead dough gently until smooth and easy to work with, adding some or all of the final cup of flour. Roll dough into a smooth ball, flatten, and slice into four equal pieces. With your hands, form four logs, about 2 x 10-in. each. Carefully place two logs on each baking sheet. Bake 25 to 28 minutes or until golden.

Remove baking sheets from oven and turn temperature down to 200. Carefully remove logs from baking sheets and place on a large cutting board without breaking them. Immediately cut them on a sharp diagonal, with a long serrated knife, about 1/4- to -1/3- in. thick.

Carefully return sliced biscotti to baking sheets, lined with clean parchment paper, with enough space between them so air can circulate all around them. You will need additional baking sheets, as once sliced, biscotti will take up more room.

Toast biscotti in a 200 oven for 2 hours. Turn off oven and leave biscotti in closed oven overnight. They should be crisp. Store in an airtight tin. Yield: 60 to 80 biscotti

- **Tip:** Linda always bakes her biscotti after dinner. After baking and slicing, she puts a timer on the oven for 2 hours, for toasting, and then it shuts off automatically. Biscotti can stay in the oven all night.
- **Note:** Biscotti always looks underbaked when sliced, but they will finish baking and dry out during the toasting time. ■

Presentations take you back to the golden age of radio

CYNTHIA GASNER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Those who are 55 years or over may remember *The Lone Ranger, The Shadow, The Lux Radio Theatre* and many more memorable radio programs. You can now go down the memory lane of radio with The Golden Age of Radio Guys, a nostalgic live program created by Ken Borden and David Himelfarb.

The duo, who have both been involved in the media for more than half a century and both love old radio shows, present their unique programs at seniors residences, synagogues and social engagements – performing for anyone from that era.

"They love us because we take them back to their age of innocence where everything was fun, light and simple, and the happiest days of their lives," Borden says.

"Our presentation of four decades of radio programs from the 1930s to 1960s, is still alive and well in our audiences' memories.

"When we refresh that memory, they come alive," he added. "They smile, sing along and poke each other as they recognize familiar voices and sounds. And after our one-hour presentation, we receive many questions and requests."

He notes that he has met many of the early stars of radio, performers of the past. "The best performers of all time. The audience loves to hear all about their old friends on radio."

Borden, a multi-talented ad-man, artist and broadcaster, has one of the world's largest Old Time Radio (OTR) collections. He works with U.S. OTR groups on a daily basis.

Himelfarb, a retired creative ad-man says, "The reactions of our various audiences have been nothing short of amazing. Not only do we play the many radio clips for them, but we also give them a little background information about what they are about to hear.

"And we make our presentations interactive. This makes the sound even more meaningful and they often chime in with any personal stories that refer to the clips that we are playing"

NOW Magazine described Borden and Himelfarb's presentations as "The best feel-good show in town for seniors."

Their presentation is filled with nostalgia, humour, music and suspense, with shows including *The Jimmy Durante Show, Fred Allen, Inner Sanctum, Amos 'n Andy, Wayne and Shuster* and *The Happy Gang.*

"We are also turned on by the audience's involvement with the golden oldies. We love what we do," Himelfarb told *The CJN.* ■

For more information on The Golden Age of Radio Guys, or for booking information, call Borden at 416-224-8184 or Himelfarb at 416-929-3989, or email cookie13@sympatico.ca.

WRY BREAD

New Canadian immigrants bring hope, guns

David Levine

When Amira Hassan first arrived in Canada with her husband and two children, she was shocked to see a throng of citizens gathered to welcome them and their fellow refugees.

"I had never really heard of Canada," she says. "I'm embarrassed to say it, but we didn't get much education about the world outside our borders."

Amira and her family are among the untold scores of refugees who have sought asylum in Canada, escaping a destabilized country on the brink of disaster.

"Canada is beautiful, and so welcoming," she says. "It's like a dream. I keep worrying that I'll suddenly wake up back in Minnesota."

As the American presidential election nears, Google is reporting that searches for the phrase "moving to Canada" have increased by 1,000 per cent – a statistic that only scratches the surface of a mass emigration already underway.

***Cheat Sheet:** The United States of America is a federal republic composed of 50 states, plus several bonus territories, mostly located between Canada and Mexico.*

With its head of state set to step down in 2017, a billionaire jester and former television personality, known for his distinctive orange headdress and immunity to shame, has declared his intention to thwart the supposedly rightful ascension of a political dynasty currently in exile.

The polarized political landscape has already crippled regional governance of this once-great nation, the birthplace of jazz, the automobile and comedian Kathy Griffin.

Like so many American refugees, uncertainty swirled around Amira and her family when they decided to leave their home in Duluth, setting out on an ancient and untended interstate, their journey involving weeks of detours with the aim of avoiding methane fires and roving presidential pollsters, all in the hope of starting a new life north of the border.

And they're not alone. Bill and Nancy Taylor have been living in their car for three weeks, waiting at the border crossing in Niagara Falls, N.Y., sleeping in their car and rationing the last few gallons of their Big Gulp to survive.

Bill says there's no looking back.

"We have no home to go back to. The soil in our town was fracked to a pulp. Our town hall has been at the bottom of a sinkhole since 2011. Our city council meets in a Walmart break room, but half the town can't get there because the bridge collapsed. Canada is our only hope."

The Canadian response has been mixed: despite the government's commitment and hundreds of communities that have come together to sponsor American families, the waiting list stands at more than 100,000 names and threatens to overwhelm Canadian resources.

The absorption process alone is complex: new immigrants must spend six weeks learning about their new country – units include contrition, apologizing, avoiding confrontation and Tim Hortons.

For many refugees, options are limited. Countries around the world have closed their borders, citing "cultural differences" that would make mass immigration impossible.

"When America sends its people, they're not sending the best," one foreign minister told *The CJN*. "They're sending people with lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with them. They're bringing guns. They're bringing OxyContin. They're bringing Type 2 diabetes. And some, I assume, are good people."

Some refugees, impatient with Canada's "women and children first" policy, have turned to a budding network of Canadian "coyotes" – or "moose-herders," as they're known here – to smuggle them across the world's longest unprotected border.

Steven G. arrived in Canada illegally and says the journey still haunts him.

"I'll never forget that field we had to walk through," he says, calling it "the longest six minutes of my life."

"But it was worth it, no question," he's quick to add. "Back where I'm from, the mayor got high on bath salts and decided to replace our city's water supply with Mountain Dew Kickstart. I'm just excited to be living in a country where nothing happens." ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
82 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Whitney Sherman & Stuart Detsky, Ryla & Mara welcomed Micah Samuel Sherman Feb 17. Grandparents are Jeannie Berg & Kevie Sherman, Howie and Mirah Detsky.

Max Skuy, mazel tov on your 87th birthday! With much love, Glenda, Benjy, Michelle, Sandy, Nick, Dionne, Ian Greg, Kevin, Tarryn, Melissa, Josh, Leah & Aryeh

Aviva welcomed her sister, Ora Esther Nobel-Stern, along with her parents Robin & David Yehuda on Jan. 18. in London, UK. BH

Happy 60th anniversary Herby & Joyce! With love, Harold and Laya, their children and grandchildren. May you be blessed with many more years of health and happiness.

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Rifka Eisenstat, Shimona Hirchberg, Jeff Greenberg, Alana Kayfetz, Shalom Steinberg and Joanna Sasson Morrison

Marc Levy and Dafna Strauss

Al Farrell, Terry Rosen, Brandon Benguaich, Ed Segalowitz, Jonno Lightstone and Lee Coplan

Rabbi Lila Kagedan

Limmud 2016

Over 700 people came together for this year's Limmud Toronto, an innovative, inclusive festival of Jewish learning celebrating the rich diversity of Jewish culture and heritage. "Wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey." ■

– The Socialite

Rafi Yablonsky and Tali Aziza

Jeff Greenberg, Jamie Elman, Atarah Derrick, Eli Batalion and Shalom Steinberg

Tyler Samuels and Rivka Campbell

Aviva Chernick and Annie Matan

Ella Burakowski and Jenny Wiesel

Jay Michaelson

David Zvi Kalman, Rifka Eisenstat and Yedida Eisenstat

LIORA KOGAN PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suite • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

MARCH 17 - MARCH 24

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, March 17

TANACH CLASS
The weekly Tanach class resumes at 9:15 a.m. at Beth David Synagogue, led by **Aaron Nussbaum**. 416-633-8097.

Friday, March 18

SINGLES ONEG SHABBAT
Shaar Shalom Singles along with the Intersynagogue Singles (50+) hold a pre-Purim Oneg Shabbat, 8 p.m. Enjoy a meaningful service and kiddush/ mix and mingle.

Sunday, March 20

LIFTING THE VEIL OF DECEPTION
Amotz Eyal, founder of Tazpit Press Services, discusses "Lifting the veil of deception: Seeing is not always believing," 9:15 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $5.

MIDRESHET YOM RISHON
Sunday learning for women at Aish Thornhill, 949 Clark Ave. W. at 10 a.m., with **Miriam Milevsky** and **Rabbi Jeffrey Rothman.** Email info@torontotorah.com

THEY WERE PROMISED THE SEA
United Jewish People's Order screens *They Were Promised the Sea* about the Jews of Morocco, 7 p.m. with filmmaker **Kathy Wazana,** 612 Markham St.

LEGAL ETHICS
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "The ethics of competing for clients," 8:45 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

RITA, ALEX AND PASHA
Rita, Alex and Pasha perform for Club Chaverut, 1:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue. $7/$10. RSVP **Rose** 905-764-8141.

Monday, March 21

BETH TZEDEC BOOK CLUB
Harriet Morris reviews *Dora Bruder* by **Patrick Modiano.** Lunch at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. $25. RSVP 416-781-3511.

PARENTING TEENS
Social workers **Sari Goldman** and **Michael Waxman** discuss "Parenting teens," 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

MARKHAM CHABAD GALA
Chabad of Markham celebrates its 30th anniversary with a gala dinner, honouring **Irwin Cotler, Avraham Feifeil** and **Daron Odes**, 6 p.m. For tickets, see ChabadMarkham.org/Gala.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of March 31 is March 21. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

The Wonderful Megillah of Oz

For the fifth year, members of Beth Emeth Synagogue are performing an original Purim play. This year's production, *The Wonderful Megillah of Oz* will be performed March 23 about 9 p.m. (after the Megillah reading) and March 24, following a dinner, at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

JEWS FOR JUDAISM
Jews for Judaism presents "Ethics of interpersonal relationships," 8 p.m., Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP 416-789-0020.

PERSPECTIVES ON ISRAEL
Speakers from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, JSpace Canada and the New Israel Fund of Canada discuss Israel, 7:30 p.m., Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $10. Sponsored by Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism.

ADATH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB
Janna Nadler reviews *All My Puny Sorrows*, by **Miriam Toews,** 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $10/$15. **Beverley,** 416-499-6920.

TORAH THROUGH FEMALE EYES
Loretta Tanenbaum discusses "Torah through female eyes" for four weeks, starting today, 10 a.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation, $45/$60.

Thursday, March 24

TMJ SOCIETY
The Temporomandibular Joint Society of Canada meets at 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Visit tmjscanada.ca

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available evenings to March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy,** 416-225-2112, ext. 204.

CLUB SIMCHA
Club Simcha is a self-help program for adults living with mental health issues. The friendly support group meets Mondays, 11:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call **Rochelle Goldman-Brown,** 416-634-3050, ext. 5660.

HEBREW CLASSES
Pride of Israel Synagogue offers conversational ulpan Hebrew with **Yael Lev** for all levels. New sessions start the week of March 28. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
The Legal Information Service of Act to End Violence Against Women assists Jewish women who have experienced abuse to navigate the family law legal system in Ontario. Call 905-695-5374.

INCLUSION CORNER
- Zumba for DANI, April 4, 7:30 p.m. at Chabad Flamingo. Register online, dani-toronto.com
- Joel Schwartz Memorial hockey tournament, March 27, at Chesswood Arena. Email amargolese@reena.org

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

◗ Shabbat Itanu, synagogues celebrate inclusion, May 13-14, www.jewishtoronto.com/itanu

PURIM FUN

◗ Temple Har Zion holds its Purim spiel to the music of Queen, March 23, 7 p.m. Purim carnival March 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

◗ Temple Emanu-El's Purim carnival, March 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Children who need a quieter environment can attend 10-11 a.m. $10.

◗ Beth Emeth's Purim carnival, March 20, 1-3 p.m. $8/12. *The Wonderful Megillah of Oz*, performed March 23 at 9 p.m. (after Megillah reading) and March 24, with a buffet dinner, 6:30 p.m. Tickets $5/$18.

◗ Temple Sinai presents "What Happens in Shushan, stays in Shushan," March 23, 7 p.m.; Purim celebration March 25, 10 a.m.-noon, Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd.

◗ Morris Winchevsky School's Purim carnival, March 20, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 918 Bathurst St. $5/$10.

◗ Temple Kol Ami hosts a *Star Wars Purim*, March 23, 5:30 p.m. (for pizza); 6 p.m. for Megillah. RSVP admin@kolami.ca

◗ The Ruach Singers release their first CD, *Crossroads*, at a Purim concert, March 23 7:15 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue.

◗ Jewish Russian Community Centre holds a Purim banquet, March 24, 5:30 p.m. at Westmount Event Centre, 227 Bowes Rd., Vaughan. 416-222-7105 or jrcc.org/purim

◗ Women's Megillah reading, March 24, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

◗ Chabad Markham has a performance by Aristov Circus, dinner and games, March 24, 5 p.m.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call Shawna Sidney, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

◗ Beyond the chupah, becoming a couple: A 5-session marriage preparation group for couples who are going to be married in the next year. Starts March 22, 7 p.m. at Temple Sinai.

◗ Effective parenting: A 4-session group to help parents with children aged 2-10. Starts March 28, 7-9 p.m., 9600 Bathurst St., Lebovic JCC

◗ One family, two homes: A 6-session group for families experiencing separation and divorce. Separate programs for children and parents. Starts March 31, 6:30-8 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Centre.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS

Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario offers 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. April 11, **Corrie Sirota** discusses "Grief is a process, not an event," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155
Celebrate Purim and enjoy a new play from the Smile Theatre company, March 24, 1:30 p.m. Register at ext. 0.
Social games club, March 31, 11 a.m.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112.
March 22, **Rabbi Yossi Saplrman** discusses "Why wasn't God invited to the Purim party," 10 a.m.; March 24, wellness lecture, "Top nutrients for our body as we age," 1:30 p.m. Computer classes of all types start April 4.

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama April 13; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; "Down Memory Lane," live entertainment, April 6, 2 p.m.

◗ **NCJWC Seniors lunch and learn program. Rabbi Lawrence Englander** discusses "Judaism in the year 2500: worry or hope?"March 22 at noon, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. RSVP 416-633-5100.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ Yoga for young adults with an intellectual disability starts April 5, 7 p.m.

◗ Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.

◗ A ghostly revival: Postwar Yiddish culture in North America with **Rachel Seeling**, April 6-20, 1 p.m.

◗ The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.

◗ Participate in a brainstorming session to discuss tours to museums and galleries, March 29, 7 p.m. RSVP galyas@srcentre.ca

◗ Bridge level 1, starts April 7, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong starts April 6, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ *Dreamland: after Mark Twain in the Holy Land*. Photographer **Motty Levy** follows in the footsteps of Mark Twain, on display at the gallery until March 30.

◗ **Iain Scott** teaches "Opera appreciation: All in the family," Mondays, March 21-April 11, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Purim festival, March 20, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

◗ The Varsity Jews A Capella hold their annual fundraising concert, this year in support of JIAS, March 27, 4 p.m.

◗ **Rabbis Yoel Glick** and **John Moscowitz**, in conversation, March 28, 7:30 p.m.

◗ **Guillermo Silva,** Toronto Operetta Theatre, discusses "What is an operetta," March 31, 1:30 p.m.

◗ Opera workshop with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez**, sing your favourite opera choruses, ongoing Wednesdays to April 13, 1 p.m.; Thursdays to April 14, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Rock in the Red Zone*, with guest speaker, Israeli film buff, **Mike Dacks,** April 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

◗ Pottery classes for kids and adults start April 4; Hebrew Institute classes for adults start the week of April 10.

◗ Improv for adults, with Second City, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m.

◗ American Sign Language Classes, April 6-May 25. Level 1 at 7 p.m., level II at 8:15 p.m.

◗ Living with dementia: caring and coping. A 10-week program starts April 14. Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca.

◗ Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.

◗ Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required. Email music@mnjcc.org

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. music@mnjcc.org

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, April 6-June 29, 7-9 p.m.

◗ Bridge, Level 1, starts April 6, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong, starts April 7, 7 p.m.

◗ Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani**, April 7, 7 p.m.

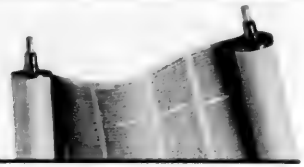
◗ Experimental mix media with **Suzanne Metz**, April 6-June 15, 10 a.m.

◗ Digital photography course starts April 5, 7 p.m.

◗ Screening of the film *Rock in the Red Zone*, April 4, 7:30 p.m. ■

Parshah

Vayikra | Leviticus 1:1-5:26



Rabbi Aaron Katchen says the fight against Amalek is an ideological battle, not a physical one
Rabbi Michal Shekel argues that the BDS movement is actually the modern iteration of Amalek
Rabbi Howard Morrison takes a closer look at the four mitzvot that surround the Purim holiday

Aaron Katchen

"Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt... you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!" (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

We read Parshat Zachor on the Shabbat before Purim, when we are reminded of Amalek's attempted genocide on the Jewish People as we left Egypt and are confronted with the obligation to destroy Amalek. Many of the ancient tribes were mixed together through wars in antiquity, including Amalek and 10 of the tribes of Israel. If we can no longer find Amalek, why do we still have the command to remember to destroy Amalek?

Rabbi Yehuda Amital (1924-2010) gives a compelling answer. For Rabbi Amital, in today's world, the destruction of Amalek is an ideological battle and not a physical battle. Amalek represents a world run by chance and randomness – a postmodern world of moral relativism where there is no sense of truth and no hierarchy of values. Amalek is not the presence of evil, but the ability to obfuscate it.

When confronting Amalek, Rabbi Amital warns us that we must confront the ideas and not the people. We must not see those who espouse ideas that differ from ours as puppets or caricatures, but real people with real concerns. Only once we care about those people as people, can we hope to have an impact on them.

Secondly, Rabbi Amital reminds us not to be haughty in our staunch convictions. It is not that I am right and everyone else is "wandering in the desert." For Rabbi Amital, because faith is hard to prove and it is only through the grace of God that one can feel faith, we must be humble in our faith. Once we have achieved this real humility, we can confront Amalek – not the people, but their destructive ideas. ■

Rabbi Aaron Katchen, who is based in Toronto, directs Ask Big Questions Canada in partnership with Hillel.

Michal Shekel

Zachor: "Remember what Amalek did to you" (Deuteronomy, 25:17) is a commandment seared in our souls.

In university, I was regularly called a Nazi (and worse) by people who disagreed with the information I handed out at my university's Hillel table. In the 1980s, as a campus professional, I recall a popular feminist speaker lamenting to my Jewish students the anti-Semitism of her academic peers, who embraced her as a feminist and lesbian, but not as a Jew.

Today's Amalek wears the garb of the BDS movement – it is a bigoted, devious, sinister creature whose tactics have become increasingly sophisticated and subtle. Point out an anti-Israeli phrase on its website, and the wording will disappear. It constantly creates new guises, gaining support from well-meaning folks by cloaking its true aims in new organizational names and seemingly innocuous words.

While there is much publicity about the hard work done by Jewish students and their on-campus allies in facing Amalek, we rarely hear about another group who confront Amalek on a daily basis for years on end: faculty. (Full disclosure: My husband is a university professor.)

Among university faculty, the zealous supporters of BDS seem to be concentrated in the humanities and social sciences. These are the areas where you also find Jewish studies programs. While enriching our knowledge of the Jewish world, Jewish studies faculty members strive to raise awareness among their colleagues while battling the BDS Amalek. They do not sit in ivory towers but are continually on the frontlines.

Campus events have led many of us to withdraw support for our alma maters, but Jewish life on campus needs our assistance. This is best done by directing our support to Jewish student groups and Jewish studies programs, the organizations that go beyond *zachor* (remember) and actively fulfil *shamor* (guard). ■

Rabbi Michal Shekel is the executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Har Tikvah Congregation in Brampton, Ont.

Howard Morrison

Is there an interrelationship between the book of Leviticus and the special theme of Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath prior to Purim?

When one thinks of a Jewish holiday that is popular among children, Purim certainly comes to mind. What child doesn't wish to dress in costume, make a lot of noise at the mention of Haman's name, give and receive food portions, and attend a festive celebration? For me personally, I think of my youth when I think of Purim. As child, I dressed up as a biblical character or a superhero for the Megillah reading. I accompanied my mother during the day of Purim, dropping off mishloach manot by the front door of neighbours and friends. My local synagogue or a private home hosted the festive meal, which always involved a lot of "shtick." I remember being told by my parents after receiving so much "chametz" snack food on Purim that I had exactly a month to eat it all before it had to be removed for Pesach.

While the beginning of Leviticus will always contain a historical and philosophical lesson for children about sacrifices we're willing to make for Judaism and the world we live in, it's ironic and appropriate that the third book of the Torah coincides with the Shabbat prior to Purim, a wonderful occasion on which to immerse children in the joy of being Jewish.

There are four beautiful mitzvot that surround the observance of Purim. One commentator neatly describes them all with the same first letter, so that they're easier to remember: 1) mikrah Megillah – the reading of the Book of Esther, 2) mishloach manot – the sending of food portions, 3) matanot le'evyonim – gifts to the poor, and 4) mishteh – the festive meal. The four mitzvot illustrate important values of Judaism through which we can immerse our children in the richness of Judaism as we begin to read the third book of the Torah. ■

Rabbi Howard Morrison is senior rabbi – mara d'atra at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

CLASSIFIED
416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-685-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

NEWLY DESIGNED, BUILDER'S PRIDE, CUSTOM-MADE HOME 4+1 Bdrms w/modern liv space. Absolute high-end finishes +fixtures, 3800 SF + 1700 SF Rec rm, Easy & quick access to highway,15 mins to downtown Zelani Bhuyan* 416-226-1987

PRIME ANNEX TOTAL RENO SOUGHT AFTER MARKHAM ST. Bright 6 br, 2 ca kg lrg rms, high ceilings, modern kits & baths. Restored period details, sep lwr unit. Brett Selbo* 416-488-2875

COMPLETELY REDONE A MUST SEE! DELL PARK $1629,000 Sleek and sun filled 4+1 bedroom, incredible kitchen, beautiful finishing's throughout. Irma Wersz** & Jaclyn Weis* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

46-8 BRIGHTON PLACE! BATHURST/STEELES! $575,000! This Won't SOLD credible 3St 3Br 3Bth South Faving Townhome! Priv Patio! 2Car Prkg! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

11 WILLIAM CARSON CRES Yonge/York Mills Penthouse -4400 sq.ft. Now $2,599,000 Bungalow in sky! Ravine views all around, 5 balconies to enjoy the privacy. Light drenched space. Showcase your art, entertain elegantly. 10' ceiling height. 4 parking, concierge & more. Saul Memck* & Marilyn Memck* 416-488-2875

YONGE/ST. CLAIR – 33 DELISLE AVE NOW $649,000 Luxury boutique building. 1 bdrm & den. Open concept lr/dr/kitchen. Hardwood & marble floors. Electric fireplace. Indoor pool. Concierge. Great location. Saul Memck* & Marilyn Memck* 416-488-2875

NORTH PROPERTIES

JUST LISTED! THORNHILL WOODS! $729,900 Bright open concept, 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom townhome. Hardwood floor on main. Close to amenities. Susan Dick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTY

1ST AD! 3 GLEN RUSH BLVD! BATHURST/GLENCAIRN! $3,350,Mo! Spectacular Sprawling 3+1Br 3Bth Ranch Bungalow On A Fab 50x150' Lot! Nanny Ste! DbleGrge! Available May 1/16! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

LEASE PROPERTIES

FAB UPDATED CEDARVALE RENTAL $4300/MO 3+1 bdrms. 3 baths. Hrdwd firs. Dr with w/o to deck & yard. Steps to all. Available May 1. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875.

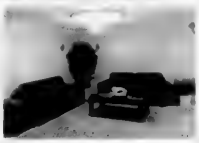
***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

55 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath, + solar., hdwd, lndry, indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD



Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC. 2 Bedroom available March/April.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

LOOKING TO SELL YOUR HOME?

CJN
Reach qualified buyers. Advertise your listing in the CJN classifieds and
GET RESULTS!

87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

SUMMA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Professional Property Management & Consulting

We get "TOP MARKS" for Management, Consulting and Renting! Our superior service includes managing multi-unit Residential/Commercial/Retail/Industrial properties. We also offer specialized services to manage and rent condo properties.
647-341-7990
www.summapm.com
propman@summapm.com

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, Lefroy - cottage 3 bdrm water front, full season only. contact:expressions@rogers.com

290 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Experienced caregiver for the elderly live-in or live-out. Honest, caring & responsible w/driver's license. Pts. Call: 416-346-6738

Caring for the elderly. 36 yrs. exp., avail. afternoons & wkends Live-out. 416-704-0826

Certified Community Service Worker/PSW over 10 yrs. exper. looking for private clients. Veronica Daley @ 647 831 7370

Cleaning lady avail. Wed., & everyother Tues . Refs. upon request.Please call: 647-763-5508

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militana. 416-890-9644

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE
Thornhill Woods
8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan
Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.
Interested Physicians call
416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED

I am looking for a **single car garage** to store my trade tools and a bike. Call: 416 665 6671

290 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Jewish Senior Care Provider. I am avail. for shopping, cooking, housekeeping, appt's. or companion in nursing home. Live- out. Refs. 416-665-3815.

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

570 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1300 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416-782-[illegible]
www.bistrogrande.com

575 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

385 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

Trio electrical services. Specializing in knob & tube removal, & all your electrical needs. For free estimate call Brian 647-282 3380.

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Regluing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1383**

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 17, 2016

Sharon Abraham-Weiss wants a more democratic Israel

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Sharon Abraham-Weiss has been executive director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) since June 2014. The non-profit organization advocates for freedom of speech and expression, minority rights, the status of refugees and asylum seekers, access to basic services like water and electricity, and an end to discriminatory housing practices.

In addition to her work as the former equal employment opportunities commissioner at the Ministry of Economy, Abraham-Weiss was also a founder and a board member of Itach-Maaki – Women Lawyers for Social Justice, and was named one of Israel's 66 most prominent female leaders by *Ha'aretz* in 2014.

Abraham-Weiss spoke to *The CJN* in advance of her March 13-14 visits to Toronto and Vancouver at the invitation of the New Israel Fund Canada, to talk about the work ACRI does to promote human rights in Israel.

Tell me about your history with ACRI and your accomplishments before becoming its executive director in 2014.

I started with the organization as a legal intern. ACRI was established in 1972 by North American liberals who had ideas of civil liberties in the United States. The model was based on the American Civil Liberties Union, an NGO that deals with human rights. There were a couple things happening in Israel. The occupation was in 1967 and also there were clashes between Mizrachi and Ashkenazi Jews.

Its main work in the beginning was legal work, so we would take things to the Supreme Court regarding civil liberties and human rights. It is the largest human rights organization and the oldest, best-known and established doing this work in Israel.

I left ACRI in 2008. I went to teach at one of the law schools, about corporate social responsibility, and later I became the equal employment opportunities commissioner – a position I held for five years prior to my current position – working for the government, the Ministry of Economy.

What are some of Israel's most pressing social issues?

We have a department that deals with social and political liberties, but today, the biggest challenge is the democratic character of Israel. We've seen legislation in the last couple of years that, from our perspective, is harming minorities. We would like to see a democratic Israel with pluralism and lots of views, and in the past couple of years, it seems the majority is not respecting minorities enough.

Sharon Abraham-Weiss

> *We would like to see a democratic Israel with pluralism and lots of views, and in the past couple of years, it seems the majority is not respecting minorities enough.*

In terms of social rights, we do see a bigger gap among different layers of Israeli society. Economically, more people are in poverty. Israel started as a social state. It was established under a European model, and slowly, slowly, with privatization, it moved toward the North American model. I think fewer and fewer people are living in dignity. It is something that bothers us, and we are dealing with this as well.

Can you talk about how ACRI tackles the threat to free speech and expression in Israel?

When talking about the democratic character of Israel, freedom of speech is one example. There were a couple recent pieces of legislation and policies that seem to abuse minorities and aren't good for the public sphere, and we saw the Ministry of Culture trying to interfere with the criteria of support for films for festivals, for books and other things, and whenever the views represent minorities, it seems to be restricted in many ways. This is something we definitely see in Israel.

There is also what is known as the anti-NGO bill, which is trying to limit the activities of non-governmental organizations, and I think that in a democratic country, you want to have a flourishing civil society and not limit civil society. There is a suggestion to "mark" some NGOs as foreign entities. The moment you call something a foreign entity, it has a smell of treason, or something bad. It's like the McCarthy era in the United States, when people held views that were not respected by the majority, and they were marginalized.

What are your ambitions as the leader of ACRI?

I've worked my whole professional life to make a better Israel. And to me, a better Israel is democratic with equality for all its citizens. Obviously, the occupation is a violation of the human rights of millions of people.

When I look around, I think we can do better. I think in many ways, we talk about a start-up nation – there are wonderful things that are happening, but on the other hand, I think these things can't cover up the things we are not doing well enough and that we should do better. I think the way we treat the Arab minority and the way we treat people who are living in poverty is not good enough. This is the job of a human rights organization – to give voice to the disenfranchised.

I'll give you an example. In 1994, we represented Alice Miller, who wanted to be a pilot in the IDF. When we represented her, everyone was against it, saying how could we go against the IDF, and it's terrible. We won that case. This year, Alice Miller was the torchbearer at a national ceremony on Independence Day. If you're asking me about my role and what it is supposed to be, it is exactly that – advocating for women's rights and equality.

We have to identify what is today on the margins and to bring it to the heart of the consensus, and today when we represent minorities, refugees, Arab-Israelis and other people who are suffering from violations of human rights, we want to bring it to the heart of the consensus, so that people will understand that they deserve rights, exactly as we did with women's rights and equality.

In all your time with ACRI, have you seen much progress in Israeli society?

With women and minorities, we've seen some progress. I think the term "dignified existence" is a term that is common in the public sphere today. On the other hand, when I look at the rights of Palestinians, I think there is no progress there.

What is your goal for your visit to Canada?

I think a lot of people are interested in Israel as a democracy. When you say Israel, people think only about the conflict. We live here as people – we go to the grocery store, we have to pay our bills, we have minorities, we have constitutional law – so I'm trying to give an inside view about life in Israel and what it means. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Stalin and Hitler at the movies

Backstory

EROL ARAF

Hitler adored Mickey Mouse movies. For his birthday in 1937, Joseph Goebbels gave Hitler 12 Mickey Mouse films, including *Mickey's Fire Brigade* and *Mickey's Polo Team*. "He is extremely pleased," the minister of propaganda wrote in his diary, "for this treasure that will hopefully bring him much joy and relaxation." And meanwhile, as the Fuehrer was roaring with laughter at Mickey's antics in his Berchsgaden lair, Stalin was clapping his knees with delight as he watched Charlie Chaplin films in his dacha.

The two tyrants, who turned Eurasia into blood-soaked weeping meadows, had a great deal in common. Lord Alan Bullock, in his magisterial *Hitler and Stalin Parallel Lives*, draws attention to their narcissism. But it was in their infatuation with moving pictures as tools of propaganda and self-aggrandizement that their narcissism converged perfectly.

Epic historical dramas on the silver screen exacerbated their larger than life self images as they transported themselves into the visual narrative medium, where superheroes changed the course of the world by performing impossible feats. They identified with their respective national icons depicted in historical films and conflated their destinies with the fates of mist-shrouded warrior knights whose epoch-making accomplishments were melodramatically magnified on the silver screen.

Seeing themselves as supreme actors on the global stage, both overlords stepped out of the darkened theatre and tried to mould the world in their own images with blood, iron and swords. Their enraptured "audiences" responded by adorning them with garlands and losing themselves in orgies of adulation. Hitler saw himself as anointed by Providence to save the German race while Stalin regarded himself as the ultimate personified manifestation of Dialectical Materialism ineluctably paving the way for the establishment of the first communist state in history.

One imagined that he was transfigured into a latter day Frederic the Great, the other reconfigured himself as a risen Ivan the Terrible.

As depicted in Andrei Konchalovsky's film *The Inner Circle*, Stalin was a movie buff. He fervently believed in Lenin's dictum that "Of all the arts, cinema for us is the most important." Under Stalin, the Communist Party aimed at transforming the Soviet Union not only economically but also culturally under the aegis of a centrally planned cultural dictatorship where each image was scrutinized for its total conformity with socialist realism. Marx had once observed that revolution first started in the consciousness of the masses; Stalin was now determined to cement it with celluloid images engraved in the minds of the proletariat.

While Stalinism viewed Hollywood as the opium of the soul, it nevertheless saw a great deal of merit in films like *Thief of Baghdad*, *Tarzan*, James Cagney's gangster thrillers, romantic musicals like the *Great Waltz* and John Ford movies. Like Hitler, Stalin supervised each Soviet film in minute detail: he, very much like his ultimate nemesis in Berlin, was at once censor, director, editor and, script writer. Stalin, in the same manner as Hitler, "suggested" films, chose subjects, selected the music, picked directors, intertwined actors, watched rough cuts, inserted and deleted whole scenes, ordered remakes and made or broke film directors, often killing those who deviated from the politically correct artistic "ism."

In both cases, dictatorship begat a visual world which made mass murder both desirable and necessary. If the projected imagery of the Jew and the kulak is one of sewer rats scurrying like demented feral carriers of the Black Death or bats embedded in the flesh of the innocent, what could be more salutary for public hygiene than their total elimination? Demonization preceded the incandescent chimneys of Auschwitz and the frozen mass burial grounds of the Gulag.

But it fell to one of Hitler's first Jewish intellectual victims, Walter Benjamin, to discern a crucial difference between the two dictators' approaches to cinematography. In *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, Benjamin writes: "Mankind, which in Homer's time was an object of contemplation for the Olympian gods, now is one for itself. Its self-alienation has reached such a degree that it can experience its own destruction as an esthetic pleasure of the first order. This is the situation of politics which fascism is rendering esthetic. Communism responds by politicizing art."

Benjamin committed suicide rather than live to witness the fulfilment of his prophecy. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

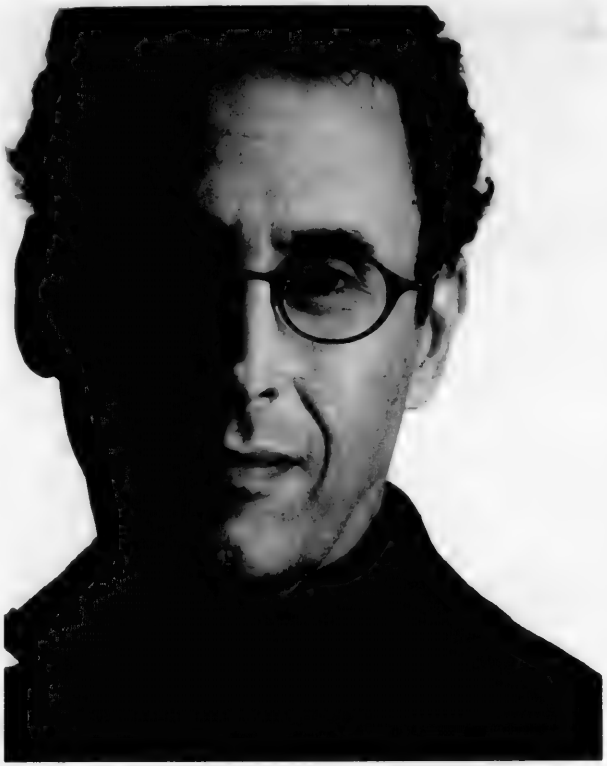
BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Helen Finder	Feb 27/16	784 Centre Street
Ahuva Krieger	Feb 27/16	77 Dunfield Avenue
Sheila Wolfish	Feb 25/16	3900 Yonge Street
Joel Steven Kuchar	Feb 26/16	282 St. Clements Avenue
Valeri Manevich	Feb 29/16	45 Alberta Drive
Myer Gordon	Feb 28/16	5444 Yonge Street
Sheila Sloan Berkovitz	Feb 29/16	1066 Avenue Road
Ada Eisen	Feb 29/16	3560 Bathurst Street
William Shelson	Mar 1/16	3636 Bathurst Street
Morris Macarz	Mar 1/16	7 Shady Oaks Crescent

HEBREW BASIC — Laura Gauthier — Feb 26/16 — 7400 Bathurst Street

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Lapidus, Irving	March 3, 2016	20 Ashbury Ave
Ginendlin, Ruvin	March 3, 2016	Private
Sommer, Tova	March 5, 2016	11 Townsgate Dr
Abramsohn, Selma	March 5, 2016	333 Clark Ave W
Grossman, Agnes	March 6, 2016	2 Buchan Crt
Leibowitz, Leslie	March 6, 2016	8 Granite St
Wall, Esta	23 Hollaman Rd	23 Hollaman Rd



TONY KUSHNER

THE PULITZER PRIZE &
TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT OF
ANGELS IN AMERICA
THE ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED SCREENWRITER OF
LINCOLN & MUNICH

IN TORONTO FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016
PANASONIC THEATRE, 651 YONGE ST

PRESENTED BY THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Monday, May 9, 2016 | 8 PM (Doors 7 PM) | Panasonic Theatre, 651 Yonge Street, Toronto | Tickets $29–$69
On sale NOW | Box Office: mirvish.com or 1.800.461.3333

In Toronto for one night only, Tony Kushner will talk about how he "tackles the most difficult subjects in contemporary history" (*The New Yorker*), his life as an artist weaving the most challenging politics of the day throughout his writing, and his thoughts on the future of contemporary theatre in North America.

Born in New York City in 1956, Kushner is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, an Emmy Award, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards, an Arts Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a PEN/Laura Pels Award, a Spirit of Justice Award from the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a Cultural Achievement Award from The National Foundation for Jewish Culture, a Chicago Tribune Literary Prize for lifetime achievement, and the 2012 National Medal of Arts, among many others.

Koffler Centre of the Arts Institutional Supporters

KOFFLER FAMILY FOUNDATION · UJA Federation of Greater Toronto · CIBC Wood Gundy · Toronto Arts Council, Funded by the City of Toronto · Ontario Arts Council / Conseil des arts de l'Ontario · Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des Arts du Canada

koffler

ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE | 180 SHAW STREET, SUITE 104 - 105, TORONTO
647.925.0643 | INFO@KOFFLERARTS.ORG | KOFFLERARTS.ORG

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MARCH 24, 2016 • 14 ADAR II, 5776

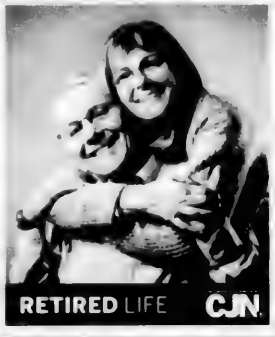
$2.00 • 52 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Canada set to bid for Security Council seat

Jewish groups urge Ottawa to push for reform at the United Nations. **PAGE 12**

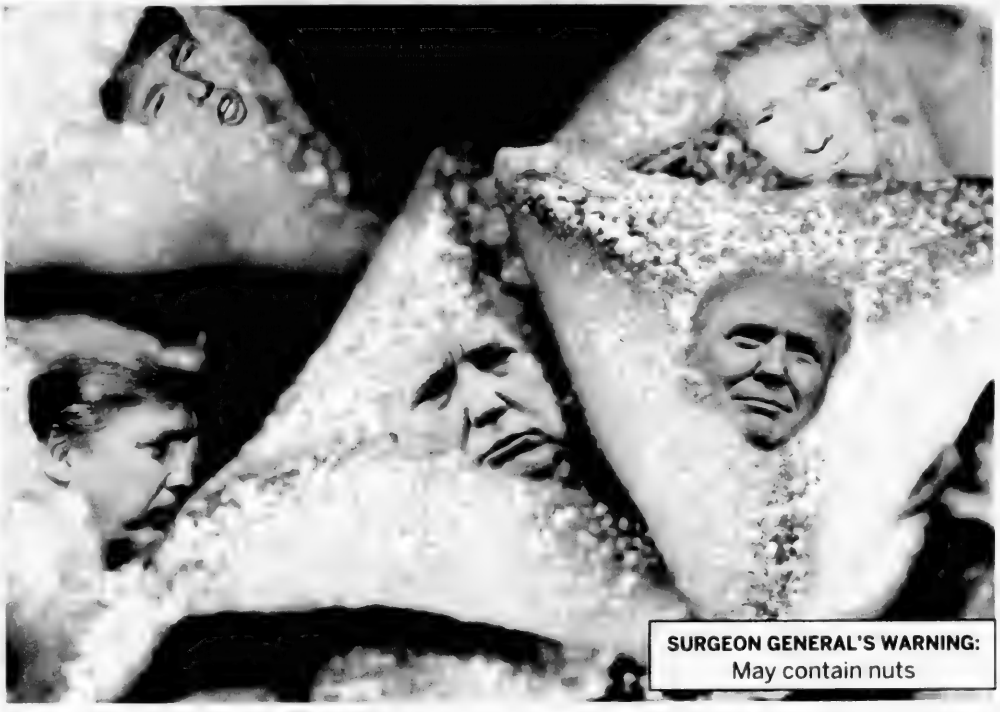


Plan your next chapter with our supplement.
SPECIAL SECTION

Today

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:15 p.m.	8:19 p.m.
Montreal	6:56 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Ottawa	7:04 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
Toronto	7:18 p.m.	8:21 p.m.
Winnipeg	7:32 p.m.	8:41 p.m.
Calgary	7:40 p.m.	8:51 p.m.
Vancouver	7:16 p.m.	8:24 p.m.



A taste of Trumpentashen

The most luxurious three-corner cookie. **PLUS, more Purim fun, PAGES 2, 6, 7, 8, 18, 23, 41, 42**

The case for wider genetic screening

Testing more Jewish women for breast cancer gene saves lives, money, advocates claim. **PAGE 21**

'The hated cannot cure the hater'

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says Jews need allies in the fight against anti-Semitism. **PAGE 20**

Creative expression is not the enemy

Artists help us grasp the problems facing the Jewish world, writes Evelyn Tauben. **PAGE 30**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 mirvish.com

Shochet-assisted suicide solution, and a belated conversion for Purim

A sacrifice for the greater good?

A group of chickens in eastern Ontario wants to help solve the lack of locally produced kosher poultry by committing shochet-assisted suicide en masse this month. The fowl have already secured the services of Toronto shochet Farnie Berber, but the process is being held up by the Chicken Farmers of Ontario, a spokesbird clucked. The CFO controls the process of picking a kosher chicken supplier, but it's said to favour bidders linked to the Kashruth Council of Belleville, while Berber works for the Newfoundland Kosher certification agency. Berber's methods are decidedly un-Orthodox: the chickens plan to kill themselves March 25 by drinking his cyanide-laced sugarless Kool-Aid.

Finally, he's a Jew

JoJo McSergee, *The CJN*'s longtime managing editor, recently outed as a Catholic by *CIJNews*, says he's converting to Judaism. "It's about time," said McSergee, who's been with the paper "for several decades." He made the decision after attending a recent Shabbaton. "I was a bit *farshikert* when an Orthodox hipster, of sorts, with a bright orange beanie started passing some gefilte fish around and offered me some." McSergee has immersed himself in Jewish culture, viewing both *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Yentl* 20 times. "That Barbara Streisand, oy, what a shiny maiden." McSergee has also purchased a retirement residence in Florida and says he'll "cheer for the Jewish team at the next Maccabiah Games." His favourite part of Judaism? Chinese food on Christmas.

Don't do it! Choose life!

Even Jerry Springer is appalled

Jerry Springer says the behaviour of Republican U.S. presidential candidates reminds him of his boisterous talk show. "Watching the Republican debates, I said if they're going to start doing my show, they should start paying me," Springer told *MSNBC*. "It's one thing to have a television show like that, but that's not how you run a country, and it's disgraceful." Springer, 72, a Democratic former mayor of Cincinnati, said a Donald Trump presidency would ruin America's image. ■

Gematria

461

The number of calls *The CJN* expects to get from readers confused about the content of this week's Purim edition

12

The number of Jewish groups who will be offended by content in this week's paper, but shouldn't be. Happy Purim!

Quotable

"*Our Chanukah party won't be the same if we don't have to lock the doors and call campus police to get rid of the demonstrators.*

— A York University student pines for the days when BDSers ran student government. Page 8.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz writes some serious stuff about Purim.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	27	Parshah	39
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	36	Q&A	42
Cover Story	8	International	22	Social Scene	38	Backstory	43

COVER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CJN

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft MONUMENT FACTORY

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
UNIDEW

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

If is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Expand genetic testing

As the parent of two daughters with Usher Syndrome Type 1F, an Ashkenazi Jewish genetic disease that is carried by approximately two per cent of all Ashkenazi Jews, I am concerned that you omitted mention of this disease ("Why genetic testing matters," March 17).

Usher Syndrome is the leading cause of deaf-blindness, and Usher 1F is the leading cause of deaf-blindness among those who are Jewish. Babies with Usher 1F are born profoundly deaf with impaired balance. During childhood, they begin to lose their vision due to retinitis pigmentosa, first with night blindness followed by loss of peripheral vision with a visual field that continues to narrow until total blindness results during adulthood.

While your article cites progress in Canada since seven Jewish genetic diseases are now part of the standard testing panel, Canada still lags far behind the United States, where 19 diseases are routinely tested for, with testing for an additional 38 diseases also available.

Because it is now possible for young Jewish couples to take steps to avoid having children with these devastating diseases, this is information that should be available to all. Canada needs to step up and improve its testing.

Melissa K. Chaikof, president, Usher 1F Collaborative, Inc.
Boston

We have a Judaica gallery

With respect to Evelyn Tauben's article "What we must rebuild before building a Jewish museum" (Feb. 25), I would like to draw your readers' attention to the presence of a Judaica gallery in Toronto that was not mentioned in the article.

The Dr. Fred Weinberg and Joy Cherry Weinberg Judaica Gallery opened in September 2000 within the prestigious Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto.

My parents, Joy Cherry Weinberg and the late Dr. Fred Weinberg, lifetime collectors, made the deliberate decision to donate their personal European Judaica collection to the ROM, so that visitors of all faiths and backgrounds would have the opportunity to better understand the history of the Jewish People and that this history could be understood in the historical, cultural and artistic context of world culture and history.

In creating the Judaica gallery within the ROM, my parents were the "risk takers, galvanizing leaders, philanthropists and experienced cultural professionals" that Tauben cited as missing from our community.

I recognize Tauben's call for a national, self-standing Canadian Jewish museum. However, we would be remiss to disregard the foundations that are already in place. I welcome the opportunity to have your readers visit the Judaica gallery at the ROM, where they will find a beautiful collection, exquisitely explained and displayed, right here in our own Canadian backyard.

Sari Weinberg-Binder
Toronto

Hateful speech on campus

I'm a first-year Jewish student at the University of Toronto and a member of Israel on Campus. As part of monitoring this year's Israeli Apartheid Week, I attended two events.

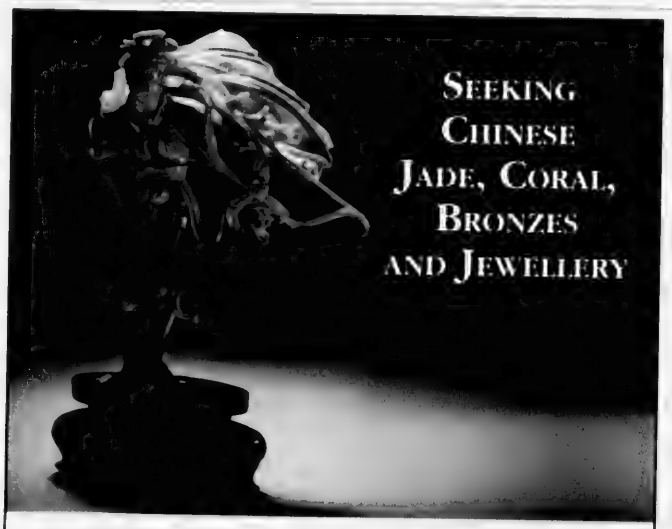
One speaker at the first event accused "Zios" of controlling Brooklyn's housing market and denying housing to non-Jews. Most disgustingly of all, she referred to a group of Orthodox Jews she was travelling with as "Ashke-nazis." There is no doubt that this was intentional and particularly abhorrent. She was applauded by the entire room, including the organizers of the event, at the end of her speech.

At the end of the second event, a questioner asked how "to defeat the Zionist-Jewish conspiracy that controls all the banks and mainstream media." The speaker was thanked for his question and not censured in any way, again making it difficult to understand how university policies on racial harassment were being upheld at this event.

As galling as these statements may be, what is equally frustrating to me is the administration's indifference. Since sending a letter to the university several days ago, I have not received a response. It is disheartening that a university with a duty to protect all its students equally would so blatantly ignore any situation in which Jews are the victims.

Benjamin Hillier-Weltman
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
Including all taxes.
Book by April 2, 2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl
A True family itinerary • All-inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included on Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
Apr. 19 - May 01		July 03-14
		July 24 - Aug. 04
Winter Break		Aug. 07-18
Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2017		Aug. 21 - Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• *FREE* – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS TOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"He wanted to keep it simple."

My father didn't want an elaborate funeral. He wanted it to be simple and heartfelt. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged the kind of service my father would have appreciated. It was respectful and meaningful for our whole family.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI·2·RABBI

Purim is our great release

The holiday gives us a chance to laugh in the face of life's struggles, and to cross over from the certainties we know to the possibilities that could exist

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO

RABBI MARK FISHMAN
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH, MONTREAL

Rabbi Splansky: Yiddish wisdom teaches, "Neither cursing nor laughing can change the world."

I'm not so sure. Purim is a great release. We let off a little steam at Haman's expense and we laugh in the face of life's struggles.

Curses, laughter and a little schnapps can be strong medicine – at least for one night.

Rabbi Fishman: Oy vey! Yiddish curses. They somehow manage to give you a blessing at the same time as trying to cause you harm. Take for instance: "He should have a large store, and whatever people ask for, he shouldn't have, and what he does have shouldn't be requested."

If all we have to help us deal with our enemies or troubles is a cheeky quip, the chance to laugh, or a Yiddish curse, it's enough. And what better expression of laughter that overcomes evil than the holiday of Purim?

Rabbi Splansky: When Jews were powerless over the ruthless rulers of their own time, they allowed themselves one day a year to take revenge against a prop of a villain from a world of long ago and far away.

One Purim, I made a Haman effigy out of a broomstick. Instead of fire or stones, we lobbed Yiddish curses at him, including: "May you have a hundred houses, in each house a hundred rooms, in each room 20 beds. And may fever and chills and delirium drive you from bed to bed throughout the night."

And "May you enjoy a good time with plenty to drink, so your blood turns to whiskey and 100 bedbugs get drunk on it and dance the mazurka in your belly button."

Or, "May you be so enamoured of good food that you turn into a blintz, and may your enemy turn into a cat, and may he eat you up and choke on you, so we can be rid of you both."

Rabbi Fishman: The story of Purim is one of reversals. Such reversals can show us that fate can be blind, and yet, at times, it can work in our favour. The only response to such mazel is to laugh.

At Purim, our laughter is a sign of transcendence. At the end of Chapter 31 of the Book of Proverbs, we are taught about the Eshet Chayil: "She shall laugh on the last day." When everything is said and done, when we come to the end of the process and we can see everything that led up to the final crescendo – then we will laugh the laughter of true joy.

In the meantime, Purim gives us many reasons to rejoice and to celebrate while still being very much in this world. With food and drink – a "mishteh" – I'm reminded of another Yiddish saying: "At other people's parties one eats heartily."

Rabbi Splansky: L'havdil.

On a very different note, I wish to sincerely thank you, Rabbi Fishman, for travelling from Montreal to be with me and my congregation earlier this month. After two years of exchanging ideas in writing, it was a blessing to finally meet you in person and to be able to speak without the restriction of a word count.

May your Purim be filled with joyful surprises and just one moment when laughter brings tears. That's how a Jew celebrates Purim.

Rabbi Fishman: I once celebrated Purim with a mystic from Jerusalem. He was known as a great Kabbalist, and many people flocked to him for advice and to hear his words of Torah. By the end of the Purim meal, everyone around the table was sure that he had revealed the date of the Messiah's arrival. The next day, he denied the entire matter, and we were left wondering what was real and what we had imagined. I think that's the spirit of Purim – to cross over from the certainties we know to the possibilities that could exist.

I departed Toronto and your congregation with a deep appreciation for your hospitality, a new understanding of just how valuable this column is, and the sense of how one is able to turn strangers into friends.

"Let them observe these days of feasting and gladness, for sending delicacies to one another, and giving gifts to the poor" (Esther 9:22). This Purim may we merit stepping out of our certainties and entering into the realm of possibilities. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 12 (2,238)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel. 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

Be part of a vital Community Conversation

Over the past 18 months, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto held an essential dialogue with over 2,000 community members about how our organization could best strengthen Jewish Toronto as we approach this, our Centennial year. With the information we garnered from these conversations, we have completed our Strategic Plan, a plan that many of you helped create. **On April 12 at 7 pm at the Lipa Green Centre**, we invite you be part of the next step; a Community Conversation about realizing the priorities of the plan we created together.

We cannot thank you enough for your input into our Strategic Plan; we simply couldn't have done it without you. Now, together, let's move to the next stage, a stage that will bring our community together under one roof to find solutions for our collective future.

When registering, attendees will have the opportunity to select two of 5 community priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan and participate in an interactive session exploring those priorities in a comprehensive and hands-on method.

For more information, please contact Marla Pilpel at 416.631.5736 or mpilpel@ujafed.org To register for UJA Federation's Community Conversation, visit: www.ujaevents.com/registration/communityconvo

CELEBRATING 100 1917-2017 UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Purim party

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Pictured at a Purim party in Timmins, Ont., in 1922 are, standing from left, Sam Kideckel, Rabbi Shulman, Izzie Kokotow, Harry Martin, Bill Shub, Sam Katz, Sadie Gurevitch, Sadie Shub, Esther Shinehoft, Abe Shub and Nissen Katz; and, seated from left, Ethel Martin, Fanny Kideckel, unknown girl, Barney Shulman (on chair), Esther Greenberg, Bertha Katz, Ann Gurevitch and Esther Shub.

SeeJN | Did you hear the one about the bear?

Back in the days of Soviet Russia, a young Jewish man could only find a job with a travelling circus. He was hired to put on a bear costume and perform various animal tricks. The circus-goers were none the wiser and everyone was happy. One day he found himself left alone with the circus' lion. His worst nightmare was realized. For sure he, as a bear, would be eaten by the lion. But as he braced himself for the inevitable attack, he suddenly heard the lion respond: "*Baruch shem kvod malchuto le'olam va'ed.*" ("Blessed is his Kingdom forever and ever.") "You know Hebrew!" gasped the "bear." "Hey," exclaimed the "lion," "do you think you're the only Yid in Russia who couldn't get a proper job?"

From Yoni's Desk

Breaking down the action at Meshugene March

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome back to *The CJN*'s exclusive ongoing coverage of *Meshugene March*, the annual winner-take-all tournament that brings together the biggest and brightest names in Canadian Jewry along with a host of upstarts looking to make their marks. If you're just tuning in, let's bring you up to date on some of the action thus far in our four divisions:

Jewish Organizations: As expected, the Orgs bracket has seen some of the closest competition, with groups from across the country facing off to see who will represent the Jewish community in the *Final Fir*. Two perennial powerhouses are set to collide next, when the Jewish National Fund (JNF) takes on Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. The bookies appear to favour the Friends, who have stymied opponents so far with their patented full-court press, while JNF will have to travel cross-country to Vancouver for the game and could be a little discombobulated by their surroundings. Earlier, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs earned a bye after scheduled opponent Independent Jewish Voices opted to hold its own tournament across town instead, setting CIJA up against the Federation All-stars. The winner of that matchup could be the favourite to take home all the *gelt*.

Political Parties: Meanwhile, in the Politics division, things have gone according to plan thus far, with the Liberals manhandling the NDP, which was playing without team leader Thomas Mulcair (who said he would be there, but didn't show up), and the Conservatives winning by forfeit after the Greens failed to muster enough players. That sets up an expected Liberal-Conservative clash that pundits have been drooling over. The last time these two teams met, the Reds won handily. Now, the Blues are out for revenge. Expect a raucous crowd for this one!

Jewish Communities: *Meshugene March* is perhaps best known for upsets – when powerhouse teams fall prey to lesser-known underdogs – and that has certainly been the case in the Cities bracket. Toronto and Montreal both cruised to wins in the early rounds, before coming up against Winnipeg and Halifax, respectively. Both games were tight until the very end, but the dark horses ultimately prevailed, leaving Toronto head coach Drake and Montreal manager Irwin Cotler to admit their teams were clearly looking ahead to another marquee showdown instead of focusing on the opponents at hand. A source with access to the Montreal and Toronto dressing rooms concurred, adding both teams were so confident going into their matches that neither had even reviewed tape of their opponents.

Righteous Gentiles: Heading into the round of 16 – a.k.a., the *Zis Zektsyn* – there was some unexpected controversy, after officials had difficulty determining how exactly to define a gentile. Some referees claimed matrilineal descent was the only acceptable way to decide who was, and who was not, a non-Jew, while other voices questioned whether the time had arrived to loosen those rules. Tournament officials are still reviewing the matter, and a decision is expected soon.

Stay with *The CJN* for complete coverage of *Meshugene March*. And head over to cjnews.com, where you can fill out your own bracket and play along at home.

Happy Purim! ■ — YONI

HUMOUR

Your indispensably honest guide to attending a bar/bat mitzvah

Michael Wolfe

Be forewarned: if you have 12-and/or 13-year-old kids, you are about to enter a *Twilight Zone*-esque parallel universe known as "The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circuit." This will require not only a complete commitment of your free time, energy and financial resources, but also a twisted understanding of human nature. So, before you or your children step toward the synagogue doors, I've assembled the definitive rookie's guide to attending a bar or bat mitzvah party.

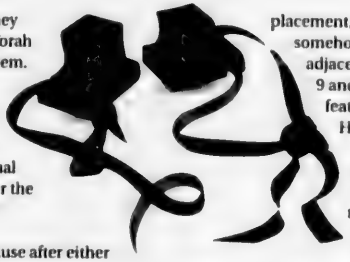
The Invitation: Several weeks before the event, an invitation on paper stock roughly as thick as a strip steak will arrive at your home. The amount of enjoyment you will experience at the event is inversely proportional to the amount of glitter that falls out of the envelope.

The Service: You will notice that for the first half of the service, the child being bar/bat mitzvahed is not doing anything besides sitting on the bimah in an oversized chair looking vaguely uncomfortable. This is so that the family can conduct last-minute mobile stock liquidations to help pay for everything that follows.

• Eventually, the young man or woman will take centre stage for some preliminary prayers in Hebrew and English. It is likely that they will hit puberty during the third or fourth verse of the second prayer.

• When it is time to read directly from the Torah, a succession of family members will take the stage to recite blessings. Inevitably, Uncle Herb will butcher the blessing despite hearing it thousands of times. Aunt Nancy will elbow him in the ribs. The rabbi will smile and silently wonder why he chose his given profession.

• After the Torah reading, the boy or girl will read an essay they wrote on what the Torah portion means to them. This despite the fact that the literal reading of most Torah portions involves either the ritual slaughter of a goat or the subtle endorsement of polygamy.



• There is no applause after either the Torah or Haftorah reading, in order to allow sleeping congregants to continue their slumber.

The Gift: Because Jews love to contradict stereotypes, the only acceptable gift is cold hard cash. Cheques are fine, too. All gifts must be given in increments of $18.

• If you give more than the amount given to your own child at his or her bar/bat mitzvah, you will be considered a snob. If you give less, a special investigation will be launched at the next Hadassah board meeting. It's best just to make things match.

The Party, Hour One – Cocktails: You will be offered a stuffed mushroom or a piece of meat on a stick at least once every 14.3 seconds. No matter how elegant the appetizers, nothing will be more fought over than a tray of mini hot dogs wrapped in puffed pastry.

• If you are male, within 10 minutes of entering the event you will spill some kind of red sauce on your white dress shirt. You will attempt to cover this up and hope your wife is too distracted by the action at the sushi table to notice.

The Party, Hour Two – Enter The Hall: It will take you 15 minutes to find your place at Table 14, because Jews have a sense of humour about non-linear table placement, and Table 14 will somehow be located in a row adjacent to Table 3, Table 9 and a numberless table featuring a picture of Harry Styles.

• The bar or bat mitzvah child will be carried into the room like the pope. They will be mildly upstaged by their younger brother or sister, who will be wearing adorable sunglasses and a fedora.

• You will be grabbed by the sweaty right hand of Uncle Irwin, who will pull you into the hora. You will grab the non-sweaty left hand of a random female guest, who will look mildly disgusted by your sweaty right hand.

• A chair will be brought to the centre of the circle. Do not sit in this chair. It is reserved to individually raise each family member in a Lion King-like salute to their power and authority over you.

The Party, Hour Three – The Meal: You will only be given one bread roll. Eat it quickly, or guard it like the Hope Diamond.

• During the salad course, the father of the honoured child will take to the stage to give a toast. He will thank everyone for coming, "from near and far." He will also thank his lovely and beautiful wife for putting so much time and effort into such an incredible event. Try to catch a glimpse in the background of the exhausted party planner getting intravenous fluids.

• The husband will also salute the amazing job his child did at that day's ceremony. Note that his speech was written at least 72 hours before the event, having no idea whether his child excelled or butchered the Torah portion. Shake off the hypocrisy and clap politely. He's paying for your drinks.

The Party, Hour Four – Your Time to Shine: As you manage to eat your last bite of salmon, a table with candles may be wheeled out onto the dance floor. Key individuals in attendance will be asked to join the child on stage while lighting a candle in their honour.

• Once complete, the table and its now-burning tablecloth will be wheeled off the stage and the DJ will play a song by Michael Jackson, a formal signal that marks the beginning of the "old people" portion of the dance festivities.

• For the next 20 minutes only, the DJ will dust off songs created between 1970 and 1990, while the adults pretend they are still culturally relevant. You will dance enthusiastically and think you look good doing it.

• You will not look good.

The Exit: You can't leave yet. Give it at least another 20 minutes before you offer up a strategic yawn and put yourself into the now-40-people-deep farewell line.

• Jews don't let Jews drive hungry. You will find to-go bags filled with donuts, warm pretzels and bottled water with monogrammed labels as you approach the exit. You will eat the entire contents while waiting in the coat check line.

• There will also be a gigantic row of candy in jars. Several moms will nonchalantly fill a bag or two with Skittles and jelly beans, "for their children at home." None of that candy will make it home uneaten.

• You will ultimately arrive home, full and exhausted. But before you collapse into sleep, admit it: you actually enjoyed yourself.

• Rinse and repeat. You've likely got another bar/bat mitzvah next weekend. ■

Michael Wolfe blogs at toolazytowriteabook.com

...From one Fine Home to Another

Re-decorating, Moving, Re-organizing?

...of Things Past provides private in-home consultation for all your consignment needs. With over 20 years of experience, a team of experts and 3 locations including our flagship 22,000 sq. ft. showroom, we are the premier choice in the market.

Call us today to book an appointment.

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

185 Bridgeland Ave • Toronto • 416 256 9256

Community-wide event takes an odd turn

Jewish groups from across the spectrum come together in a display of unity, only to realize they can't seem to agree on all that much

JONNIE B. GOOD HALEVI
NOT VERY SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Canada's mainstream Jewish advocacy groups came together last week for an event celebrating diversity in the Jewish community.

The guest of honour at the pre-Purim celebration – held in a tent in the open field where Toronto's late, lamented Bathurst Jewish Community Centre used to stand – was Stephen Harper. It was the former Conservative prime minister's first public appearance since a sighting at Tim Hortons in suburban Calgary, where he reportedly held up a long line with a speech pledging to stand with Israel through fire and water.

But while Harper was ostensibly the man of the hour, the current prime minister, Justin Trudeau, did not receive such a warm welcome.

"The long, intimate hug that Trudeau shared with U.S. President Barack Obama on his recent state visit to Washington, D.C., is proof that Trudeau is a danger, like Haman," said Ravi Benhihi, president of the recently renamed Friends of the Hollywood Center for Holocaust Research and Education.

"The holiday of Purim teaches us that we need to be on the lookout for enemies of the Jewish People at all times, and this latest act strongly suggests that Trudeau is a character straight out of the Megillah."

He added: "As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu explained, very indirectly, in his 2015 speech to the U.S. Congress, Barack Obama is an enemy of Israel, and therefore of the Jewish People.

"So the fact Trudeau pals around with him is prima facie evidence of the prime minister's evil nature."

"I hope that logic isn't too hard to follow," he added.

Mere minutes after Benhihi's remarks to reporters, Jonathan Lessthan, former CEO of the Sons of the Covenant Canada, which declared bankruptcy the day before the event, went one step further in smearing Trudeau.

"Justin Trudeau is the reincarnation of Haman, only with much better hair," Lessthan said in a statement sent out from his organization's last remaining computer, a 2003 Compaq Presario laptop.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reportedly visited a Zoroastrian temple last month wearing a triangular black hat, similar to the one shown here. CJN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

aufgang travel

Its Time To Visit Europe!

7 DAY LITTLE TOUR OF RUSSIA*

- 3 NTS MOSCOW/3 NTS ST. PETERSBURG
- 10 DEPARTURES - 29 APRIL-30 SEPT/16 - $1635 US
- Incl. transfers, first class hotel, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 3 dinners, touring & regular high speed train between Moscow/St. Petersburg

8 DAY VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME*

- 2 NTS VENICE/2 NTS FLORENCE/3 NTS ROME
- 15 DEPARTURES – 03 APRIL– 06 NOV/16 - from $1929 US-$2299 US
- Incl. transfers, first class hotel, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners & touring

11 DAY DUBROVNIK TO VENICE*

- 3 NTS DUBROVNIK/1 NT SPLIT/2 NTS PLITVICE LAKES/2 NTS LJUBLJANA/ 2 NTS VENICE
- 17 DEPARTURES – 19 APRIL–04 OCT/16 - $2410 US
- Incl. first class hotel, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners, transfers & touring

* All rates are per person, based on 2 people sharing & include English speaking Tour Guide. Not included: Airfare, taxes, some meals, insurance, gratuities & tipping

Book your trip of a lifetime:
contact our Travel Specialist
1.800.789.7117 Ext. 729
Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com

7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON L4J 3N4, ON Reg. # 50012754

York passes new BDS motion, with a twist

SHANA MAIDEL
CAMPUS REPORTER

Once again, students at York University have voted on a BDS motion, but this time, BDS stands for "books, dues and students," the slogan for a newly elected slate of student politicians.

"It seemed like a radical idea," said student president-elect Joe White. "We decided to look at the concerns of students and the things we know best, instead of worrying about foreign policy."

The new student government will focus on students' academic concerns and quality-of-life issues at the university's Keele campus in Toronto's northwest suburbs, White said.

Students were evidently impressed by the startling change in tone from previous student governments that had focused exclusively on passing annual divestment motions, and gave the new slate a resounding majority.

"I just think that, like, a student government should, like, worry about students and stuff," said one voter leaving a polling station on campus.

Among the new government's concerns are the high cost of education, the high cost of books and the university's efforts to recruit students who intend to go to class occasionally.

University president Mamdouh Shoukri was unavailable for comment, but the administration issued a tersely worded statement.

"Because the election voting booths were in the student centre, which is not under our jurisdiction, we cannot comment on the results. In fact, the actions of the student government have nothing to do with the university. For that matter, nothing the students do ever has anything to do with York. We can say that the students here do not represent York University."

The newly elected student government will continue to have some jobs for the social justice warriors on campus, White said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

FABRICLAND

Sensational Savings!

save up to **50% off** our reg. prices on selected merchandise

Manufacturer's Clearout of DRAPERY PANELS

Assorted designs & lengths. Individually priced.

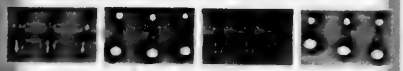
50% off our reg. price

Signature Styles™ Decorative Tension Rods

Only $29.99 ea.

Coordinating Decorative Hooks also available.

Entire Regular Stock! *Creations*™ Bead Trims



Assorted styles, individually priced.

50% off our reg. price

Unless otherwise specified, there is no discount on Signature Styles™, special purchase or promotional merchandise.

FINAL DAYS!
Please Note: We are closed Good Friday & Easter Sunday.

Franz & Rosamunde

Duvet Cover Sets

Queen & King. Our Reg. $229.98 & $259.98 set

Coordinating Panels, 96"X96". Our Reg. $199.98 pkg. also available.

50% off our reg. price

Franz

Rosamunde

Sale in effect untilMarch 29, 2016, on selected in-stock merchandise. Selection may vary. See flyer for details.

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus)
NOW OPEN! Fabricland in RioCan Marketplace - 2181 Steeles W. (W. of Dufferin, E. of Alness)

OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU. www.fabricland.ca

It's time to widen the debate on Israel and Palestine

Mira Sucharov

Does the Canadian Jewish conversation on Israel need broadening, and what would it take to see us broaden our public debate platform to include those voices most critical of Israel?

Recently, American commentator Peter Beinart has urged the Jewish establishment to take seriously the perspective of those who oppose Zionism on intellectual and philosophical grounds. Simone Zimmerman has called on these same Jewish leaders to listen to "millennials' deep outrage at the grave injustices committed by the Jewish state." And then there was the founding of Open Hillel (on whose academic council I sit), which calls on Hillel International to relax its standards of partnership to include a broader discussion of human rights and international law in the context of Israel and Palestine – namely, to include debate around boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS). (The BDS movement promotes three main goals: ending the occupation, instilling equality among Israeli citizens, and allowing refugee return.)

It's no surprise that the mainstream Jewish community embraces Zionism as a touchstone of Jewish communal identity and, therefore, militantly opposes BDS. In addition to being uncomfortable with the basic idea of boycotting Israel, most in the Jewish community realize that at least one of BDS's demands – that of full refugee return – would directly challenge one of Zionism's core aims, namely to maintain a Jewish-majority state.

I have gone on record many times opposing the end game of BDS, which I don't think sufficiently accounts for the needs and identities of both sides. But these debates over Israel, Zionism and the future of the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan are happening, and there's every sign that they will intensify. And neither can the violence, fear and suffering simply be wished away. BDS offers one set of tactics accompanied by a particular set of goals. If these tactics or goals are deemed unsuitable, what are others offering in return to address the wide-scale human rights violations and seemingly endless occupation?

When it comes to BDS, these conversations can continue to happen in quiet corners – like debates and panels on BDS in which I've participated (one, in Ottawa, that my synagogue refused to allow to be advertised and another, in Vancouver, which did gather some press in the *Jewish Independent*) – or on social media, where I am currently hosting a focused, multi-part exchange on my public Facebook page between two individuals in Ottawa: David Roytenberg, an active Jewish community member, and Peter Larson, chair of "Canada Talks Israel-Palestine."

That debate began with the guiding question of whether BDS is or is not anti-Semitic, but quickly expanded to include incisive exchanges around whether settlements are an obstacle to peace; whether the separation barrier is an act of self-defence or motivated by a desire to hem in Palestinians, what has historically motivated Palestinian violence; whether the 1967 war was a defensive one; whether Jews have a right to live across the Green Line;and whether the demand for Israel to withdraw is a fair one.

When political discourse occurs in silos, attitudes tend to harden. Talking across the divide – however painful it might be – forces everyone to examine their deeply held assumptions and beliefs. It soon becomes clear which beliefs are worth holding onto and which ones should be updated or discarded. And if the chief debaters may not as easily do this themselves, at least those listening in can.

Wrestling with challenging ideas – including uncomfortable truths about Israel's founding, identifying the most legitimate tactics of dissent, issues around ethnic privilege, nationalism, competing narratives, and the needs and rights of all – is not an easy task. There might be some costs along the way – identities might be shaken, the veneer of community agreement may be eroded, those donors who prefer an echo-chamber model of community discourse might express displeasure or worse – but our community will ultimately be stronger for having let in more light. ■

The facts about Israel that BDSers don't want you to know

Mordechai Ben-Dat

What is so galling about the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement that targets Israel and its supporters is its utterly false and fraudulent foundation.

It is patently untrue that Israel is an apartheid state. Yet by brandishing that loaded term, the originators of the BDS movement – among them the clever Omar Barghouti – knew they would attract many idealistic youths to their cause.

Barghouti and his confederates claim Israel is an apartheid state because it occupies Palestine. The fact he has only ever defined this "occupation" in terms of *all* of pre-1948 Mandatory Palestine has never bothered the idealistic young people who shout his hateful, vile slogans at countless college rallies around the western world. Nor do his ardent champions seem to acknowledge, let alone care, that the BDS founders are opposed to two states – Israel and Palestine – living side by side. Barghouti does not believe the Jews are entitled to their own sovereign existence in the Middle East.

And yet, students and professors in North America and Europe flock to Barghouti's extreme, anti-Israel mission like ravenous cicadas swarming a fruit tree.

This, of course, is the source of great pique and piercing sadness. We know the BDS movement exploits many well-meaning, if not always well-informed, students. Of course, there are true haters of Israel and disparagers of Jews who populate the BDS movement. But they are not our concern.

Our concern is for the gullible and the easily deceived who wish, as caring individuals, to stand for justice, integrity and the sanctity of life. They are rightly opposed to actual "apartheid." But they know so little about Israel's conflict with the Palestinians that they're unable to resist the social and other pressures that sweep them up in the zealotry of their good intentions.

So, we bring two recent stories that depict a different, more factual image of Israel.

• Earlier this month, Israel announced it's donating a water purification system, the GalMobile, to drought-stricken Papua New Guinea. Approximately 85 per cent of the country's six million people lack access to electricity and tap water. The vehicle is a mobile potable water-treatment, storage and distribution system that connects to any possible water source and produces safe drinking water at World Health Organization standards in less than 30 minutes, yielding approximately 8,000 cups of water per hour.

The Caesarea-based G.A.L. Water Technologies and Israel's Foreign Ministry have been providing water-treatment systems to countries in Africa for more than 20 years.

• Last month, Israel embarked on a bold agricultural aid program in Senegal – a mostly Muslim country – to help change the future of the arid, food-starved nation of some 14 million people. The project was conceived years ago and is known by the acronym TIPA (Technology, Innovation and Poverty Alleviation). Israel is partnering with local universities to provide training in rural agriculture technologies, specifically the drip irrigation system it invented. Drip irrigation tubes line the landscape, where small farms – each of about 1,000 square metres – are being built under Israeli-Italian-Senegalese auspices. In all, Israel plans to help create and assist 4,000 small family farms to produce their own crops.

Former prime minister Aminata Toure, who advises Senegal's president, praised Israel's approach to aiding her country. "We would like to strengthen the agricultural connection with Israel," she said, while Agriculture Minister Papa Abdoulaye Seck added: "[Israel] is in a difficult environment, but [it makes] the difference due to knowledge, technology and willingness to transform the environment." Toure noted that more than 600 Senegalese have been trained in Israel in agriculture and other fields.

This is the news that BDS champions crave to suppress. It tells the deeper truth about the Jewish state. But truth is not in the BDSers' interest. The proponents of BDS avoid the truth, because they know that if discovered, it might inspire a genuine curiosity about Israel among some BDS champions, who might then understand they've been exploited all along. ■

Another reason to celebrate on Purim

Rabbi Jay Kelman, CPA, CA

These words are being published on Purim, the most joyous day of year, when we celebrate the survival and strength of the Jewish People in the face of our many enemies.

But there is another subtler, yet perhaps more important, reason for celebrating. Purim is the transitional point of Jewish history, where we move from a religion led by prophets to one led by sages. No longer did the Jewish People (and the world at large) have direct access to the word of God. We would henceforth need to debate and determine the best way to fulfil our Divine mission on earth.

This is not dissimilar from a child who in his early years is guided by his parents, with the challenge being whether to heed their advice. At some point, the child leaves home, the parents are no longer and the now-grown child must make adult decisions on his own. For their first 1,000 years or so, the Jewish People received clear instructions on what to do, though we had a hard time following them. As our first exile was ending and we were returning to Zion, prophecy was winding down.

The name Esther means hidden, as we entered the historical stage when God is hidden from us. It's not by chance that God's name does not appear in the Megillah. Without prophetic help, Esther and Mordechai argue as to the proper reaction to Haman's decree – a debate that continues to this day.

Our sages declare that a wise person is greater than a prophet. We must use our own efforts and abilities to figure out how to act. Relying on others – even a prophet – is an abdication of responsibility. With that responsibility comes uncertainty, as despite our best efforts, we can't always make decisions today that will, in hindsight, be the right ones 10, 100 or 1,000 years from now. All we can do is try our best – no simple task – and hope and pray for the best.

> *Our sages declare that a wise person is greater than a prophet.*

This transition from prophets to sages, from clarity to uncertainty, is worth celebrating. While the financial markets abhor uncertainty, our moral development requires it. The more we control the future, the less we need to concern ourselves with the present. The Torah notes that God chose the Land of Israel for the Jewish People because, unlike Egypt, it was dependent on rainwater for survival. Rainwater fluctuates from year to year, leaving us to work hard morally in order to receive God's blessing, and intellectually so as to develop technologies to help bring more systematic order. While these two ideas may contradict each other – do we or don't we want a stable water system? – such is the nature of man's partnership with God. We must realize we are dependent on Him, even as we explore ways to have greater independence.

It's for this reason that many parents of means are hesitant to just give their children oodles of money. It's not healthy to be granted financial independence without having to work for it. Some commentaries actually explain that this is the reason for the (theoretical) prohibition on interest. Being able to sit back and collect income without work was seen as potentially harmful.

This tension is seen in the teaching that we "may not rely on miracles." We may pray to God and believe that God's hand is never far away, yet we must never rely on God. As heretical as it sounds, we must live our lives as if God remains aloof from this world.

Our Sages teach that "poverty is a wheel that returns to all," and that's not a bad thing. There are challenges of poverty, but the wealthy face equal and perhaps greater challenges. Purim is the time of sending portions one to another and gifts to the poor. It is this joining together of all as one that's most worthy of celebration. ■

Never give up on life

Norma Baumel Joseph

In December 2015, Quebec legalized "medical aid in dying." Although still contentious, especially in the medical and legal communities, the law specifies that the person involved be an adult, have some kind of incurable disease and be in constant and unbearable physical or psychological pain.

The word used, "euthanasia," literally means a "good death." It refers to the intentional and purposeful taking of a human life. Euthanasia denotes explicitly ending another person's life. Assisted suicide signifies giving someone the information or tools to end his or her own life.

The development of the rather extensive ethical, medical and legal literature focuses on both categories, in terms of ways of assenting to or assisting in some form of suicide, of aiding and abetting the decision to end a life. Whether it's passive or active, physician-aided or personally undertaken, all the debates acknowledge that there are extraordinary cases of human suffering that cry out for our ethical consideration and for practical resolutions.

While I know that I cannot imagine the condition of some people's lives, their pain and suffering, I must admit to great concerns about our current solutions.

I worry about our society's moral values and sacred commitment to life. I worry about the facility with which we deliberate about choice in death. I worry that we have ignored our religious principles. Perhaps we should be concentrating on hospice and palliative care.

Choosing to die or end a life, after all, is very final. Who chooses and who helps make the choice or perform the act? What pressures exist and who presses?

The ethical slippery slope doesn't just worry me – it terrifies me.

Earlier this month, the *Montreal Gazette* posted an article about a 92-year-old woman whose life was turned upside down and who will never fully recover. When she courageously escaped into the cold, she told the authorities how three people, not related to her, forcibly removed her from her home and took over her life. They effectively got legal control of her life and her bank accounts. "Out of the blue, she was forced into a residence, a virtual prisoner, with no access to her life savings, branded incapable of functioning on her own."

> *The ethical slippery slope doesn't just worry me – it terrifies me.*

As the story unfolds, it's clear it was not difficult to gain control of her life. Significantly, this is not an isolated case. Elder abuse is growing and underreported. One in 10 seniors experience some form of elder abuse according to Statistics Canada.

What is wrong with our society? In other cultures, elders were considered the wise ones, effectively a community's library or archive. They were revered and heeded.

Given our cultural mistreatment of the elderly, how easy will it be to convince some seniors that they really want to or need to die? Pressure on them, or outright exploitation, makes end-of-life decisions multifaceted and dangerous.

One more cautionary consideration: at what point is the end-of-life decision made by an individual? When my mother was able, she clearly did not want to suffer or be a burden on the family. She would have signed any end-of-life statement to that effect. But later, even in the actual experience of suffering, her body fought for life. Somehow, she refused to die. No law could be appropriate or ethical that would have allowed us to end her life, no matter what she had signed earlier. We do not know how strong the desire for life is within us. We cannot imagine or really know how we will feel at the end.

Given the ethical complexity and uncertainty, how can we as a society enable or entertain this right to choose death?

Caution is called for – extreme caution. ■

News

Canada should push for UN reform, Jewish groups say

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Observers in the Jewish community reacted with cautious approval to the announcement that Canada would bid for a two-year term on the UN Security Council in 2021.

"Participation on the Security Council is a practical and symbolic metric of Canada's full engagement in the multilateral efforts of the international system to enhance peace, security and stability on a global level," said Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"For the Trudeau government in particular, it would be an important confirmation or validation of Canada playing that kind of role within the international community," Fogel added.

"It will be a long process for Canada to regain its role and reputation for peacekeeping and to take our place on the Security Council, but it is a process well worth beginning," said Karen Mock, a spokesperson for JSpace Canada, a left-wing Zionist organization.

"Canada can and should increase our efforts to contribute meaningfully to UN reform and to helping the UN regain its credibility for human rights, security and peace for all, not just some."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the announcement that Canada would be seeking the Security Council seat during a visit to UN headquarters in New York last week.

"We are determined to help the UN make even greater strides in support of its goals for all humanity," Trudeau said March 16 in the UN building. "My friends, it's time. It's time for Canada to step up once again."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces Canada's bid as Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett looks on. PMO PHOTO

Citing the importance of gender equality, refugee resettlement, respect for diversity, stability in the Middle East and addressing climate change, Trudeau said, "This is the Canada of today."

Later, in an address to the Security Council, Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion said, "We seek a seat at the Security Council precisely because the world finds itself at a time when there is a pressing need to prevent violent extremism, to manage conflict and to respond to humanitarian crises.

"The world needs a more active and more engaged Canada," Dion added.

Canada is vying with Norway and Ireland for the non-permanent seat allocated to western nations.

"Beyond the symbolic aspect of joining the Security Council, Canada could leverage its position and consensus-building skill to help reach agreements on important international issues," Fogel said.

"The real issue surrounding the UN and Canada's contribution to that institution is the extent to which Canada is prepared to speak 'truth to power' about the need for UN reform across the whole system of its agencies and activities," he added. "If Canada truly wants to play a meaningful and constructive role over the coming period, it will focus its energies on reforming those agencies, like the Human Rights Council, rather than the ephemeral attraction of seats on the Security Council."

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the organization "supports Canada's bid to sit on the Security Council and offer much needed guidance in support of democratic ideals, freedom and justice around the world. By the same token, we anticipate our Canadian representative will work to counter the growing anti-Semitism at the UN by providing a strong voice in support of Israel, while harshly denouncing brutal dictatorships like Syria and Iran."

Stuart Kamenetsky, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto and observer of Canada's Middle East policy, said, "If this results in Canada having a voice on the Security Council that will result core values of fairness, decency, fighting against dictators and injustices in the world – great.

"But if Canada, in order to secure this seat, will return to become an 'honest broker', which basically means that it will become like other western countries that are obsessed with criticizing Israel – it's not worth the 'honour' of the seat," he added.

"I hope that Canada doesn't do 'anything' to get the seat. It must stick to important core values or else the seat isn't worth it," Kamenetsky said.

Meanwhile, in an odd twist, the UN first announced that Canada would resume funding for UNRWA, and then retracted the announcement.

UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said the statement was an early draft sent by mistake.

It was issued following a meeting between Trudeau and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

UNRWA is a UN agency whose mandate is to provide aid to Palestinian refugees. Critics say it is aligned with Hamas, which Canada has designated as a terrorist organization. Canada stopped funding UNRWA in 2010 under former prime minister Stephen Harper.

But the new Liberal government has suggested it is considering restoring $15 million in funding for the organization.

"We're evaluating the situation. And the decision will be taken shortly," International Co-operation Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said last month. ■

LAND ROVER JAGUAR THORNHILL

Call me for all your

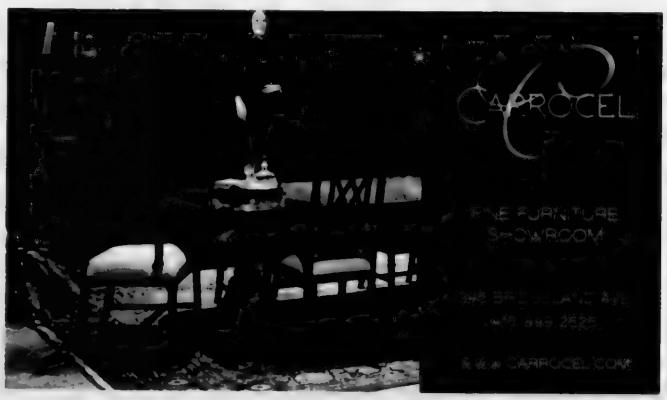
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES

905.889.0080 x 16248

Cell: **416.948.4118**

tali@landroverthornhill.ca

THOMAS (MINUK) ALI



WHY IS IT SUCH A GREAT FESTIVAL?

Dr. M. Laitman
Professor of Ontology

Party Theme

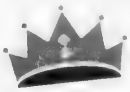
Purim is a great festival: great fear of annihilation, at first, and great joy after the salvation, at last. The celebrations on this festival are exceptionally happy, given the commandment to consume alcohol to the point of inability to tell wicked Haman from righteous Mordechai. But what are we really celebrating on Purim? We celebrate becoming one, the state that all of humanity must achieve. Now back to our story ....

The Symbols and the Costumes

Purim is also a festival of symbolism. The primary message of the festival is that in the face of the purest evil, portrayed by Haman, even the epitome of good, portrayed by Mordechai, is helpless. The only thing that helps against pure evil is unity. When Mordechai pleads with Esther to beg for the king's mercy, she says that even she, the queen, cannot save them unless he, Mordechai, gathers all the Jews and they fast and pray for her. Then, when they are united once again, she endeavors and succeeds. The costumes are another symbolic custom worth noting. Purim is not a Jewish version of Halloween.

The costumes imply concealment of the powers that play out this scenario within each of us.

Plot and Main Characters



In his book, Shamati (I Heard), Rav Yehuda Ashlag, author of the Sulam (Ladder) commentary on The Book of Zohar, explains that the king represents God. Esther, the Jewish queen, represents a corrected desire to connect with God. This is why she appears after Queen Vashti corrupts her ways and the king divorces her. She is called Esther (Ester in Hebrew), from the Hebrew word Hester (concealment), because her Jewish identity is still concealed. It is revealed only when she must act in order to save the Jews, hence the word Megilah (scroll/book), from the Hebrew word Gilui (revealing). This is why the plot described in the book of Esther is considered a "concealed miracle," to denote a miracle of the revelation of God's power in a hidden way.

Mordechai represents the quality of mercy. He is pure kindness and wants nothing for himself. When two servants plot to assassinthe king and Mordechai warns him through Esther, the king does not reward Mordechai, nor does Mordechai request reward or even recognition for it.

Another important element that is concealed in the story is that God's plan is to establish the quality of mercy, portrayed by Mordechai, as the ruler of the kingdom (world). Clearly, if the world is governed by mercy, meaning Mordechai, people will be much happier than if they are governed by wickedness, which Haman portrays. But Mordechai has no desire to govern since he wants nothing for himself.

To compel Mordechai to act so as to finally become the ruler, the king must introduce a threat big enough to prod Mordechai into action, a threat of destruction not just of Mordechai, but of his entire people. This threat is Haman, who represents the opposite of mercy—a ruthless desire to consume, to own, to control, and to indulge oneself without any thought of others. In short,

The Height of the Drama

Haman's argument in favor of killing the Jews is that they are not united: "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed." The Jews became a nation when they pledged to be united "as one man with one heart." Haman argues that they do not "keep the king's laws," which makes perfect sense considering that the law by which they were established is the law of unity. If they are dispersed, they are not keeping it. In such a state they are redundant, so Haman tells the king he should get rid of them.

The Jews have no idea how to save themselves, nor do they realize what they have done wrong to deserve death. Then Mordechai comes and gathers them in prayer for Esther's success in her litany, and they follow him. By doing so, they reunite and become a nation once again, just as when they became a nation at the foot of Mt. Sinai. This makes Haman's argument invalid, since they are no longer scattered, and are no longer breaking the king's law. Naturally, at that point the verdict is revoked.

The Hidden Meaning

The characters in this play tell us about hidden forces that act within us as individuals, and among us as people. These forces areever present and sustain our spiritual development. As they created Haman in those days, they are creating new Hamans each day.As then, so now, the antidote is unity. If we unite, we are saved. If we forget it, we are threatened, and even destroyed.

The Celebration

This brings us to the great joy of Purim, where we are commanded to drink until we cannot tell the wicked from the righteous. The thing is that when we unite, we spread that unity throughout the kingdom, meaning the whole of creation. By doing so we become "a light unto nations," spreading the light of unity. When all the people are united there will be no need to be vigil or doubt one another since all the people will be as one. In that state, even distinguishing between Haman and Mordechai will become redundant, and the intoxication symbolizes that state of being.

"Haman's pockets" (also known as "Haman's Ears") represent the correction of the egoistic desires of Haman once all the people have united. This is why they are filled with sweet fillings, to symbolize the joy of unity. This is also why we offer gifts to one another and to the poor: a token of our enhanced connection.

The Message

To conclude, Purim is a festival that teaches us that all our woes come to us for lack of unity. Without it, we are persecuted, as during the exile in Babylon, during all the persecutions we have experienced throughout history, and as we are beginning to feel today. But with unity, we are safe and sound, and tipsy. So when nothing goes right, unite!

PURIM IS A FESTIVAL THAT TEACHES US THAT ALL OUR WOES COME TO US FOR LACK OF UNITY

www.michaellaitman.com

JF&CS should stay independent, executive director says

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Jewish Family & Child's executive director is hoping that a government plan to amalgamate child protection service agencies won't affect the Jewish agency.

In the annual auditor general's report released in December, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne called on the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to further centralize the co-ordination of child protection services and address problems with child protection standards, and lack of ministry oversight.

But Brian Prousky, JF&CS's new executive director, said this isn't the first time the government has called for reform and amalgamated children's aid societies (CAS).

In 2012, the Commission on Sustainable Child Welfare also resulted in the amalgamation of CAS organizations.

"In fact the most recent merger of two CASs occurred just last year... I've been in child welfare for 25 years. So I've seen the system go through times of growth and belt-tightening," said Prousky, who came to JF&CS after serving about 18 years with the Durham Children's Aid Society and York Region Children's Aid Society in various roles.

"In the commission's final report, it emphasized the importance of building a fully integrated children's service system and at the time [JF&CS was] viewed as a model organization. This was largely because of the integration of our child welfare services with 30 other programs and services we offer to families and children."

Prousky said he hopes JF&CS will be exempt from amalgamating with another CAS, such as the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, because of the "complexity" of the organization.

"First off, it's important to remember that Jewish Family & Child is not simply a Toronto agency. We also operate in York Region. So the process of amalgamating with another CAS would be far more complicated," he said.

"The government would also have to take into account that... we are a multi-service agency, which means that we don't really have a natural partner in the GTA. Our child protection services are fully integrated with our children's mental health and adult mental health services," he added.

Brian Prousky

"Finally, the province can proudly point to our agency, just like it can to Baycrest or Mount Sinai Hospital, as one of the many great parallel institutions Jews have built to serve the broader community."

Prousky said JF&CS also serves as a resource for other child protection agencies throughout the province in cases involving Jewish families and children.

"Our involvement in the recent Lev Tahor case highlighted this. In that instance, we worked closely with child welfare professionals in Chatham, Ont., to ensure the unique needs of Orthodox children brought into care were met. That is something that would be lost," Prousky said.

Prousky said JF&CS has been working with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs to "reach out to influential allies who can deliver a message to the highest levels of government about the important role our organization plays in the lives of children and families in the GTA and across the province."

He said that although neither his senior staff nor board members have been approached by government representatives about amalgamation yet, "we're concerned, and we want to make sure our voice is heard."

He said JF&CS is working with other children's aid societies to develop recommendations to improve how services are delivered. ■

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital
we work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000270
416 543 1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

Synagogue members mobilize to keep Shaar Shalom afloat

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

More than 100 years ago, when someone with a similar name had passed away, American writer Mark Twain noted with some relish that "reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Members of Shaar Shalom Synagogue are feeling the same way after an announcement this month that the 44-year-old shul is set to close its doors June 30.

In a grassroots effort, some of them are trying to keep the shul operating.

At least two ad hoc groups are trying to find a way to keep the synagogue functioning, whether in its current location in the Don Mills Road and Steeles Avenue area, or in another venue, said longtime member Gerry Richler.

Richler, who emphasized he's speaking for himself and not the synagogue, said "a group of concerned individuals" had gathered to find a solution to the shul's problems.

"Simultaneously, other groups of people got in touch with other people" and now the groups have contacted each other. "Right now, people are trying to create some sort of structure, as well as identifying some possible alternatives to keep the congregation alive, whether in its present form or some other form."

Richler, a member of the shul for more than 30 years who once sat on its board, said there are options other than closing.

"What is important now is to reach out to the membership, present various alternatives, and gauge the level of support for those alternatives," Richler said.

On March 9, synagogue officials held an information meeting attended by more than 200 members. President Seymour Hersh told *The CJN* that with the departure of Rabbi Steven Schwarzman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, a drop in membership – from a peak of 555 members to 380 today – and demographic shifts in the neighbourhood reducing the nearby Jewish population, the shul planned to close its doors June 30.

Hersh clarified his remarks last week, saying, "The physical building is not sustainable at all." However, that does not preclude keeping the synagogue continuing as an organization, he added.

"We have a team of people interviewing all the Conservative shuls to identify collaborative opportunities," he said, "and another team looking at the value of the real estate, to assess the value of a potential sale."

Sam Chaim

Hersh said synagogue officials have been receiving inquiries and suggestions from members about the future of the shul. Some are offering suggestions to keep it viable. Others are asking what will happen to its artifacts, such as yahrzeit plaques and Torahs.

Hersh said the next few months will be busy, with proposals being offered, and communications between members and shul officials.

It's unclear what the synagogue's eventual future will be, but he said proposals will be winnowed down and presented to members for a vote at the next annual general meeting, scheduled for either May or June.

Some members have already "come back to us with proposals, some in great detail," Hersh said.

"Our intention will be to engage our members before the May or June time frame to make them part of the process."

Sam Chaim is one member eager to find a solution. A member since 1981, he recalls attending services in the early days in rented spaces at Fairview Mall, a hockey arena and Seneca College.

Chaim, who has served as synagogue president and on its board, believes Shaar Shalom is more than a building. "We're a family," he said.

If the building can't be saved, the congregation and sense of family among members can be retained, he believes.

"I don't think it's a fait accompli that the shul is going to close," he said.

Richler also believes there are options, including merging with another synagogue. "There are people who normally don't step to the plate who are stepping to the plate and looking for a solution," he said. ■

Free

LARGE PRINT HAGGADAHS

for those who are visually impaired or reading disabled The JBI Library can help you or a loved one fully enjoy the Passover Seder!

Aussi disponible en français/l'hébreu

Please call the JBI Library before
April 15, 2016
800-999-6476

To download or order online at
www.jbilibrary.org

JBI International
110 East 30 Street, New York, NY 10016 • Established as The Jewish Braille Institute in 1931

Ontario firm chosen to produce kosher chickens

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Premier Kosher Inc., a company located in Smithville, southwest of Hamilton, has been granted the right to provide Ontario-raised and processed chickens to the kosher market.

Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO), which oversees the production and marketing of chickens in Ontario, announced March 17 that Premier was granted an allocation that will see it process 50,000 birds per week. The plant will be located in Abingdon, in the Niagara region, and is expected to begin operations in January 2017.

Paul Tzellos is president of Premier Kosher. Raised on poultry farms, he's been in the business in various capacities, including raising and transporting, for 40 years. Adding the processing component to the business has been a goal of his for years. Doing so while serving the Jewish community has special meaning, he said.

"We believe in the covenantal word with Abraham. We are honoured to work with the Jewish community."

Tzellos said Premier was late to the bidding process, but when the CFO was unable to find an appropriate producer, he entered the contest in August 2015. The company devoted a lot of time and energy to putting together the winning bid. He estimates his firm's financial commitment will be "$6 million, at the low end."

"Our goal is to start off and produce the highest quality kosher chicken we can provide. We want to be Chai's standards and higher. That's our goal," he said.

Tzellos was referring to Chai Poultry, which provided kosher chickens to Ontario consumers until it sold its quota to a halal producer and closed in May 2013. Since then, there have been no Ontario-produced kosher chickens. Marvid, a Quebec-based company, stepped into the breach, but consumers complained about their chickens' quality and that store shelves were often empty.

Tzellos said he had consulted with Chuck Weinberg, who owned Chai, for advice on technical matters and regarding community relations.

There may be another aspect to the relationship as well. Tzellos said the chickens, when they finally become available, will carry the Premier brand, but they may also be marketed as Chai chickens.

"It could be Chai in the future," he said. "We still haven't finalized it. There still are opportunities. People would like to see the Chai product on the shelves."

Paul Tzellos

According to a CFO news release, the Kashruth Council of Canada, known as COR, will work with Premier Kosher to provide kosher certification.

"Ontario's Jewish community has been looking forward to welcoming the arrival of a new kosher processing plant for several years to provide local Ontario-grown, fresh, kosher chicken," said Richard Rabkin, executive director of COR. "COR is pleased to be working with Premier Kosher Inc. to ensure that kosher consumers have a range of products in the marketplace to choose from."

Michael Edmonds, director of communications and government relations for CFO, said the agency is "very pleased. It was a long process. The board was doing its due diligence that the accepted applicant met all the criteria," including assets, access to a plant, financing, marketing and expertise in the sector.

Over the course of time, several applicants "dropped out."

"We would have liked to have done it quicker," he added.

CFO turned over the evaluation process to Deloitte, a consulting firm, because of their expertise in evaluating business plans, and its recommendation was examined by the CFO board.

Premier "made a strong business case," he said.

Edmonds said some of the bids that were withdrawn came up short in terms of familiarity with the industry, engineering knowledge, plant availability, secure financing and other requirements.

Edmonds said the plant being proposed by Premier has been used as "a red meat plant" and will need to be converted to handle chickens. COR will provide the supervision to ensure it meets kosher standards.

Edmonds rejected suggestions the CFO favoured COR over other certification agencies.

"There are a number of certification agencies in the marketplace. As far as we were concerned, all are acceptable." ■

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
מרכז לחקרי היהדות

Education, Culture, Community

RE-IMAGINING THE BIBLE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Professor Lori Lefkovitz, Northeastern University:
"Bedrooms and Battlefields: Biblical Foundations of Sexual, Gender, and Ethnic Identities"

Professor Adele Reinhartz, University of Ottawa:
"Holy Words of Hollywood: Moses as Jesus in DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* (1956)"

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2016
2:00 P.M.
Private Dining Room
Executive Learning Centre,
Schulich School of Business
York University, Keele Campus

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SPACE IS LIMITED

FREE PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE LECTURE

REGISTER at: cjs@yorku.ca | Tel: 416-736-5823

www.cjs.blog.yorku.ca | facebook.com/cjsyorku

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

Beth Tikvah Synagogue

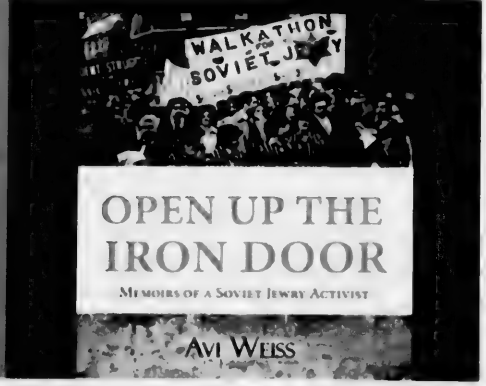
On our 50th anniversary, Beth Tikvah is proud to welcome back, Rabbi Avi Weiss. In conversation with Rabbi Jarrod Grover, Rabbi Weiss will discuss his new book.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
8:00 PM

Members-No Charge
Non-Members-$10

RSVP:
416-221-3433

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please call the Synagogue office for information.



Rabbi Avi Weiss is founding Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale – the Bayit, Bronx, New York, and founder of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (YCT) and Yeshivat Maharat. He is also co-founder of the International Rabbinic Fellowship (IRF), an international organization of Modern Orthodox rabbis.

Bring your creative bath ideas to life at TAPS!

Whatever your style or budget, shop Taps for the best selection, prices and service.

Riobel Zendo Shower Kit

Create shower power with good looks. Kit comes complete with 1/2" 2 way thermostatic/pressure balance coaxial valve, multi function hand shower on slide rail and 8" square rainhead.

$639

Rubinet Genesis Faucet

Compare against faucets at twice the price. Choice of lever or cross handles. Priced in chrome.

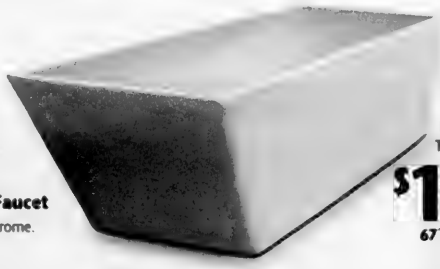
$289

Satin Nickel $399

Cabano Quadra Single Hole Basin Faucet

Made in Italy. Priced in chrome.

$249



Alcove Cosmos Soaker Tub

For your perfect moments of relaxation. Free Standing Soaker Tub. 60" x 30" x 21.5".

$1929

67" x 31" x 21.5" $2099

Aquadesign Nostalgia Widespread Faucet

Priced in chrome.

$279

Brushed Nickel $399

Polished Nickel $399

Aquabrass Madison Floormount Tub Filler

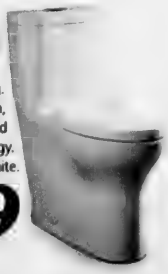
Featuring a stylish polished chrome square design, combined with a subtle curve beneath the spout. Priced in chrome.

$599

Reflections of You

Visit Taps Boutique for fresh ideas to accessorize your bathroom. This month enjoy 20% off all in-stock mirrors.

20% OFF



DXV Lyndon 1-Piece Toilet

Contemporary, crisp and unadorned styling. Elongated bowl design, EverClean® surface and dual flush technology. Priced in Canvas White.

$599

www.tapsbath.com

TORONTO
1020 LAWRENCE AVE. W.
2 LIGHTS WEST OF DUFFERIN
416.785.0224 or 1.800.263.2976
Mon-Wed 9-5, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

TAPS
a WOLSELEY company

32 YEARS

MISSISSAUGA/OAKVILLE
3050 VEGA BLVD.
1 LIGHT EAST OF 403, NORTH OFF DUNDAS
905.569.1262 or 1.866.899.8801
Mon-Wed 9-6, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

When 'Hashem' is your Uber driver

SY BERG
NOT PARTICULARLY SPECIAL TO THE CJN

It was a typical Friday night.

I arrived at Mark's downtown Toronto apartment just after 9 p.m. My wife, Hagit, was pregnant with our first child, a boy, and had stayed home. We made the obligatory l'chaims, which led to loud, but thought-provoking, conversation. Donald Trump was yet again the topic of interest, and talk turned to his daughter, Ivanka, her Jewishness and which presidential candidate would be best for Israel.

"At least Donald's daughter is Jewish," Mark said as he poured the next round. "Bernie Sanders' step-kids aren't even Jewish."

I wondered if it bothered Trump that his daughter chose to embrace Judaism, as opposed to Christianity, Satanism, or whatever it was he raised her with.

Finally, I said quietly, "I'm impressed that Trump is still close to his daughter after she converted. I'd like to think that if our son wanted to convert, we'd support him, too."

Despite my friend's secularism, this didn't go over well. "That's terrible," Mark responded. "There's barely any of us left, and you're going to let your children leave, too?"

We argued for a while, but eventually we moved on to our destination: a quaint little bar on College Street. Yet despite my modern, liberal values, Mark's words stuck with me. Would it be a sin to let my son convert? And what would my parents think?

Finally, at 2:30 a.m., it was time to head home, so I ordered an Uber. A few minutes passed and a notification on my iPhone stopped me dead in my tracks. "Hashem is arriving now in a Toyota Camry," it read.

I laughed, figured my driver was from Iran, and got in the car.

"Welcome," Hashem said. I smiled and said hello, as my friends spilled out of the bar and waved. Waving back, I said, "My friends wanted me to go to some after-hours place, but I figured it's time to call it a night."

Hashem nodded. "Join the company of lions rather than assume the lead among foxes is what I always say."

"That's odd," I thought, laughing nervously.

"Beware of too much laughter," said Hashem, sensing my discomfort, "for it deadens the mind and produces oblivion."

"Another odd choice of words," I thought.

Steering the conversation in a more colloquial direction, I asked how he enjoyed being an Uber driver. "It is pleasant. The wheel always comes full circle," he replied, gesturing to his steering wheel.

Who was that mysterious man?

I was out of words, so we sat in silence for a while, until he said: "Something is bothering you."

It was more an observation than a question.

"Yes," I replied. "I'm having a crisis of faith." Then, for some reason, I let it all out. I told him about my pregnant wife, Ivanka Trump, conversion – the whole megillah.

Hashem listened intently. Finally, he spoke.

"You can educate a fool, but you cannot make him think," he said. "But you are no fool. Deep down, you know what you want from life."

"Well, I'd always dreamed I wouldn't end up a stubborn, uncompromising father," I said. "On the other hand, being Jewish has played a huge role in my life, and I want my children to experience that."

"A dream that is not interpreted is like a letter that is not read," Hashem replied. "Perhaps your dream is telling you that you want to be your own man and raise your children your own way. Even so, this does not necessarily mean you must deviate from your customs.

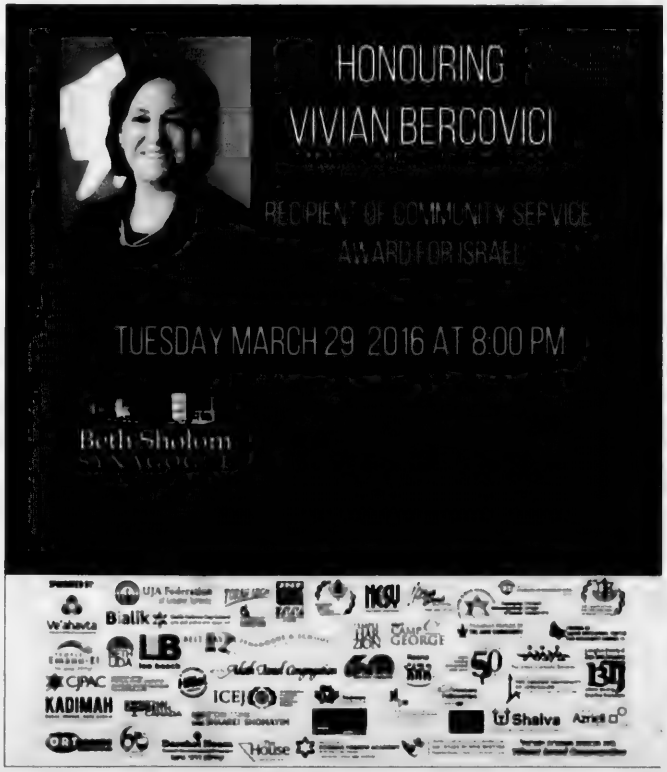
"Customs are more powerful than laws," he said.

I imagined taking my son to daven at the shul where I grew up. I thought about him lighting Shabbat candles and singing *Dayeinu* on Passover.

"Remember: when you teach your son, you teach your son's son," Hashem said, somehow reading my mind.

Finally, we arrived at my apartment. It may have been the alcohol, but I didn't realize how grateful I was for Hashem's wisdom. I told him it was by far the most peculiar, but enlightening, Uber experience I've ever had.

"Live well," Hashem said as he bid me farewell. "It is the greatest revenge." ■



3 more reasons to pick Associated Hebrew Schools from the start!
NEW full-day JK at Associated Cedarvale campus for 2016/17
JK and SK tuition support now available at all campuses
Reduced fees for Nursery at Associated Cedarvale for 2016/17
$2,840 tuition decrease for full-day
$1,575 tuition decrease for half-day
Register today!
Contact Pearl Greenspan
pgreenspan@ahschools.com
905.889.3998 ext. 508
For more information, visit
ThisIsAssociated.com
Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great SCHOOL

'I'm not Irwin Cotler'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Other more moderate voices at the dinner took issue with the characterization of Trudeau as a modern-day Amalekite.

"Unlike his exalted predecessor, the much-beloved Stephen Harper, Trudeau seems to be walking around with blinders on when it comes to threats facing Israel and the Jewish People, but he doesn't appear to harbour any actual malice himself," said Shloime Kugel, CEO of the Centre for Israeli Stuff and Study (CISS), striking a conciliatory tone in a hastily prepared back-of-a-napkin statement couched in modifiers and hedge-words.

"Trudeau appears to be a blank slate, or an empty vessel into which – or onto which, if you prefer the blank slate metaphor – people can splash their greatest hopes or darkest fantasies and fears."

Meanwhile, recently elected Liberal MP Vittorio Denmother vigorously denied that his boss is a raging anti-Semite.

"Did no one listen during the election campaign to his denunciations of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement? Did no one hear him say that Canada is a staunch ally of Israel? Did anyone notice that we voted with Israel at the United Nations earlier this year? Is anyone even listening to me?" he asked rhetorically, staring at his shoes.

"Look, I may not be Irwin Cotler, but... never mind. I'm not Irwin Cotler. No one can be Irwin Cotler except Irwin Cotler. Let's just leave it at that."

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, sitting alone at his table, added, "Did I mention that my wife is Jewish?"

He added, "Hey, do any of you guys know if she's coming tonight, by the way?"

Reached by phone at an interfaith dinner it organized on the same night, a representative of the left-wing Zionist group JSpaced Canada wouldn't comment on the Trudeau allegations, but said the level of political discussion in the Canadian Jewish community "has become so degraded that it's almost enough to drive one to drink, to the point where one can't distinguish between cursed is Harper and blessed is Trudeau – I mean, cursed is Trudeau and blessed is Harper. No, make that blessed is Haman... no – blessed is Mordechai... Oh, forget it."

In a rare public display of unity, the right-wing League of Offensive Jews and the anti-Zionist Independent Jewish Kvetchers held a joint protest outside the big tent. ■

'Latkes without pepper spray not as tasty'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"We want to make sure everyone at York is making a living wage. We have some other concerns, too, I just can't think of them at the moment, but mainly as a student government we have decided to concentrate on the students right here," White said.

Hillel at York also had no comment, although the message on its voice mail stated that it had advised students to vote "Chicago-style" – early and often – in advance polls.

The Hillel student executive and staff, numbering about 100 people, are currently on a mission to Israel, where they insisted they were locked in a stuffy convention centre studying how to write snappy slogans about the Jewish homeland, not "gallivanting around like those Birthright kids."

Meanwhile, the other Jewish group on campus, StandingWithHasbara Canada, also welcomed the change in government, although student leaders admitted they were starting to feel a little nostalgic for the "good old days" of monthly referendums about Israel and protests that seemed to magically coincide with Jewish holidays.

The group has scheduled a mammoth bonfire and party to get rid of their own protest signs and flyers, which will feature an Israeli band and a shaliach playing pioneer songs on an accordion.

"Our Chanukah party's just not going to be the same if we don't have to lock the doors and call campus police to get rid of the demonstrators," lamented one student.

"Yeah," complained another. "Latkes without pepper spray just won't be as tasty." ■

On the Necessity and Impossibility of Being a Jewish Philosopher
with Prof. Michael Morgan

Art by: Joani Rothenberg

Tuesday, March 29 at 7:30 PM

What has Jewish philosophy meant in the past and what does it mean in the present? Do we doubt the possibility of Jewish philosophy? Is it a way of thinking about Judaism and Jewish life that can be beneficial to us all and which might very well be necessary for some of us? No charge. For information, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

The Senator Jerahmiel S. and Carole S. Grafstein Lecture

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
מרכז למדעי היהדות

Presented in partnership with the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies

2016 Beth Tzedec Congregation
Toronto, Ontario
info@beth tzedec.org

בית צדק
Beth Tzedec Congregation

60 Years of Tradition-Building for the Future

ELY'S FINE FOODS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF
CHEF ANTHONY ANDRADY
AS EXECUTIVE CHEF!

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 24, 2016

Jews need allies to fight anti-Semitism: Rabbi Sacks

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Jews must work with Christians and Muslims in combating anti-Semitism because they simply do not have the numbers to do so alone, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks stressed in a March 14 address at Montreal's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

The former chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth said Jews have made "the terrible mistake" throughout their history of believing anti-Semitism is "our problem and we have to fight it on our own…

"I am going to be very blunt. There are 2.4 billion Christians in the world and 1.6 billion Muslims. We are outnumbered [at about 13 million]… If we are left to fight this battle on our own, we will be very vulnerable," he added. "Jews cannot and must not be left to fight anti-Semitism alone. The victim cannot cure the crime. The hated cannot cure the hater."

Jews should not hesitate to say to Christians and moderate Muslims, or those of goodwill of any faith, that they need them to stand with them, he said.

Since leaving the chief rabbi post in 2013 after 22 years, Rabbi Sacks has devoted himself to speaking and writing about spiritual matters and the need for interfaith co-operation. On March 2, he was awarded the Templeton Prize, an annual international award worth $1.6 million that recognizes outstanding contributions to the promotion of life's spiritual dimension.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

Rabbi Sacks believes today's anti-Semitism is as pernicious as its earlier major expressions: religious hatred in the Middle Ages and racial hatred in the 19th century.

With these types of hatred no longer socially acceptable, Rabbi Sacks said contemporary anti-Semitism takes the form of anti-Zionism, that is, "hatred for their nation state, the right of Jews to have a space where they can defend themselves."

Just as anti-Semites looked to the church for their moral authority in the Middle Ages and to science in the post-Enlightenment, today's anti-Semites have co-opted the postwar era's most trusted guidepost – human rights – to justify their hatred, he said.

Israel has become the most egregious violator of human rights in the eyes of today's worst Jewish haters, he said.

He congratulated McGill University students and the Jewish community for rallying to defeat a boycott, sanctions and divestment motion put before the undergraduates' association last month. He urged all Jewish young people to act as "ambassadors of tolerance."

"We have an obligation as Jews to tell the world about Israel. They do not know what it is… Tell the simple truth… Israel has shown that it has gone from [experiencing] the worst of humanity to looking to the future and believing the world can be a better place," he said.

"Israel should not be the pariah of the world. It should be a symbol of hope for the world. Let us say that loud and clear."

Rabbi Sacks' Montreal visit was hosted by Federation CJA, which is embarking on the celebration of its centenary in 2017. He had a full day while in the city, speaking early in the morning to about 200 students from Jewish high schools.

Later he met with the Catholic Archbishop of Montreal, Christian Lépine, representatives of Montreal Christian-Jewish Dialogue and a number of professors of religion and political science, as well as leaders of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and its Canadian Rabbinical Caucus.

Rabbi Sacks also spoke March 16 in Toronto at an event co-sponsored by Aleh Canada and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. His latest book is *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence.*

Federation CJA president Evan Feldman said Rabbi Sacks' appearance at Shaar Hashomayim was an opportunity "to put aside our religious and cultural differences" and express the fundamental values all Jews share, primarily, that each is responsible for the other and for tikkun olam – repairing the world.

Rabbi Sacks, 68, born and raised in London in a working-class family to a Polish immigrant father, with most of his friends being not Jewish, said he "did not experience one episode of anti-Semitism." He attributed that to the world's determination of "never again" after the Holocaust.

That has not been the experience of his children, who since around the turn of the millennium have faced overt anti-Semitism in the guise of denunciation of Israel. "It came as a real shock to me," he said.

Anti-Semitism is comparable to a virus, he believes. It keeps mutating until the immune system – in this case all the anti-racism legislation, Holocaust education and interfaith dialogue since the war – became helpless to defend against it.

"We have to get non-Jews to understand that anti-Semitism is as much their problem as ours," just as persecution of Christians and Muslims is a concern for Jews, he said.

"The hate that begins with Jews does not end with Jews… Any society that has no room for Jews has no room for humanity itself… If it's not safe to be a Jew on the streets of Europe, then it is not safe to be a European." ■

Pro-Israel group barred from UOIT 'Social Justice Week'

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

As Canadian director of the campus group Hasbara Fellowships, Robert Walker has come to expect anti-Israel hostility on campuses across North America.

But the outright exclusion by the University of Ontario Institute of Technology's (UOIT) student association from a "Social Justice Week" event was "jarring," he said.

Walker said when he acted on an invitation by the Oshawa-based school's student association to apply for a table at the Social Justice Week event that ran March 7 to 11 to promote Hasbara Fellowships' "Israel Peace Week" program, he was denied.

Walker said he received a rejection email from Denise Martins, executive assistant of UOIT's faculty association, that said since the student association passed a motion endorsing the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement in January, and because Hasbara Fellowships "seems closely tied to the State of Israel… it would be against the motion to provide any type of resources to your organization."

In a statement released by the student association in February, Siraj Syed, vice-president of university affairs, said "it is a priority of the SA to accept the BDS movement and join the international struggle in fighting for Palestinian rights."

UOIT's student association did not respond to *The CJN*'s interview request, but released a statement defending its decision to exclude Hasbara Fellowships because of its mandate to promote a pro-Israel narrative. "The stated objectives of Hasbara Fellowships are in conflict with the objectives of Social Justice Week… Any organization whose mandate is to promote policies that contributes [sic] to the colonization of indigenous peoples, Palestinian or otherwise, does not align with the principles of social justice."

Walker said the programming at the event included anti-capitalist programming, Marxist-Leninist programing, as well as anti-Israel programming.

"I know well enough that there is widespread anti-Israel discrimination at universities across Canada and the U.S., but what surprised me was the explicit nature of the denial," Walker said. "There was no fear or shame in actually saying straight out that because you side with Israel, we don't want to provide you with a platform. I think it was a total lack of fear that was most jarring. What it suggests is that the discrimination is becoming more acceptable."

He said he reached out to UOIT's administration, but nothing was done. "I'm in the process of reaching out again to the administration and demanding that concrete steps be taken to rectify the situation," he said.

"Leadership comes from the top, and it is critical that the leadership of UOIT lead by example and make a public statement that will be heard not just at the university but across Canada that this discrimination is wholly unwelcome."

UOIT responded to the controversy with a statement on March 14 that said the university supports "respectful dialogue, dissent and discourse. This includes supporting freedom of speech and encouraging an inclusive, diverse and safe environment on campus. UOIT does not support a boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel [sic]… It is our hope that these expressions of concern will encourage the broadest range of participation and respectful dialogue at future events."

Walker said that he appreciates the support, but that response is insufficient.

"When a pro-Israel voice is purposefully silenced at a publicly funded university, words just aren't enough. Clear action must be taken by the university administration to rectify this egregious discrimination… The double standard applied during social justice week runs contrary to all Canadian values. Any university administration which permits or facilitates this double standard needs to be called out for doing so." ■

Should screening for breast cancer gene be expanded?

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

Cancer researcher Kelly Metcalfe is unequivocal when asked what expanded testing for the gene linked to breast and ovarian cancer would mean for Jewish women.

"Do I think we could save lives if population-wide genetic testing was offered to all Jewish women, if they wish? Absolutely," she says.

Currently, no country offers widespread screening for mutations in the BRCA gene, which is linked to a significantly higher risk of breast and ovarian cancer. In Canada, typically only women who meet specific criteria, including having a family history of cancer, are eligible for the genetic tests.

But research studies in Israel, England and Canada have concluded that making screening available to all Jewish women would save women's lives and be cost effective, Metcalfe said.

The Canadian Cancer Society, which a few years ago had expressed reservations about expanded testing, is also increasingly convinced by the research.

"The Canadian Cancer Society encourages provincial and territorial health-care authorities to review their genetic testing guidelines and the evidence on the impact of expanding to Jewish women to ensure that the greatest number of people can benefit from these programs," Dr. Robert Nuttall, assistant director, health policy, said in a written statement sent to *The CJN*.

It's also important that genetic counselling be offered to help people understand the results and their options, Nuttall said.

Between one per cent and 2.5 per cent of Ashkenazi Jews, both men and women, carry a mutation that renders the BRCA gene less effective in preventing cancers. (For non-Jewish women about 1 in 500 carry a mutation.) Breast cancers attributed to the mutations tend to be more aggressive and occur in younger women.

A large-scale screening program at Toronto's Women's College Hospital that started in 2007 offered the test to all Jewish women, not only those with a family history of cancer. "It was absolute craziness. Women were trying to get at this test," recalled Metcalfe, an adjunct scientist at the Women's College Research Institute.

The research study, initially slated to test 2,000 women, added an additional 4,000 spots to accommodate the demand.

In a paper published in *Current Oncology* last summer, Metcalfe, the lead author, reported that 38 per cent of the women who tested positive for one of the three most common mutations had no family history that would have merited screening under the current guidelines.

The women's reactions to learning they carried the mutation, often without any inkling of trouble beforehand, were rapid. Within one year of testing positive, all of the women had more intensive MRI breast screening. Within two years, 90 per cent had undergone a prophylactic oophorectomy (surgical removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes), which is recommended because ovarian cancer is notoriously hard to detect until it is quite advanced. The surgery also reduces the risk of breast cancer.

The more intensive breast screening also caught cancer in some women earlier than it would have otherwise been detected.

"We identified women that would never have been identified. Because those women were identified before they had cancer, they did something with the test information," Metcalfe said in an interview. "I think we saved lives."

Natalie Witkin

Natalie Witkin was 30 when she learned she carried a BRCA mutation in 2000, just a few years after the genetic mutations were discovered by researchers in the United States and Canada. She was encouraged to be tested after a cousin developed breast cancer.

"Finding the mutation and learning about the mutation is a loss of innocence. It's a piece of information you can't unknow," she said.

"I'm glad that I know. At first it was certainly very difficult to find out. It weighed on me for months," she said.

Witkin did not know anyone outside her family in the same situation, and support groups only existed for people with a cancer diagnosis, not a genetic finding. It would be more than a decade before the most famous face of genetic testing, actor Angelina Jolie, would reveal that she, too, carried the faulty gene and had undergone a preventative mastectomy.

Witkin eventually started a support group for women like herself, and today, she's the director of partnerships and programs at Willow, Breast and Hereditary Cancer Support.

"In the end, I felt empowered and lucky to be able to take control of the outcome," she said.

"If I hadn't known [about the BRCA mutation], I would have woken up in my 40s with advanced cancer and then have very limited choices. "

The screening project at Women's College Hospital has since concluded, and women who want the test but do not meet the criteria can arrange for it privately, at a cost of about $500, Metcalfe said.

The study also demonstrated that it would save not only lives but also money. Each test costs researchers about $100, so the cost of finding the one woman in a hundred who carries the mutation is about $10,000.

The cost of surgery, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy for a woman with breast or ovarian cancer exceeds that, Metcalfe said.

Eventually, she would like genetic testing to be routine for Jewish men and women, since men who carry one of the BRCA mutations have a higher incidence of prostate and pancreatic cancer. A positive test for a man also has implications for his children, who may have inherited the mutation.

In the meantime, Metcalfe said it's just a matter of time before the test is offered routinely to Jewish women.

"We need to take small steps, this isn't trivial in terms of the cost. If we're going to be lobbying the government to expand testing, the first step is probably to women." ■

Exhibit highlights history of St. Catharines' Jewish community

ABIGAIL CUKIER
Special to The CJN

Visitors to the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre are getting a look at the history of the city's Jewish community.

An exhibit titled *B'nai Israel – The First Synagogue* opened in January and is on display until the end of the year. It includes photographs and artifacts detailing more than 150 years of history.

While visiting the museum last summer, B'nai Israel member Pearl Katzman noticed a lot of space in the windows and thought of the idea to share some Judaica. When the museum curator agreed, Katzman and a group of volunteers got to work researching and collecting artifacts.

"One window has artifacts, including a Torah, a shofar, something from all of the holidays," said Katzman. "The other shows our community involvement over more than 100 years, including articles and photographs.

The collection is on display to the end of 2016.

"It has been very well received. There is a lot of excitement about the history."

The congregation's first services were held some time around 1865 at the home of Phillip Ginsberg on Church Street, and later in facilities rented on Niagara Street. In 1902, a house was purchased for $3,500 at Church and Calvin streets to be the first permanent synagogue building. In 1923, ground was broken at the current location on Calvin Street. Construction was completed in 1925 at a cost of $ 26,500.

Originally an Orthodox synagogue, B'nai Israel has been a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for 30 years. It is the only Conservative egalitarian synagogue in Niagara Region and has a membership of about 150 families.

"Of course we were interested in this exhibit," said Kathleen Powell, the museum's curator and supervisor of historical services. "We like to be able to tell as many of the stories of St. Catharines history as possible. The reception to the exhibit has been excellent so far. We expect as our busier season approaches that the exhibit will get even more attention. Even more than that, this exhibit has provided the museum the opportunity to connect with a new partner in the community, which only serves to make what we do richer."

Katzman remembers the day she received a phone call from the museum. Amid archives and items in the museum basement, staff members were excited to find a seder plate that a former rebbetzin had given to the city.

"This exhibit is important because it is our responsibility as the keeper of the community's heritage to be able to tell all the stories of our community," Powell said. ■

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

Will Istanbul bombing bring Turkey and Israel together?

Raphael Ahren
JERUSALEM

Will Saturday's devastating terror attack in Istanbul lead to an improvement in bilateral ties between Ankara and Jerusalem?

Those looking for a silver lining to the tragic event March 19 in which three Israeli civilians were killed can point to the smooth co-operation and the sympathetic messages exchanged by officials from both countries. But while several signals indicate that some sort of detente is in the offing, experts on Israel-Turkey ties warn that a full-fledged reconciliation might still not be around the corner.

The co-ordination between Israeli and Turkish officials dealing with the immediate aftermath of the attack in Istanbul was excellent, according to people on the ground.

"The Health Ministry, Prime Minister's Office, the hospitals – even the funeral homes were amazing," said diplomat Shira Ben Tzion, who was in charge of Israel's Istanbul consulate at the time of the attack. "We are used to hostility on the streets," she told *Yedioth Ahronoth*, "but in this case, from the moment we said we're from the Israeli Consulate, they embraced us straight away and treated us nicely."

Even on a much higher level, Saturday's attack seemed to bring the two sides closer together. That evening, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received a letter of condolence from his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu, a man not usually know for his high regard for Israel's current political leadership.

"Today's attack in Istanbul has shown us once again that the international community as a whole should act in a resolute manner against the ignoble objectives of terrorist organizations," Davutoglu wrote. "I would like to convey my condolences to the families of the Israeli citizens who lost their lives in the heinous attack which happened in Istanbul and to the people of Israel, and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded."

Davutoglu's missive came less than one week after Netanyahu condemned a large-scale terror attack in Ankara, expressing "solidarity with the Turkish people in the war against terrorism."

Israeli soldiers carry the coffins holding the Israelis killed in the terror attack in Istanbul, Turkey on March 19. AMIT ELYAKAM/IDF PHOTO

The statement was newsworthy because Netanyahu had refrained from speaking out on previous attacks rocking Turkish cities, reportedly due to his anger at Ankara's refusal to condemn the wave of terror currently rocking Israel.

When Irem Aktas, a member of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party, tweeted on Saturday that she wished for the death of the Israelis wounded in the attack, the party quickly initiated disciplinary proceedings against her.

"These are all things that we haven't seen before in bilateral relations," said Nimrod Goren, a Turkey expert at Hebrew University.

"The level of co-operation, on a working level but also on a diplomatic level, is more intense that it had been in the past. And apparently it's going quite well; so far we've heard no complaints from one side about the other," Goren said.

That fact that Aktas' hateful tweet was quickly and forcefully rejected by higher-ups in Erdogan's party indicates that verbal attacks against Israel are being delegitimized in today's Turkey, Goren added. "All of these developments together form a picture showing open lines of communication and that Turkey is trying to project a better atmosphere," he said.

> *We are trying to reach an understanding with [Turkey]*
>
> **Benjamin Netanyahu**

And yet, this cautious rapprochement by no means guarantees that Jerusalem and Ankara will soon finalize a reconciliation agreement and fully normalize diplomatic ties, he believes. "There are concrete disagreements before it can be signed, and they are not removed by the most recent events. But what this development does achieve is creating a more relaxed atmosphere to conduct these negotiations in."

Addressing reporters Saturday night, Netanyahu reiterated that Israel is constantly trying to reach an agreement that will lead to normalization of ties with the Turks. "This matter is being delayed not because of frivolous reasons," he said, "but because of fundamental issues about which we are trying to reach an understanding with them. There was a certain progress, and I hope that it will continue."

Netanyahu is referring to Gaza – Ankara requests Israel lift its naval blockade of the Strip, which Israel opposes adamantly – as well as Jerusalem's concern over senior Hamas leaders based in Turkey. Israel demands Turkey prevent any Hamas activity from its territory as a precondition to normalization.

Indeed, an overly hurried reconciliation might not necessarily be in Israel's best interest, argued Efrat Aviv, a Turkey expert at Bar-Ilan University.

During a recent visit to Turkey, Israeli diplomats told her that the status quo is actually not so bad. Trade relations are good, she explained, tourism is up, and Israel is participating in cultural festivals in Turkey and generally has little to complain about. "Why do we need to pay the price and give in to Turkey's demands to improve ties, given Turkey's current volatile state?"

She said there's no need to rush into signing a reconciliation agreement. "Maybe it's not nice to take advantage of another country's weak situation, but we need to look out for our national interests. Turkey is struggling with terrorism and we could help them. Turkey thus needs us more than we need them. The way things are today, it is not in Israel's strategic interest to rush to fix ties with Turkey."

While Erdogan is keenly interested in restoring ties with Israel, Aviv continued, he is giving Israel few reasons to believe he is sincere about true reconciliation. "If tomorrow there's another war with Hamas, will he again say that we're worse than Hitler? Why do we rush to normalize relations with a country that supports Hamas, promotes anti-Semitism and terrorism?"

Eventually, she allowed, restoring full diplomatic ties is desirable. "But let us take some time. Let's build up bilateral relations slowly. Let them prove that they are really interested in reconciliation. Let's first see a real change in their behaviour."

The Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Canadian rabbis hope to fill shuls with Trump refugees

SHODIE JEWPAC
STAFF PURIM HUMOURIST

In an effort to boost flagging attendance at their shuls, hundreds of Canadian rabbis spanning the denominational spectrum have signed an open letter inviting U.S. Jews to join their congregations if "the s--t hits the fan" and Donald Trump is elected president of the United States.

"You scratch our backs, we'll scratch yours. New American blood could be just what we need," the letter reads.

In a move the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA), representing 1,000 Orthodox rabbis, referred to in a press release as "unprecedented, but, we get it," close to 400 rabbis – including a significant number of American expatriates, according to a quick Google search – came together in a show of solidarity with Jews south of the border who will likely be voting for Hillary Clinton.

The March 16 letter represented a cross-section of congregations, from Orthodox to Reconstructionist and was penned by a group describing itself as "a bunch of concerned clergy." Posted on an open petition site, it featured the signatures of 387 rabbis and spiritual leaders from British Columbia to Newfoundland, as well as one from St. Pierre and Miquelon, an archipelago off Newfoundland that an RCA spokesperson said "he wasn't convinced actually exists."

Loosely addressed to "American Jews who fear Trump and the mesmerizing power of his comb-over" and circulated widely on social media, the letter calls on U.S. Jews who oppose Trump's politics and "general, but definitely not cute, wackiness" to "go ahead and jump ship to Canada" if the Republican frontrunner is elected and, once here, to "consider themselves welcome at the Canadian synagogue of their choosing."

It further reads: "With the U.S. presidential election this fall following close on the heels of the High Holidays, what better time to relocate to Canada and settle into the rhythm of a new shul?"

The clergy want to boost Shabbat attendance with an appeal to U.S. Jews DAVID HERRERA PHOTO

With a nod to Trump's recent primary victory in Florida – which the letter called "the retirement home of our people" – the rabbis acknowledge that some American Jews do appear to be Trump supporters, but they stress that anyone concerned about leaving the United States and settling in a new, foreign land with "strange, vaguely socialist tendencies" shouldn't have to add "the stress of finding a new spot to daven" to their list of worries.

One of the signatories, Rabbi Daniela Godenstein-Baum of Burnaby, B.C.'s Reform synagogue Kehilat Neshama, told *The CJN* she first learned about the letter on Twitter and subsequently heard "from a colleague" that the individuals who authored it wished to remain anonymous.

"I was excited to see rabbis from all over the country banding together on such an important issue. But more importantly, there aren't a lot of Jews in Burnaby. Not to be crass, but we could use some extra tushes in the pews on Rosh Hashanah," she said.

Rabbi Noah Moskowitz-Chandler of Shaarei Shaul, a modern Orthodox synagogue in Toronto, said that "our American brothers and sisters should rest assured they will, if that meshugene Trump gets elected, have a welcoming place to daven and observe a rich and meaningful Jewish life."

Rabbi Moskowitz-Chandler believes the Americans will likely integrate quickly.

"These people aren't voting for Trump, so they're probably not going to bring their guns to shul, in case that was a concern."

Rabbi Jonathan Steinberg-Greenberg of Montreal's Conservative Shaarei Gold, said he chose to sign the letter out of "deep sympathy for Americans contemplating uprooting their lives to avoid being governed by what a madman."

"And I don't mean Bernie," he added.

He was further motivated by his personal ties to the United States.

"I'm a rabbi. I'm from Cleveland," he droned, adding, "It's fine here. The bagels are sub-par, but it's ultimately fine."

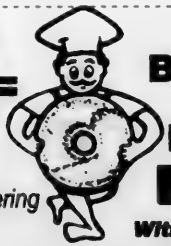
Ma'ayan Goldwater, another signatory and spiritual leader of Montreal's unaffiliated Congregation Yonah, said her vaguely humanist community has always "provided a safe space for people to enrich their Jewish spiritual practice in whatever way nourishes them."

That includes, she said, Americans who decide to flee Trump's America, "Jewish, not Jewish, whatever."

She added: "Americans, we welcome you to our congregations with open arms via our wide open borders."

A spokesperson for Immigration Canada subsequently clarified that Canada's borders are not, in fact, wide open – "even," she said, "to Americans." ■

BAGEL PLUS
Bakery, Restaurant & Catering



BUY 6 BAGELS... GET 6 BAGELS FREE!*
With presentation of this coupon!
*Excluding Gluten Free bagels

634 Sheppard Avenue West 416-635-9988

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.

CHW passionately supports programs and services for **Children, Healthcare**, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

When you give to CHW you're funding life-changing programs that help thousands of children, women, and families grow and thrive.
Together we can build a better future for those who depend on us in Israel and Canada.
With your help,
CHW is Giving Hope and Creating Opportunities.
Make a gift today.

TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE
416.630.8373
www.chw.ca/toronto
info@toronto.chw.ca
www.facebook.com/CHWToronto

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Digital Partner
CBC Wood Gundy | The Ansky-Coulson Group
CHW Children Healthcare Women

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 24, 2016

The Jewish life of Supreme Court nominee Garland

URIEL HEILMAN
JTA, WASHINGTON

Merrick Garland

Americans have heard a lot about Merrick Garland since U.S. President Barack Obama nominated him to fill the vacant seat on the Supreme Court. But there's a lot we still don't know.

What are his views on abortion? Will the Republican leadership give him a hearing in the Senate? What was his bar mitzvah Torah portion?

Garland may have an extensive judicial record – he has more federal judicial experience (19 years) than any other Supreme Court nominee in history, according to the White House – but far less is known about Garland's Jewish bona fides.

Here's what we do know:

He is proud of his family's Jewish immigrant story – enough so to cite it in his speech at the announcement of his nomination March 16 in the White House Rose Garden.

"My family deserves much of the credit for the path that led me here," Garland said. "My grandparents left the Pale of Settlement at the border of western Russia and eastern Europe in the early 1900s, fleeing anti-Semitism and hoping to make a better life for their children in America."

His father, Cyril Garland, was born in Omaha, Neb., but hailed from a Latvian Jewish immigrant family. He ran an advertising business out of the family home and died in 2000. Garland's mother, Shirley Garland, still lives in the Chicago area and at one point served as director of volunteer services at the Council for Jewish Elderly in Chicago.

Garland was raised in Lincolnwood, a heavily Jewish suburb of Chicago, and had his bar mitzvah at a Conservative synagogue. Garland has credited his parents with instilling in him the desire for public service.

"His Jewish tradition is one of service," Jamie Gorelick, who went to college with Garland and worked closely with him in the Justice Department, told the *New York Times*. Gorelick was the U.S. deputy attorney general from 1994 to 1997.

At Niles West High School in Skokie, Ill., Garland served as student council president, acted in theatrical plays and was voted "most intelligent" boy in the class of 1970, the *Times* reported.

When Garland started as an undergraduate at Harvard University, where he was on scholarship, he thought he wanted to be a doctor and initially entered a pre-med track. But he quickly changed focus and settled on another respectable Jewish path: lawyer. After graduating Harvard College, he went on to Harvard Law School.

Garland's wife, Lynn Rosenman, is a fellow Jewish Harvard graduate who hails from a distinguished family. Her grandfather, Samuel Rosenman of New York, was a state Supreme Court justice and a special counsel to two presidents: Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Garland and his wife met at a rehearsal dinner where they were seated together. They married in 1987 in a Jewish ceremony at the Harvard Club in New York presided over by a Reform rabbi, Charles Lippman.

The couple settled in the Washington, D.C. area and there raised two daughters, both now in their 20s. Garland and his wife live in Bethesda, Md., and are members of Temple Sinai, a 1,100-member Reform congregation in Washington led by Rabbi Jonathan Roos. Both the Garland daughters, Rebecca and Jessica, reportedly had their bat mitzvahs there.

The Garlands have hosted some distinguished guests for their Passover seders. In 1996, then-U.S. attorney general Janet Reno was a seder guest. She and Garland had to step away from the table at one point to take a phone call regarding the investigation into Ted Kaczynski, the so-called Unabomber, who was arrested on Passover eve. Garland oversaw Kaczynski's prosecution.

Garland also has hosted Easter egg hunts – part of an annual potluck breakfast he holds for his former clerks and their spouses and children, according to the *Washington Post*.

The judge has worked in a variety of roles since moving to Washington, D.C., in the 1970s. He started as a court clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court before joining the law firm Arnold & Porter. After just a few years, Garland gravitated toward government work, first working as an assistant U.S. attorney and later as a deputy assistant attorney general in the criminal division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Then president Bill Clinton nominated Garland to be a U.S. circuit court judge in 1995, but the Republican-controlled Senate dragged its feet on confirming him. After Clinton won re-election in 1996 he renominated Garland, and the judge was confirmed in March 1997 by a 76-23 vote in the Senate.

Jay Michaelson, a rabbi and columnist for *The Daily Beast* and the *Jewish Daily Forward* who clerked for Garland on the Appeals Court in the late 1990s, said Garland's Jewish identity is typical of that of many American Jews.

"My sense is he wasn't super religious or observant but very culturally Jewish – like a lot of American Jews," Rabbi Michaelson told *JTA*. "I think the immigrant experience and Jewish ethical values would be the two most important aspects of his Jewish identity."

Rabbi Michaelson remembered talking with the judge about needing to take off four days for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The two had a joking exchange about it, and Garland of course gave him the days off, Rabbi Michaelson said.

"My experience clerking for him is that he was very methodical, detailed and sharp," Rabbi Michaelson said. "He was extremely detail-oriented, determined, nerdy in a good way and quite meticulous."

The White House released a three-minute biographical video on Garland this week.

"I think the rule of law is what distinguishes our country from most other countries," Garland says in the video. "It's people's willingness to trust that they don't have to take justice into their own hands, that law will treat people fairly and impartially, and without regard to politics or religion or race or anything else."

The two elements of Garland's biography that have generated the most attention since Obama nominated him to the Supreme Court have nothing to do with his Jewishness.

One is that he's a relative moderate compared to other potential jurists a Democratic president could have nominated. The other is that he is 63 – relatively old by Supreme Court nominee standards. That makes it less likely he will serve a long term on the court.

Both elements are being seen as concessions to make Obama's pick more palatable to Senate Republicans – or at least make it harder for them to refuse him a hearing. So far, the Republican leadership has vowed not to bring Garland's nomination to a vote before the November presidential election.

The fact that Garland is a Jewish, male, white Harvard graduate is tertiary. The court is already stacked with those: Of the eight sitting justices, five are men, six are white, three are Jews and all eight went to law school either at Harvard or Yale University. (Ruth Bader Ginsburg graduated from Columbia University after transferring there from Harvard.) If confirmed, Garland would be the court's ninth-ever Jewish judge.

"We're on the one hand super proud that we have a Reform Jew who is being nominated to the Supreme Court. It's a wonderful affirmation of this jurist," said Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Rabbi Pesner noted that his friends at Temple Sinai are "ecstatic" about one of their own being nominated to the highest court in the land. "On the other hand," Pesner said, "we believe of course that faith should never be a litmus test for office." ●

Biden calls Israeli, Palestinian apathy 'disappointing'

JTA
WASHINGTON

Israelis and Palestinians must revive their will for peace, U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden told AIPAC in a speech that earned thunderous applause for emotional expressions of affection for Israel and scattered boos for criticism of settlements.

Biden's speech Sunday March 20 to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee annual conference will be his last as a public official to the Israel lobby, and the cheers he earned throughout reflect his status as the Obama administration official most loved by the pro-Israel community.

"There is a lack of political will among Israelis and Palestinians to move forward," Biden said he concluded from his talks with both sides during his trip to Israel earlier this month. "And that's incredibly disappointing."

In describing the conditions behind the loss of will for peacemaking, Biden emphasized repeatedly the need for Palestinians and others in the Arab world to end incitement.

"No matter what the disagreements the Palestinian people may have with Israel, there is no excuse for killing innocents or remaining silent in the face of terrorism," Biden said to the record-breaking 18,000 activists in attendance.

He said he delivered that message to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, earning the conference's first standing ovation. "The terrorism has to stop, the incitement ... it must stop," said Biden, who, at 73, jogged onto the stage, but whose voice was hoarse.

A good portion of his speech was devoted to condemning terrorism and incitement, and to warning the Palestinians not to seek statehood unilaterally, but Biden also said Israel too should refrain from acts that would scuttle a peace plan.

He cited "steady and systematic" settlement expansion and the sanctioning of illegal settlement outposts under the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The remarks earned Biden a scattering of boos from across the cavernous hall.

Biden tied anti-Semitism, particularly in Europe, to the "seemingly organized" effort to delegitimize Israel, condemning the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement against the country to the rising tide of anti-Semitism.

> *There is no excuse for killing innocents or remaining silent in the face of terrorism.*

"No nation is immune from criticism, but it should not be singled out," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Republican front-runner Donald Trump reiterated his claim to be the most pro-Israel person while pledging to outline his vision for a "good" peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians in his address at AIPAC the next day.

Speaking to ABC's *The Week* the day before his scheduled AIPAC appearance, Trump said a peace agreement with the Palestinians is in Israel's interest and maintained that if he wins the presidency, "I'm going to be giving that a very good shot.

"There is no one more pro-Israel than I am," said Trump. "I think making a deal would be in Israel's interest."

The presidential hopeful said all the Jews he knows are in favour of a peace accord, but a "good deal, not an Obama-type deal.

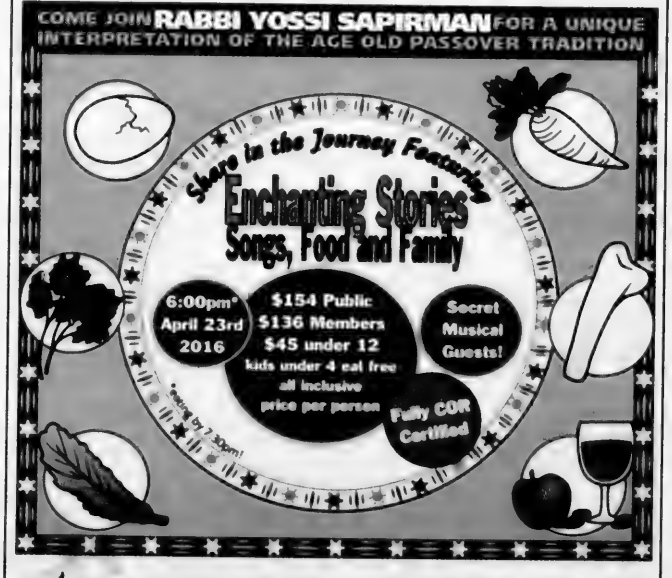
"I'll tell you what, I don't know one Jewish person that doesn't want to have a deal. A good deal. A proper deal. But a really good deal. But I would say it's probably one of the toughest deals... in the world to make, because there's just so many decades of hatred between the two sides," he said.

"I think it's something we should try very hard to get," he added.

During the interview, Trump said he would outline what a "good deal" means in his address at the pro-Israel conference. *The CJN* went to press before he addressed the conference.

Republican candidates Ted Cruz and John Kasich were also scheduled to address the three-day conference, as will Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. Citing his campaign schedule, other Democratic Party hopeful Bernie Sanders said he would not address the conference. ■

Beth Torah's Best Passover Seder Ever!


COME JOIN RABBI YOSSI SAPIRMAN FOR A UNIQUE INTERPRETATION OF THE AGE OLD PASSOVER TRADITION
Share in the Journey Featuring
Enchanting Stories
Songs, Food and Family
6:00pm* April 23rd 2016
$154 Public
$136 Members
$45 under 12
kids under 4 eat free
all inclusive price per person
Secret Musical Guests!
Fully COR Certified
*seating by 7:30pm!

Call (416) 782 4495 ext. 27 or email admin@bethtorah.ca
For Tickets to a Magical and Unforgettable Experience!

Beth Torah Congregation 47 Glenbrook Avenue Toronto, Ontario M4B 2L7
phone (416) 782 4495 bethtorah.ca (416) 782 4496 fax

Weizmann Canada mourns the loss of
dear friend, successful businessman and philanthropist

Thomas Beck Z"L

An inspirational leader and founding member of Weizmann Canada, Tom was a member of the International Board of the Weizmann Institute of Science, where he served on the Executive Council, Executive Committee and in the role of Deputy Chair of the Board.

Tom was President of Weizmann Canada and, in recognition of his leadership, received many honours from the organization and the Institute.

Along with his wife Mary, he supported countless projects at the Weizmann Institute, including research in alternative energy and complex systems.

Tom was a modest, graceful man with an incredible spirit. He was an inspiration to those who knew him. He will be sadly missed.

On behalf of Weizmann Canada's Board of Directors and team, we would like to extend our profound condolences to Tom's wife, Mary, his children, Cathy (Laurence), Liddy (Steven), Anthony (Laura), his grandchildren and the entire family.

WEIZMANN CANADA

Heavyweights address conference on anti-Semitism

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

If you can judge the weight politicians give an issue by their participation in conferences, then western parliamentarians consider manifestations of anti-Semitism of grave concern.

From March 13 to 15 in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivered an address to the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA). She was joined at the conference by the country's justice minister, as well as representatives of all the country's political parties.

The fact the gathering – the third after similar conferences in the United Kingdom (2009) and Canada (2010) – was held in Germany was "important symbolically and substantially," said Irwin Cotler, the former Canadian justice minister who was instrumental in creating the ICCA.

"It was a very representative and compelling expression of German leadership," he added.

Speaking March 14 to more than 100 legislators from some 40 countries, Merkel said "Anti-Semitism and other prejudices have no place in our society."

"If gravestones are defaced, then our country itself is defaced. If synagogues are vandalized, this shakes the foundations of our free society," Merkel said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel
PCAA FOUNDATION/OLI SANDLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Cotler noted that the event was held 80 years after the German parliament enacted the Nuremberg race laws, which targeted Jews, adding to its significance.

He said a "common theme" that ran through the conference was that "anti-Semitism is the oldest and most enduring of hatreds, and most lethal, and it is rearing its ugly head again today."

What's more, parliamentarians recognize that Israel has emerged as a target of anti-Semites as a "Jew among the nations."

Cotler, who recently founded the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, said Merkel's address was particularly powerful. She condemned anti-Semitism and pledged that Germany will combat it by all means necessary.

According to news reports, Merkel said demonstrators who call for the destruction of Israel are simply "giving vent to hatred of Jews." In so doing, they "abuse the fundamental rights in our country to freedom of association and expression."

As part of the conference, Cotler chaired a panel on the legal response to anti-Semitism. The justice ministers of Israel, Germany, Britain and Australia participated, while Ana Birchall, chair of the committee on European affairs of the chamber of deputies of Romania, was the panel respondent.

Israeli Apartheid Week and the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement were specifically addressed by the panel, and Michael Gove, Britain's secretary of state for justice, noted that the United Kingdom will not provide public funds to bodies calling for BDS targeting Israel, Cotler said.

Jewish News Online reported from Britain that Gove pointed out that, "Jews still live in fear" of modern manifestations of anti-Semitism.

"In the Middle Ages, anti-Semitism was focused on the religious identity of Jewish people... Today, it targets the collective identity of the Jewish People," he said.

Cotler said parliamentarians left the conference recognizing the need to adopt a common definition of anti-Semitism. Current "developed indices" refer to claims of Jewish power and control over the media, but new indices are needed for more contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism, he said.

Cotler suggested "genocidal anti-Semitism," such as the Iranian call to eliminate Israel and the demonization of Israel through accusations of apartheid and racism, should be accepted as part of the definition.

Adopting a common definition could lead to more effective information gathering, monitoring and law enforcement while providing a tool when approaching Internet service providers (ISPs) over concerns Internet users are violating an ISP's code of conduct, he said. ■

With files from JTA

MARK NEYMAN/GPO PHOTO

Former Mossad head buried

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lays a wreath at the funeral of former Mossad director Meir Dagan on March 20. Dagan, who headed Israel's foreign intelligence and special operations organization for nearly a decade until 2011, died March 17 in a Tel Aviv hospital following a long battle with cancer. He was 71. He served as a national security adviser to Israel's former prime minister Ariel Sharon, who appointed him director-general of Mossad in August 2002. Netanyahu said Dagan was a "daring fighter and commander who greatly contributed to the security of the state."

Arson not cause of fire in Duma home

JTA
JERSUALEM

Arson was not the cause of a fire that damaged the Duma home of a key witness in a deadly attack last year in the same West Bank Palestinian village, police believe.

Ibrahim Dawabsheh, the owner of the house, and his wife escaped from the burning home early on the morning of March 20 and were treated in a West Bank hospital for smoke inhalation, the Palestinian *Maan* news agency reported.

He is the key witness to the July 2015 attack that killed his relatives Reham and Saad Dawabsheh, and their 18-month-old son, Ali Saad, and seriously injured Ali's older brother. Ibrahim Dawabsheh is testifying in the murder trial of the suspected bomber, Amiram Ben-Uliel, 21, and his 17-year-old alleged accomplice.

The Israel Police and the Shin Bet security service, who are investigating the early Sunday morning fire, said in a statement issued that night that investigators have not found any indication the attack was nationalistically motivated or any evidence it was an arson attack. Some details of the investigation remain under a gag order.

"The findings so far at the scene are not consistent with the characteristics of a deliberate arson attack by Jews," the joint statement said.

Palestinian officials have said they believe the attack on the home, which is located about 10 yards from the house that was burned down last year, was arson.

A bedroom window in the house was broken, with shattered glass inside, the French news agency *AFP* reported, citing local residents.

"The window was broken from the outside and flammable materials were found in the rubble," Col. Malek Ali, fire chief for the nearby city of Nablus, told *AFP*.

Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian Authority official, told the Palestinian *Maan* news agency that it is clear Jewish settlers attacked the home.

"The way they attacked, the type of firebombs and the timing of the attack, all indicate that it was Israeli settlers," he said.

Robert Piper, the United Nations co-ordinator for humanitarian assistance and development aid, in a statement condemned what he called the "arson attack by suspected Jewish extremists."

"This violent act could easily have resulted in a more tragic outcome, as did the heinous terrorist attack last July on the home of Mr. Dawabsheh's relatives in the same village," he said. ■

Jewish Life

SPORTS | MUSIC | TELEVISION | BOO | SHAH

Teen snowboarder has his sights on the Olympics

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

There's an old joke that illustrates just what it takes to excel in an area of interest.

A guy was wandering the streets of New York City, looking for a famous building that he couldn't find. Finally he asks a stranger, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?"

"Practice," came the smart-ass retort.

Practice never hurt anybody trying to excel in music – or in sports, for that matter, as Corey Farber's recent success in snowboarding attests. Farber, a Grade 11 student at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Academy of Toronto's Richmond Hill campus, finished first in Level II of giant slalom snowboarding, the highest for his age group, at a recent competition that brought together the very best high school snowboarders in the province, under the auspices of OFSAA, the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations.

He scored top marks in the giant slalom, beating his second place challenger and he flamed out on the second of two runs, by nearly three seconds.

A week later, Farber finished ninth in the Snowboard Ontario PSL Provincial Championship, competing in the open category against guys years older than himself.

And next week he's slated to compete in the Alpine and SBX Nationals in Quebec.

All that success didn't just happen. Farber, 16, loves his sport and dedicates lots of time and energy to it. On weekends he spends much of two days on the slopes of Blue Mountain, training with the other members of the Alpine Ski Club.

Back at CHAT, he works out with the help of his gym teacher, focusing on balance and strengthening his core. He's got a gym in his home and once a week a trainer shows up and puts him through his paces, working on leg strength, core and conditioning.

Now in his third year of competitive snowboarding, Farber has seen the hard work pay off. Besides winning the OFSAA event, his ninth place finishes at the provincials, in both slalom and giant slalom, marked a significant improvement over his results last year, when he finished 14th.

"That's a pretty big leap," he said.

Slalom and giant slalom races take place over courses of the same length, though there are more gates to navigate in slalom races. There were 20 gates to passing the OFSAA giant slalom and he did it in around 36 seconds, going past a gate just about every two seconds.

That's where the experience of previous competitions comes in, Farber said. Every course is different, conditions can vary and so you've got to make corrections as conditions dictate. You've got to feel your way around the course, keep your head up and look ahead at least a gate or two. "You can't be late on the turns," he said.

When he first started with the sport, "it was a little nerve-racking to turn the board," he said. "As the years go on, you get more experienced and learn how races work and what you should do. It really is in technique. The smallest of errors can cost you the entire race."

Farber got his start on the slopes at seven years of age. After a couple of years on skis, he switched to snowboards. "It's new, so all the kids want to try it... We thought it was much cooler."

As Farber vaults into provincial and national levels, he finds the sport takes him further and further afield. He's skied competitively in events in Colorado, British Columbia and across the province.

But why stop there? Last year, he missed out on making the junior national team by 25 points. He figures he could make up that difference by improving his performance in as little as three races. Once on the national team, the sky's the limit.

"I've always wanted to go to the Olympics. It would be just amazing if I could represent Canada," he said.

And unlike the guy looking for Carnegie Hall, he knows how to get there – through practice. ■

Corey Farber out on the snow, top, and at the OFSAA event, he's pictured in the middle, inset.

Aspaklaria

THE ODDS

SUPPORT ISRAEL. EXPERIENCE SUPERIOR THEATRE. PLAY THE ODDS.

Sunday, April 3
at 8 pm

spotlight

YITZ'S

SELECT FROM OUR HOLIDAY MENUS
OR CREATE YOUR OWN FROM
OUR HOLIDAY FOODS

346 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-487-4506 • 1-800-283-1943

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

MENU #1

Sweet & Sour Meat Balls
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Lockshen Pudding
Potato Pudding
Carrot Tzimmes
Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Mandlebrot
Seder Plate
Charoses

$329.00 for 10 people

MENU #2

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Carrot Tzimmes
Cole Slaw
Lemon Roll
Macaroons
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$369.00 for 10 people

MENU #3

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borscht
Roast Turkey Breast (precarved)
Farfel & Mushrooms
Candied Yams
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw
Fresh Fruit Salad
Passover Cookies
Seder Plate
Charoses

Instead of menu
Only 20¢ Lat per person

$215.00 for 5 people

MENU #4

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Veal
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$220.00 for 5 people

MENU #5

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Green Beans Almondine
Lockshen Pudding
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$199.00 for 5 people

MENU #6

Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Poached Salmon
Pan Roasted Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Lockshen Pudding
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$195.00 for 5 people

Additional Items

MEAT DISHES
Roast Turkeys
Turkey Breast
Cornish Hens
Chopped Liver
Cabbage Rolls
Veal Roast
Flanken in Borscht
Roast Duck
Lemon Chicken Breast
BBQ Chicken Wings
Honey Garlic Wings
Chicken Fingers
Knishes -Potato or Beef
Kishke
Meat Kreplach

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetarian Loaf
Matzo Lasagna
Stir Fry Vegetables
Grilled Vegetables
Apple Farfel Pudding
Farfel & Mushrooms
Potato Latkes
Green Beans Almondine
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Handmade Egg Noodles
Seder Plates
Charoses

SALADS
Cole Slaw
Pickled Beets
Tossed Salad
Cucumber Salad

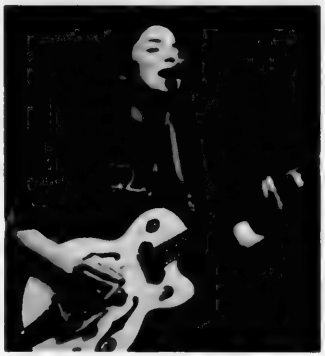
FISH
Poached Salmon
Sweet Gefilte Fish
Salt & Pepper Gefilte Fish

DESSERTS
Apple Flan
Chocolate Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Chocolate Lemon Roll
Fresh Fruit Salad
Honey Cake
Macaroons
Mandlebrot
Mocca Cake
Passover Cookies

CHAG SAME'ACH from YITZ'S

Heartbeat graduates play debut show in Toronto

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca



Rasha Nahas

The nature of collaborating musically is such that people need to listen to each other, explained Aaron Shneyer, founder and director of Heartbeat, an Israeli non-profit that since 2007 has brought Israeli and Palestinian youth musicians together to play music and build mutual trust and understanding.

"That's something unique to our program that other dialogue programs don't have. That skill [of listening to each other] is then translated into the youths' relationships and conversations," Shneyer, who's based in Washington, D.C., said.

On March 28, two Heartbeat graduates, Israeli Dana Herz and Palestinian Rasha Nahas – both professional musicians – will perform alongside Shneyer at Toronto's Small World Music Centre, followed by a conversation about the organization.

The concert is part of a North American tour designed to engage local Canadian and U.S. communities in the work done by Heartbeat, which is primarily funded through donations and grants from North America, and hopefully to garner the financial support to expand it. Heartbeat's core initiative, currently taking place in Haifa and Jerusalem, brings together ensembles of musically inclined Israeli and Palestinian high school students who, for two years, meet for weekly, music-based dialogue sessions.

"Each high school chapter really identifies itself as a band. They're building a repertoire and working on the same sort of personal dynamics that you'd find in any group of friends or musicians," Shneyer said.

After graduating from college, Shneyer, 32, got involved with American peace-building organization Seeds of Peace, first working as a music counsellor at its international summer camp in Maine, and subsequently doing work for it in Tel Aviv and Ramallah.

"As powerful as that work was, I was yearning for a way to do more with music and to explore how it empowers people to make change," he said.

In the spring of 2007, he received a grant from Fulbright in partnership with MTV for his proposal to start a band made up of 12 Israeli and Palestinian high school students from west and east Jerusalem. "The plan was for them to explore music together and learn about each other's backgrounds, and about music as a tool for education," Shneyer said.

The pilot band worked together for nine months before performing a finale concert that he said drew 300 people.

"It seemed too powerful and exciting to stop there, so we kept going," he said.

Nine years later, each chapter – typically comprising 8 to 12 students, split evenly between Israelis and Palestinians – is guided by an Israeli and a Palestinian staff member trained in music and dialogue facilitation.

"The staff is able to alternate where needed between spoken dialogue between the students, wherein they put their instruments aside, and musical workshops that improve the kids' ability to create music," Shneyer noted.

Heartbeat also offers a graduate program to students who have completed the high school track. In it they develop leadership and activism skills, and take what they've learned into their communities.

Shneyer said about 100 youth participants have been through Heartbeat's programs. They typically come from diverse musical backgrounds, with interests ranging "from classical to hip hop to jazz to heavy metal… some who come have never written a song before, and some are studying composition."

He said that "negotiating between different musical styles" is a key component of each band's bonding process.

"Our work is really about equalizing spaces, because these sorts of spaces don't exist… in these youths' daily lives. We're trying to challenge that status quo and get young people from both sides to see each other as equals, to confront the social evasion of each other [that's encouraged of them]," he said.

Shneyer said each group typically has an initial period of becoming friends and building trust, during which they're often hesitant to address political issues.

"Then, when they're ready, they can raise those things with each other without it tearing the group apart, because they've created a space for compassionate listening and empathy," he said. ■

Shared personal stories open a dialogue on mental health

JORDAN ADLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

From left, Ashley Steinhauer Otto, Caroline Kassie, Carly Bennie and Lauren Kimel-Wise, of The Dialogue Projects

Every Wednesday, a first-person story is published on The Dialogue Projects TPD), a website co-founded by three Torontonians. The author of the story is typically female, and usually around the age of a university student. The subjects of the stories are anything but small: illness, suffering, psychological confusion, substance abuse.

The tales are raw, but the reactions from an online community are swift. Shared on social media sites like Facebook, these stories receive a torrent of positive comments. They educate others about personal struggle, while offering a helpful resource to those who may be suffering in silence.

The writers are doing much to add a voice to a subject worthy of immense dialogue: living with mental health difficulties.

Their columns are a weekly staple for The Dialogue Projects (note the plural). The social enterprise wants to end the stigmas and stereotypes surrounding mental illness. When someone exposes the details of a very personal challenge, and that story resonates with an audience, it encourages more people to add to the conversation.

"When people feel like they are part of a family, part of a community, when they have something where they can identify their own experience, [the stories] start piling in like a domino effect," says Caroline Kassie, one of TDP's founders.

The backlog of stories built up instantly. Co-founder Ashley Steinhauer Otto says she and her partners never had to reach out to people they knew for personal stories. Each comes from a person yearning to reach out and share her experience.

The project began in the summer of 2014 – a season that saw much discussion over the suicide of actor Robin Williams.

"We saw that the media was finally starting to pick up on the topic of mental health," Kassie says. "It was important that the dialogue had started and we wanted to keep it going."

With their third co-founder, Carly Bennie, and the company's chief marketing officer, Lauren Kimel-Wise, the women began the social enterprise with the goal of creating a dialogue, as well as giving money to local mental health programs. A line of fashionable products was developed to raise money.

On these accessories, such as the TDP tote bag, is the organization's logo: an elephant with its trunk raised. The animal evokes the proverbial "elephant in the room" and represents how the subject of mental illness is everywhere but is too seldom discussed.

The women had 800 bags with the logo produced and distributed online. Within four months, they had sold out. (T-shirts and mini-pouches are still for sale on the TDP website.)

The organization wants to keep making limited-edition products, such as a new bag that will be available at the end of March. The revamped TDP website, set to launch in April, plans to feature two stories a week and an archive for older "Voices" stories.

TDP currently donates to centres including the Hospital for Sick Children, Baycrest, Progress Place and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. As the company grows, the founders say they hope to add more affiliate charities outside of Toronto. A recent addition was a chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in New York.

Another new alliance is with Minding Your Mind, a peer-resource program aimed to help high school and college-age students. For Kassie, university campuses are a big area of concern. She says many lack robust resources for students dealing with mental health problems.

"At my alma mater, there were six suicides in one academic year last year," Kassie says, adding that it should be imperative for schools to employ more on-site counsellors.

TDP currently has representatives at six Canadian universities working to spread awareness about the initiative with students.

In recent months, the stories from the "Voices" section have mainly come from Toronto youths and young adults. The next step is to expand to more places and reach more audiences.

"We'd like to receive more voices from different cultures, backgrounds and genders," Bennie says, noting the stories are usually from young women.

Another goal: turn this initiative into a sustainable for-profit that does good for society.

The three founders laud Bell Canada's Let's Talk Day, which also works toward shattering the stigma around mental health.

Still, they insist more needs to be done to provide resources to those in need. A page from the website claims that nearly two-thirds of people with a mental disorder will never seek help from a mental professional.

"Our long-term mission is to be the go-to place for when people are feeling alone or feeling down," Kassie says. ■

ADVERTISEMENT

Deliberate Steps, Deliberate Medicine:

Tread Carefully When Treating the Elderly

At the age of 100, my elderly aunt was intuitively aware of her declining strength. She had neither the energy nor ability to move back and forth across her apartment purposelessly. By necessity there was an economy of movement and her steps, when taken, were cautious and deliberate.

Watching my aunt helped define my approach as a doctor who works with the elderly. Medical treatments are often reflexive to medical diagnoses, but with elderly individuals in particular, physicians should be as cautious and deliberate with their decisions as my aunt was with her steps, with an implicit recognition of their frailty. Treatments should be cautious in that as a general rule of thumb the potential benefits of treatments diminish with age, while the potential harms increase. Treatments should be deliberate in that they focus on achieving stated patient goals. There is no purpose, for example, in treating a patient who is concerned primarily with maintaining quality of life with a medication that will likely diminish quality of life but offers a chance to improve longevity.

Many individuals with dementia have depleted physical, mental and emotional reservoirs, but unlike my aunt they are not intuitively aware of that frailty. Our job, as the healthcare professionals and families caring for these individuals is to recognize that frailty, work within its constraints and make cautious and deliberate medical decisions that advance the goals of our patients and loved ones.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one
onekentonplace.ca

MARK UNGER
Advisory and House Physician

Dr. Unger completed his training in Family Medicine at the University of Ottawa in 2008 where he served as chief resident. He works in both emergency medicine and as a hospitalist and holds a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto. As a hospitalist, care of the elderly is the most important component of his work and includes the management of dementia, coordinating rehabilitation efforts, establishing community care plans and guiding end of life care.

Pursue conflicts constructively instead of intimidating artists

Evelyn Tauben

The controversy around Israeli artist Achinoam Nini's (Noa) upcoming performance at Vancouver's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations is but the latest in a collection of knee-jerk reactions to left-wing politics where conservative fury foments around one particular artist or artistic project. By now the response is boilerplate.

Prompted by the ire of even a single donor, an organization declares the artist persona non grata and raises a ruckus, drawing great attention to the cause at issue. Rarely (and gratefully) is the artistic expression ever quashed; rather it usually finds an outlet, now championed as a wronged underdog. Indeed, for Noa, the show will go on despite having been vociferously maligned.

Factions on the far left equally call for artists to be uninvited to present in Canada and for the annulment of artistic projects. (Recall the 2009 rancorous TIFF focus on Tel Aviv.) At one end of the spectrum are boycotts, divestments and sanctions, and at the other end are disassociations, cancellations and withdrawal of funds. Each side aims to shut down creative expression and the free flow of ideas. While some art indeed crosses the line, "the line" is increasingly becoming a vast gulf.

Meanwhile, Jewish tradition offers a generative problem-solving model. The concept of *machloket l'shem shamayim*, literally "an argument for the sake of heaven," promotes a constructive path for disagreements.

Heading up the Jewish Council for Public Affairs' national civility campaign, Melissa Weintraub explains: "Building *machloket l'shem shamayim* [is] about creating institutional infrastructure for speaking openly about charged topics, naming and exploring our differences honestly, and doing so without attacking, dismissing or caricaturing each other. It's about teaching our stakeholders and constituents to passionately pursue a thorough understanding of those who disagree with them in order to expand and clarify their own thinking and release learning, creativity and fresh ideas."

With Passover approaching, the metaphor of the four sons comes to mind. There are Jews who are absolutely convinced that they are the *Chacham* – the one imbued with true wisdom and insight. Those self-appointed wise ones insist that those who oppose them are the *Rasha* – no good, even evil, and intent on harm. In actuality, I think our situation is degrading rapidly to where the *Tam*, the simple one, is dominating

Achinoam Nini (Noa)

the dialogue: simple solutions, simple rationale. However, the topics affecting the Jewish world (including but not limited to the situation in Israel) are far from simple, requiring nuanced thinking and multi-pronged strategies. If anything, artists can lead the way into the heart of the complexity.

Even more disconcerting than the ascendancy of the small-minded simple one is the proliferation of *She'eyno yodeya lishol* – the one who does not know to ask, the one who does not know to ask for more information or clarification. The one who does not know to question one's own biases or to unpack a decision driven by feelings rather than clear thinking. The one who does not know how to ask with keen interest for the other's perspective or evaluate the context of an action. The one who does not know how to listen deeply.

Rabbi Joel Alter of the Jewish Theological Seminary speaks of the Torah of Listening: "Listening means fully recognizing the reality of the person with whom one is in encounter. It means seeing and affirming the other's experience. It means granting that the other knows what they know for good reason, even if you know differently from your own experience."

A healthy, vibrant community does not invent evildoers, does not settle for simplistic and uninformed thinking, does not remain complacent about asking hard questions of itself and others. Rather it nurtures wisdom and creativity, approaching conflicts in a constructive manner.

Artists must not be pressured into safe stances by having their parnassah (livelihood) and their reputations threatened. Great artists spark debate. A community without lively debate and quality arts is not truly a live community. Artists are not the enemy. Simple thinking is.

For more information on Jewish frameworks for constructive conflict, visit The 9Adar Project: http://www.9adar.org/ ■

Evelyn Tauben is a producer, curator and writer in Toronto.

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System

PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS

TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439

PTP www.ptpads.com

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services

We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs

• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations

Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years

2 year warranty

WINTER SPECIAL 10% OFF*

Seniors Never Pay Tax

*on projects over $1,000. before tax.

Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

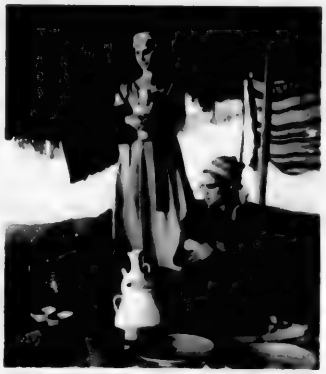
The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

CJN

Women play front and centre in new Bible series

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Igal Hecht, second from left, played Laban in the Rachel and Leah epsiode.



Debbi Levin, left, plays Rachel and Lital Luzon as Leah.

Filmmaker Igal Hecht knows men are the focal point of the Torah. That's one of the reasons he set out to make *Daughters of Eve*, a new docudrama series, which centres on extraordinary women from both the Jewish and Christian scriptures.

Take the story of Abraham and Sarah, for instance, notes Hecht while discussing his upcoming project. "Abraham is usually in the forefront," he says. "But really the story is about these two women [Sarah and Hagar] and Abraham should be taking the backseat."

Fittingly, each *Daughter of Eve* episode will follow at least one female character. Rachel and Leah get an episode, as do Deborah, Ruth and Naomi as well as Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

"The majority of the women are from the Old Testament," says Hecht. "But also, we wanted to incorporate women from the New Testament. So the show is really accessible and reaches out to people of all faiths."

Hecht first started pitching *Daughters of Eve* back in 2011. He'd read a few books about the topic, but couldn't think of a program that specifically focused on the Bible from a woman's perspective. He thought it would make a great project, and so did Yes TV, who picked it up two years later. Now, it'll finally premiere at the end of the month.

The series features commentary from notable Bible historians, such as Hebrew University professor emeritus Yair Zakovitch, as well as dramatic re-enactments.

"We brought the Bible to life in Israel," says Hecht, who moved to Canada from Israel about 30 years ago. Besides spending a few months shooting scenes in Alberta, he and his crew filmed most of the series in the Holy Land along with a huge cast of actors as well as sheep and camels.

They traveled to 11 different locations across Israel, including Nazareth, Jerusalem and to areas near the Negev Desert.

"Our crew sort of reflected the area," says Hecht. "We had Muslims, we had Christians, we had Jews working together on this program, which was really wonderful." Though, Hecht says he wasn't trying to make a political statement; he just wanted to work with the best local crew he could find.

Yet, much of Hecht's earlier films do focus on politics. That's not altogether surprising considering in 1999 he started a company called Chutzpa Productions through which he's released a wide body of work. Many of these films, like *A Universal Language* and *My Flag*, focus on both Jewish and Israeli themes.

Daughters of Eve, however, isn't under the Chutzpa banner. Rather, Hecht and Mike Wright produced it, while Keran Rees directed the entire series.

Along with producing, Hecht plays a rather central part in the Rachel and Leah episode. Since he had a long hair and a beard, he jumped in to play Laban. And he's not the only Canadian talent on-screen. In the Mary Magdalene episode, Toronto-based actor Mishka Balilty takes on the title role.

And it's the women that drive the Daughters of Eve series – that's the message Hecht hopes viewers take away from it. "It baffles me why they're always taking a backseat to the men," says Hecht. "And I think that really stuck out in every story that we explored, how powerful and how strong these women were." ■

Daughters of Eve premieres on Yes TV on March 27. www.yestv.com.

Israel Cancer Research Fund
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe.
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

LORNE'S
Timeless
Coats for Travel or any Season in Fabulous Colours and Every Size.
A Vast Selection of Lightweight Warm Down Coats and Jackets are All on Sale.
Expert Alterations on Any Coat.
LORNE'S
101 Spadina Ave, Toronto
416-596-1058
866-596-8397
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 10-6

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP
If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

Wearing costumes allows us to express ourselves freely

Laura Goldfarb

In Grade 1, I came to school one day sporting a mauve pleated skirt, a bold floral patterned blouse and a matching lilac-coloured cardigan that was detailed along its collar with thick purple fur. How proud I felt to be wearing the most stylish formal wear of 2004. I strode confidently into class expecting to see my classmates equally kitted out in their special outfits for picture day.

To my horror, only T-shirts and sweatpants met my gaze. As I stood frozen in the doorway, the giant purple rose perched atop my head fell suddenly to the ground, theatrically increasing my swell of humiliation. The classroom hummed with whispers and giggles as my peers grinned and nudged their friends to take note of the striking purple spectacle standing in the doorway like an absurd carnival statue.

Needless to say, it was not picture day.

I knelt quickly to retrieve my shameful accessory, leaving my dignity where it had fallen, and bolted to the bathroom where I burst into tears. It wasn't that I was embarrassed by my outfit, although, in retrospect I should have been. Ironically, it was that, fully dressed in my audacious picture day outfit, I felt exposed, naked even. My peers' piercing stares said: "You're wearing the wrong thing," and this stripped me completely. I wished deeply for a disguise, some sort of lucky cloak that would shield me from judgment.

Whether my later fetishes were caused by this incident or not, I can't say, but subsequently I did develop a special fondness for costumes. I enjoyed making a spectacle of myself on purpose. That way, I wouldn't do it by accident. Costumes provided a cover under which I felt happy and comfortable.

On a whim, when I was 12, my friend and I signed up to perform a bizarre comedic routine for a talent show at summer camp. As the sun went down that evening and we waited for the recital, our apprehension descended heavily upon us. We feared the stares. We feared the judgment. I fretted that I would transform back into that big purple freak as soon as I stepped onto the stage.

Attempting to alleviate our anxiety, we began playfully to apply makeup to each other's face. At first it was just to occupy our trembling hands. But it became amusing, and we started piling on more and more: green lipstick, indigo eye shadow, auburn eyebrow pencil, bright red blush. We pinned up our hair up in preposterous Cirque du Soleil curls, and swathed ourselves in layers of outlandish neon and animal prints. When it was finally time to report on stage and perform our act, we were armoured in absurdity.

We felt that our makeup and costumes were going to protect us. Our disguises would deflect judgment away from us. We felt immunized. The daring boldness of our ensembles had seeped into our skin, and when it was time for the show, we pranced about the stage, shamelessly exposing our inner weirdness to the world. We were wearing the wrong thing and we were a spectacle, but this time, it was of our own making.

A group of children dress up and wear makeup. Laura Goldfarb says Purim is a day to celebrate ourselves unapologetically and be proud of who we are. CJN FILE PHOTO

> *We were wearing the wrong thing and we were a spectacle, but this time, it was of our own making.*

Anecdotally over time, I noticed that this magical spell cast by costumes was actually quite universal. This was always most evident on Purim.

My school was always fantastically enlivened on the holiday of Purim. Dressed up as other people and things, my classmates were always more vibrantly themselves on the 14th of Adar. The loud kids were louder, their already bold personalities further emboldened by their outfits. The quiet kids were unabashedly expressive from within the safety of their costumes as they enthusiastically contributed their voices to *Hawah Narishah*.

My school's Purim experience, however, went beyond lavish costumes and unparalleled energy – it was also marked by the school's annual talent show. I had always found this vaguely paradoxical: the day on which the students were encouraged to disguise themselves was also the day on which they were invited to expose themselves on stage.

I remember watching from the audience as one soft-spoken friend of mine emerged on stage, almost unrecognizable as an oversized Teletubby, and sang an original song. I thought, how strange for her to be revealing such an intimate part of herself while concealing all the rest.

I think that I now understand why my school scheduled talent shows on Purim every year, and why it is customary to disguise ourselves on the very holiday that celebrates the unmasking of our true identity.

Costumes give us the courage to express ourselves without fear of judgment. Esther, who was merely a modest villager, didn't identify with the luxurious lifestyle of the royals. She only put on that crown to save her people from annihilation. Royalty was her costume, and only from within it was she safe to expose her true self and innermost wishes.

So on Purim, we, too, wear costumes, and, just as it was for Esther, our costumes instil in us a sense of safety to express ourselves. Purim is a commemoration of heroic actions and miraculous events that took place 2,500 years ago, but it's also the one day a year that, as Jews, we gather with enthusiasm, dressed in ostentatious costumes, to flaunt our peoplehood. It's a day to celebrate ourselves unapologetically, to assert our personal identities without reservation, and be proud of who we truly are. ■

Laura Goldfarb is a Grade 12 student at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO
GIVE LIFE
"Do not stand idly by while your neighbour bleeds."
-Leviticus 19:16-
On the week of March 28 join us in donating blood.
Toronto Board of Rabbis
Book your appointment:
blood.ca
Canadian Blood Services
it's in you to give

Book delves into the warped mind of Adolf Hitler

CELINE KESSLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Yale history professor, Timothy Snyder, has written not just another book on the Holocaust, he has instead, delved into the warped mind of Adolf Hitler and concluded that Hitler was not just an "Uber" anti-Semite who hated Jews but a "racial anarchist" who considered Jews a "pestilence" infecting the entire planet and distorting its natural order.

According to Snyder, Hitler admired Darwin's "survival of the fittest" theory, and to him the German "race" was the fittest and thus most likely to be the winner in any contest to inherit the largest portion of the earth and be its "natural" rulers. To Hitler's ecological view, the universe was a brutal place designed by nature where the strongest species took by force what they wanted or needed and where the weak, were destroyed. Hitler, according to Snyder, thought of people simply as animals not human beings .

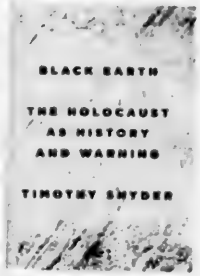
"There is, in fact no way of thinking about the world, says Hitler, which allows us to see human beings as human beings. These ideas which allow us to see each other as human beings.....come from the Jews," Snyder writes.

In Hitler's mind, the only opportunity for the world to revert to its natural order – that of brutal racial competition – was to eliminate the Jews. Snyder draws these conclusions from his study of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, his manifesto written while he was in prison after World War I.

The Jews' obsessions with morals, human and workers', rights were full of "Communist ideas" and were to Hitler an inconvenience and interfered with his dream of expansion and creation of *lebensraum* or living space for the German race.

Hitler's wish was to acquire the rich, fertile lands of his neighbours in eastern Europe "the black earth" and turn the Slavs – whom he considered sub-human – into slaves, only too happy to co-operate. The Jews lived in these regions in large numbers and had influence, particularly in Poland, where approximately three million Jews lived rich cultural lives and even participated to some degree in the political sphere; they were in the way and had to be eradicated.

In Hitler's view of the world – his alternate universe – races struggle against each other, kill each other, starve each other to death and try and take land. Hitler did not consider the Jews a race, in fact, he referred to them as unnatural or even supernatural and he suspected that their nefarious influence extended throughout the world.



Black Earth: The Holocaust as history and warning
Timothy Snyder

Tim Dungan Books

Snyder is multilingual and bases his observations on Hitler's original writings as well as other sources not previously explored. Hitler's resentment after Germany's defeat in World War I and his ecological view of the world never changed from these texts. Hitler did not acknowledge nations or states, only race played a role in his mind. In 1938, after he became Chancellor and Fuehrer of Germany during the Great Depression, he planned the invasion of Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union in order to take their lands.

The substitution of local government with anarchy and chaos, deprived Jews in these countries of their rights and citizenship, rendering them stateless and easier to kill. Because eastern Europe was predominately anti-Semitic, Hitler had plenty of collaborators; in addition to anarchy, there was the opportunity for plunder without retribution.

Few Jews were murdered in Germany, they were transported and killed in Belarus, according to Snyder. In Denmark where the government remained functioning, fewer Jews were murdered because the Danes refused to comply. In Estonia which was invaded by the Soviets and then by the Germans and chaos ruled, mass murder of Jews reached almost 99 per cent. Where anarchy reigned supreme, the Final Solution was most effective, Snyder notes.

In a chilling conclusion, Snyder worries that present world conditions – climate change, rising anti-Semitism in Europe and North Africa, wars in the Middle East, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and drought and hunger in many regions, create the fertile ground, once again, to scapegoat Jews and bring destruction and ruin upon them. ■

VitalMobility
Sales of Home Health Care Equipment
• Home Hospital Beds | Pressure Redistribution & Air Mattresses
• Medical Lift Chairs | Stair lifts | Patient Hoyer Lifts
• Wheelchairs | Walkers | Rollators | Scoters & Power Chairs
• Cold Therapy | Raised Toilet Seats | Shower Chairs | Commodes
• Compression Stockings
www.vitalmobility.ca • paulros@vitalmobility.ca
3509 Bathurst St | North York, ON M6A 2C5 | 416 901-3509

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

Wietzes Toyota
Gideon Landau
Fleet Operations Manager
Wietzes Toyota
gideon.toyota@gmail.com
0% $1,000 25,000
Get Low Interest Rates on Toyota Certified Used Vehicles!
TOYOTA Certified
Gideon Landau at your service
for Purchase of New or Used Vehicles
Wietzes Toyota
7090 DUFFERIN STREET North Of Steeles
905-761-5133
For appointment, please call directly 647.284.7277

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating 50 Years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

Wishing you a Healthy & Happy Chanukah
Cleaning Protection Restoration
MARBLE RESCUE
Insured and Bonded
Technicians with over 15 years experience.
We'll beat any written residential quote by 20%
416-782-BUFF(2833)
Don't replace your dull, damaged stone & marble. Turn to us!

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
If you are having a gala,
The Socialite wants your photos.
Email thesocialite@thecjn.ca
for submission details.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 24, 2016

Secrets from restaurants worldwide

SYBIL KAPLAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The authors of *Everyday Secret Restaurant Recipes*, Leah Schapira and Victoria Dwek are well-known in the world of food.

Schapira is author of *Fresh & Easy Kosher Cooking* and creator of Cookkosher.com, an online kosher recipes exchange. Dwek is managing editor of the kosher food magazine *Whisk*.

Together these food writers have co-authored *Secret Restaurant Recipes* and a series of "Made Easy" cookbooks (*Passover, Starters & Sides, Kids Cooking* and *Dairy*).

The 103 recipes in their latest book come from restaurants in California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Texas, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Israel, Panama, Thailand and Uruguay.

For each recipe, there is information on the restaurant, a large introduction and photo or photos, ingredients, instructions, tidbits or hints for the home cook and sometimes comments from the chef.

This is a great gift for someone who likes to try new recipes .

Artichokes, Roman style

From Tevere 84, Upper East Side, New York

- ❑ 6 medium or 2 lb. baby artichokes
- ❑ juice of 1 lemon
- ❑ 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- ❑ additional oil for frying
- ❑ 12 minced garlic cloves
- ❑ sea salt

Cut off the top of each artichoke just above the middle. Remove some of the outer leaves and the interior immature and hair-like leaves.

Using a peeler, peel the stems of each artichoke. In a bowl, toss artichokes with lemon juice.

Heat olive oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add garlic. Add artichokes and sprinkle with sea salt. Cook, side by side, stem side up, until artichokes are tender, turning several times for overall browning, 15-20 minutes. Using a wooden spoon, press each artichoke firmly to the bottom of the pan so that the leaves flatten out.

Cook for 10 minutes. (Optionally, for very soft and hot artichokes, you can also transfer to oven and bake at 400 for an additional 10 minutes.)

Before serving, heat additional oil in a sauté pan. Flatten artichokes to the flower shape and fry for 2-4 minutes before serving.

Israeli breakfast

From Café Tamara, Jerusalem

- ❑ 2 finely diced Persian cucumbers
- ❑ 2 finely diced tomatoes
- ❑ 1/2 finely diced red onion
- ❑ handful chopped parsley
- ❑ 2 tbsp. good quality olive oil
- ❑ 1 1/2 tbsp. lemon juice
- ❑ salt to taste
- ❑ pepper to taste
- ❑ olive oil for frying
- ❑ 4 beaten eggs
- ❑ 1 tbsp. preserved lemon/lemon spread
- ❑ 1 tbsp. harissa (hot chili pepper paste)
- ❑ 1 cup fresh yogurt
- ❑ 2 tbsp. techinah

In a bowl, combine cucumbers, tomatoes, onion, parsley, olive oil and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add eggs, preserved lemon, harissa, salt and pepper. Scramble eggs until cooked.

Place salad onto a plate. Top with eggs, yogurt and techinah. Garnish with parsley. Serve immediately.

High school basketball player focuses on success

JACK BORENSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Haley Perlmutter's multiple basketball team championships are a testament to her leadership skills and desire to excel every time she takes the court.

Her early activities also helped the 17-year-old Newmarket, Ont., resident. She was a competitive dancer for many years, and "the flexibility dance provided my legs, has especially helped my basketball efforts," she said

Her basketball career began in the York North Basketball Association (YNBA) in 2007, where she quickly progressed to rep level with her team, Avengers.

"Avengers [also] played in U.S. tournaments," Perlmutter said. "We ranked top five every year in Ontario."

In May 2014, Avengers captured their first-ever YNBA Division 1 gold medal, at Ontario Basketball's Ontario Cup in London, Ont., in the girls midget (under 15) category after the team's 43-0 season.

In May 2015, Avengers won another gold medal. "To play with eight original teammates and share the victory with them meant a lot to me," she recalled.

She also plays with the Newmarket High School Raiders. "Making the senior girls in Grade 9 and winning my first YRAA [York Region Athletic Association] title was special, and I learned a lot from my Grade 12 teammates," she said.

Perlmutter had four games with 20 or more points in 2014, an accomplishment she has repeated several times.

Raiders won a fourth consecutive YRAA title last November, with Perlmutter scoring 20 points in the championship game. That 2015 breakout season included six games of 20 points or more. She was named to the YRAA girls high school all-star team by Tier 1 senior head coaches.

Perlmutter gained more confidence about her role on the Raiders in grades 10 and 11, "especially playing with four Avengers teammates. The recent championship made it four consecutive, and next year, we want that fifth straight title," she said.

Last summer, Avengers played at Nike National tournaments in Chicago and Washington, D.C., where there were over 500 teams on 60 courts.

"The competitive level being very high pushed not only my team, but me, to step up," Perlmutter said. "We had to play smart and hustle... When opposing teams put tough defenders on me, it pushed me out of my comfort zone, but I continued as I would in any other game."

Haley Perlmutter

Perlmutter started as a shooting guard, "and I have learned over the years to make more passes and get my teams to work together as a unit. My main strengths are playing hard, keeping my energy level up, being aware and maintaining a positive attitude, no matter what the situation."

Her father and coach, Gad Perlmutter, enjoys a close relationship with his daughter, but family connections are set aside when he coaches Raiders and Avengers squads.

"My father provides plenty of constructive criticism, telling me to do the little things that can make the difference in a game. Training has always been fun, and he never pressures or makes players nervous... He is supportive of everyone."

Gad is proud of Haley's academic achievements. "She has a 94 per cent course average, and made the principal's honour roll list, a tremendous achievement, given that she studied for exams in December while travelling with Avengers to tournaments."

He also commended Haley's skills, her control of a game and her work ethic. "I've always told her that to be good in anything, you have to put in the time... and at practices, she's first to arrive and last to leave."

Avengers won gold in their first tournament this season (IEM Spartans) in the under-19 category.

"It's great playing with older girls and teams we haven't seen before," she said. "I feel all the training I've been doing to this point has really helped improve my game. I've been seeking input of coaches with many years experience for feedback on how to improve my game. "

Gad said Haley is now "focused on playing with her current team." She looks forward to Avengers returning to the Nike Nationals in Chicago in July. ■

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Colin Mochrie

Yael Katzman, Shayna Kahn, Jay Papernick, Rabbi Shmuel Soroka, Jodie Katz and Stephanie Marer

Rabbi Rafi Lipner and Shira Lipner

Jacqui Hoffman, Robyn Goldberg and Jody Fegelman

Aaron English and Michelle Samuel

Improv Anyone?

There was raucous laughter from the over 300 guests who came out to see Canadian actor and improvisational comedian Colin Mochrie and friends perform. The evening was a great success, raising the "roof" and $60,000 in support of Shaarei Tefillah, a growing and vibrant dynamic shul community in the heart of Toronto. ■

– *The Socialite*

Ilana and Ross Meltzer

Rachel and Eddy Levy, Melissa and Murray Berall

Naomi and Michael Brandt

Stephen and Cindy Morris

Dahlia Fisher and Dani Ross

Josh and Chanah Bernstein

Clifford and Karen Miller

Eli and Leah Green

SHMUEL WOLFE PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MARCH 24 - MARCH 31

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, March 24

TMJ SOCIETY
The Temporomandibular Joint Society of Canada meets at 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Visit tmjscanada.ca

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD
Rabbi Michael Stroh discusses "The truth about God and everything really important," March 24-April 14, 10:30 a.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

Sunday, March 28

CAVALCADE OF STARS
An evening of Jewish music, benefiting Jews For Judaism, honours **Kitty Wintrob**, **Helen Parker**, **Orvin Zendel** and **Dr. Brian Schwartz**, 6:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. $25/$39 per couple.

PASSOVER WORKSHOP
Rabbis Sean Gorman and **Jennifer Gorman** hold a Passover seder workshop, 10 a.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue. RSVP 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

MUSICAL AFTERNOON
Club Beersheba, Na'amat Canada and Bernard Betel Centre hold their annual Musicale. Doors open at 1 p.m., concert at 1:30 p.m., 1003 Steeles Ave. W. $20. 416-636-5425.

Monday, March 28

THE BOOK OF JOB
Rabbi Eva Goldfinger, Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, discusses "Understanding the Book of Job and its agenda," 7:30 p.m., Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $20. 416-385-3910.

YOUTH MUSICIANS
Heartbeat: a concert featuring Israeli and Palestinian youth musicians will be held 7-9 p.m., 180 Shaw St. Free event, donations welcome. Proceeds benefit integrated music and dialogue programs for Israeli and Palestinian youth.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of April 7 is March 28. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Purim comes to Netivot

The halls of Netivot HaTorah Day School are decorated from top to bottom for Purim. This year the theme is Israel. ALI MARTELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Tuesday, March 29

JEWS FOR JUDAISM
Jews for Judaism presents "Life cycle: from cradle to grave," 8 p.m., Baycrest Terrace Synagogue, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP 416-789-0020.

BEING A JEWISH PHILOSOPHER
Prof. Michael Morgan discusses "The necessity and impossibility of being a Jewish philosopher," 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

SAFETY PRESENTATION
Police officers discuss safety issues including fraud, traffic and personal safety, 1:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. RSVP 416-633-3838.

JEWISH MIGRATION
Ian Leventhal discusses "Jewish migration." Bring your lunch at noon, program starts at 12:30 p.m., Temple Har Zion. $3/$6.

TASTING MENU
Amy Stopnicki demonstrates recipes from her cookbook, *Kosher Taste*, 7:15 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Synagogue. Purchase tickets at mikveh.bayt.ca

MACCABI CANADA SPORTS
Maccabi Canada sports programs start today: basketball for ages 9 to13; volleyball for ages 10-15. www.maccabicanada.com.

Wednesday, March 30

KASZTNER'S TRAIN
Anna Porter, author of *Kasztner's Train*, discusses her book about Hungarian Jewry during WW II, 7:30 p.m., Clanton Park Synagogue, 11 Lowesmoor Ave.

LUNCH AND LEARN
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Reading others' emails: when is spying permitted?" at Schwartz Levitsky Feldman, 2300 Yonge St. 12:30 p.m. RSVP 416-780-2300.

PRISONER OF TEHRAN
Author **Marina Nemat** discusses her memoir *Prisoner of Tehran* 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

Thursday, March 31

BOOK REVIEW
Harriet Morris reviews *Dora Bruder* by **Patrick Modiano** and discusses the film *Lacombe Lucien*. Dessert at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, $10.

COTLER HONOURED
Former MP **Irwin Cotler** is honoured at a fundraiser by the Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy, Omni King Edward Hotel, 5:30 p.m. For tickets, 416-830-4313.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for income tax clinic assistants available evenings to March 31. Call **Alex Kaganovskiy**, 416-225-2112, ext. 204. Volunteers also needed to deliver meals or visit isolated seniors. Call **Cheryl Besner**, 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

CLUB SIMCHA
Club Simcha is a self-help program for adults living with mental health issues. The friendly support group meets Mondays, 11:30 a.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call **Rochelle Goldman-Brown,** 416-634-3050, ext. 5660.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Legal Information Service of Act to End Violence Against Women assists Jewish women who have experienced abuse to navigate the family law legal system in Ontario. Call 905-695-5374.

ART QUILTS FROM ISRAEL

The Encounters Art Quilt Group in Israel is showing a collection of 31 quilts, *The Song of Songs*, London Jewish Community Centre, 536 Huron St., London, Ont., March 28-April 21. **Prof. Carl Ehrlich** speaks at the opening reception, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. 519-673-3310.

HEBREW AND YIDDISH CLASSES

Pride of Israel Synagogue offers conversational ulpan Hebrew with **Yael Lev**, all levels, starting the week of March 28. Call 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

A beginner plus/intermediate Yiddish class starts April 3, Beth David Synagogue, 10 a.m. Register at 416-635-2883, ext. 5189.

PURIM FUN

- *The Wonderful Megillah of Oz*, performed at Beth Emeth Synagogue, March 24, with a buffet dinner, 6:30 p.m. Tickets $5/$18.
- Temple Sinai Purim celebration March 25, 10 a.m.-noon, Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd.
- Jewish Russian Community Centre holds a Purim banquet, March 24, 5:30 p.m. at the Westmount Event Centre, 227 Bowes Rd., Vaughan. 416-222-7105 or jrcc.org/purim
- Women's Megillah reading, March 24, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.
- Chabad Markham has a performance by Aristov Circus, dinner and games, March 24, 5 p.m.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Effective parenting: A 4-session group to help parents with children aged 2-10. Starts March 28, 7-9 p.m., 9600 Bathurst St., Lebovic JCC.
- One family, two homes: A 6-session group for families experiencing separation and divorce. Separate programs for children and parents. Starts March 31, 6:30-8 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Centre.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS

Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. April 11, **Corrie Sirota** discusses "Grief is a process, not an event," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Social games club, March 31, 11 a.m. ; Passover seder, April 21, 1:30 p.m.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. March 29, **Rachel Levin** discusses "Children's stories and fairy tales," 10 a.m.; March 30, Post-Purim Persian party, 1-2:30 p.m.; March 31, wellness lecture, "Hearing loss," 1:30 p.m. Computer classes of all types start April 4.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama April 13; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; 'Down Memory Lane,' live entertainment, April 6, 2 p.m.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "Hollywood and society," May 4-25, 1 p.m.
- Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.
- A ghostly revival: Postwar Yiddish culture in North America with **Rachel Seeling**, April 6-20, 1 p.m.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Participate in a brainstorming session to discuss tours to museums and galleries, March 29, 7 p.m. RSVP galyas@srcentre.ca
- Bridge level 1 starts April 7, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong starts April 6, 10:30 a.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- *Dreamland: after Mark Twain in the Holy Land*. Photographer **Motty Levy** follows in the footsteps of Mark Twain, on display at the gallery until March 30. *Scots Jews: Identity, Belong and the Future* is on display at all 3 JCCs until April 27.
- **Iain Scott** teaches "Opera appreciation: All in the family," Mondays, to April 11, 1:30 p.m.
- The Varsity Jews A Capella holds its annual fundraising concert, this year in support of JIAS, March 27, 4 p.m.
- **Rabbis Yoel Glick** and **John Moscowitz**, in conversation, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
- **Guillermo Silva**, Toronto Operetta Theatre, discusses "What is an operetta," March 31, 1;30 p.m.
- Opera workshop with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez** – sing your favourite opera choruses, Wednesdays to April 13, 1 p.m.; Thursdays to April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Rock in the Red Zone*, with guest speaker, Israeli film buff, **Mike Dacks**, April 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
- Pottery classes for kids and adults start April 4; Hebrew (and Yiddish) Institute classes for adults start the week of April 10.
- Improv for adults, with Second City, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m.
- American Sign Language Classes, April 6-May 25. Level 1 at 7 p.m., level II at 8:15 p.m. Call ext. 330.
- Living with dementia: caring and coping. A 10-week program starts April 13. Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca
- Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk**. No experience or audition required.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein**. Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, April 6-June 29, 7-9 p.m.
- Bridge, Level 1, starts April 6, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong, starts April 7, 7 p.m.
- Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani**, April 7, 7 p.m.
- PJ Plus for children 18 months-3 years starts March 27.
- Registration open for Groove School of dance, swim lessons, cooking lessons and the kids triathlon.
- Drawing and painting for beginners and intermediates, April 5-June 14.
- Screening of the film *Rock in the Red Zone*, April 4, 7:30 p.m. ■

ASK ELLA

Setting boundaries can improve family dynamics

Ella Burakowski
eb@thecjn.ca

Dear Ella,

Sometimes I feel like I live in an episode of *Everybody Loves Raymond*. My mother-in-law has no problem dropping by whenever she likes without any notice.

When she's here, she proceeds to criticize everything I do, especially when it comes to my kids – and she does it "nicely." She did a crappy job raising her own kids, so why would I listen to her advice about mine?

My husband doesn't mind his mother's meddling, but I feel like I'm going to blow. I don't want to create a rift, and she is welcome here, but I would like some rules in place, and I don't know how to tell her. Truth be told, she scares me, and I need her to help out from time to time. Thoughts?

Meddling Mother-in-Law

Your letter has a tone of resentment, and that's never a good place to be when trying to fix a problem. Take a step back, remove the emotion and make a plan. You want to create boundaries, but allow for an inviting, swinging gate.

This is very realistic and achievable.

It sounds like your mother-in-law has passive-aggressive tendencies. She masks her disapproval by cloaking it in a well-meaning, friendly manner. There is no reason for the criticism to escalate to an argument if you handle it properly.

First, she can't and shouldn't be there all the time. It interferes with the harmony in your home. You and your husband must have that discussion and form a united front, which may be the bigger problem. Together, tell her how much you appreciate and love her, but it would be helpful if she would stay away at dinner time, or homework time. Whatever boundaries you create, make them clear. Then follow it with, "You are more than welcome after school. The kids love to be with you." Choose the times that are appropriate, and stick to them. She can only intrude as much as you allow her to. It may be uncomfortable and difficult at first, but if you set parameters and follow them, you will improve the sanctity of your family and take back control. Do it lovingly and with understanding, and listen to her response. She probably had no idea she was creating friction. I'm sure that was not her intention.

Dear Ella,

This is hard for me to discuss, but here goes. I'm overweight and have been struggling ever since I had my second child.

When my husband and I met, I was 18, a baseball player, runner and loved sports. However, over the years, between stress and children, I've gained over 50 lbs. and can't seem to get back on track.

I know, and I struggle with this problem, but it makes it worse when he is constantly reminding me and watching everything I put in my mouth. It's reached the point that I avoid him, because I can see the disapproval in his eyes. How do I get him to understand he has to lay off.

Weighty Issue

Dear Weighty Issue

There are two things going on here: first, your husband's constant nagging about you having to lose weight, and second how you feel about yourself.

Let's start with your husband. He may be concerned about your health, or he may be concerned about how attracted he is to you now. Whatever the reason, he's crossed a line you are uncomfortable with. Your body is your business, and you need to make that very clear to him. You're not stupid. You have eyes and feelings, and he needs to know that this conversation is off limits to him.

Now let's deal with how you feel. No amount of nagging or diet and exercise books are going to make you happy. You have to decide for yourself that you are ready, and when you are, tackle this problem head on. If you choose to make your husband part of the solution, that should be your choice. When you are ready to work on losing weight, you will. Take back control. You'll be glad you did. ■

Ella is the author of Hidden Gold - A True Story of the Holocaust. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Mazel tov to Michael Siegman & Alison Szilagyi on their recent engagement. Delighted parents are Denise & Majer Siegman and Lorraine & Andrew Szilagyi.

Happy 100th birthday to Lillian Gossin. Wishing you many more years of good health and happiness! We love you so much – your children and grandchildren.

Happy 60th diamond wedding anniversary Anne & Allan Bank. With all our love and admiration, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Happy birthday to Sylvia Rothstein who turned 90 on March 25. Hugs and kisses from your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends.

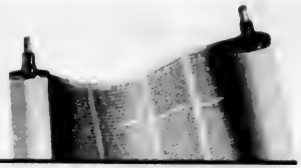
Email your digital photo along with a description of 25 words or less to [illegible] or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Matters"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Parshah

Tzav | Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36



Rabbi Ilan Acoca says each of us has a responsibility to help the Jewish Nation
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl visits Berlin, where he connects Purim and the Holocaust
Rabbi Catharine Clark argues that while the Book of Esther may be a farce, it also raises big questions

Rabbi Ilan Acoca

As we read the latest news in Israel, we see the current situation isn't getting any better. Numerous recent attacks have left people dead and injured.

The question I often ask myself is how am I reacting when I hear about these tragedies? Am I becoming desensitized to them? If so, what can I do to restore my sensitivity?

Mordechai, one of the main characters in the Purim story, sheds some light on the question. When Mordechai realizes the Jewish People are in danger, he steps up to the plate. Esther also realizes the graveness of the situation and goes to the king's palace uninvited, an action that puts her life in danger. These great heroes took responsibility to do whatever they could to save the Jewish nation.

The Torah (Exodus 28:12) commands Aaron, the kohen gadol, to wear shoulder straps containing two stones with six tribal names on each of the stones. The kohen gadol was supposed to walk with those straps in order to constantly feel the responsibility he had toward each member of Klal Israel.

As Jews, we must try to reach this level of responsibility by finding ways of always being aware of the grave situation in Israel.

The Talmud (Sanhedrin 27b) teaches that Jews are guarantors for each other. Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai (Vayikra Raba 4) gives an example of a group of people in a boat and one of them drills a hole in it. When the others protest, he dismisses them by saying he is drilling in his own spot, not realizing that by doing so, everyone will drown.

As the Jewish nation, we're all in the same boat. When one Jew is wounded, all Jews are hurt. Let us all take this teaching deep into our thoughts and actions.

May the words of the Megillah (8:15), "The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honour," be fulfilled speedily in our days. ■

Rabbi Ilan Acoca is rabbi at Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

A recent visit to Berlin and an immersion in the culture of memory that characterizes German life reminded me of Purim. According to Megillat Esther, after the tremendous reversal of events, Mordechai sent a letter directing Jews to annually mark Adar 14 and 15 as "days on which the Jews obtained relief from their enemies and the month which for them was reversed from sorrow to gladness and from mourning to festive day."

Although we were still not sovereign (which is why we don't recite Hallel), the message of Mordechai and rabbis that followed him was that having heard the decree of destruction and death, we must "add joy" to the month of Adar. In the face of ongoing national vulnerability, we must (as Israelis say) "make life."

In Berlin, at the Holocaust Memorial and Information Centre, as well as in the Topography of Terror, I was struck by how, in their initial years, the Nazis would subject political opponents and Jews to public humiliation. They led them through crowds, announcing that this is what is done to those who disagree or are despised. The contrast with Mordechai's monarch-like horse-backed procession through Shushan was clear.

The Nazis not only made the killing of Jews their mission, they also sought to subvert the Jewish calendar as a means of further humiliating our people. They often scheduled deportations or killing actions for our sacred days. For example, in Brezhany, my mother's town, there were deportations on Yom Kippur and Chanukah, with the final *aktion* on Shavuot night.

After key German leaders were sentenced to death by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, the Nazi propagandist, Julius Stretcher, shouted at his hanging, "Purim Festival, 1946!" linking the reversal of Nazi plans to our deliverance from Haman. While we still have our enemies and must be prepared to respond to them, it is important to "add joy " during Adar and to make Purim into a celebration of our enduring life. ■

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Rabbi Catharine Clark

Purim is the best argument for a life-long commitment to the mitzvah of talmud Torah, the commandment to study Torah.

Purim is usually treated as a holiday for children. We dress our toddlers in cute costumes, encourage our tweens to design unique greggers and enlist our teens in the kitchen to make mishloach manot. With such fun for all ages of children, Purim truly is a great holiday for the kids.

But the Megillah that we read each year is not a children's story. The story of Esther as told to children bears little resemblance to the Book of Esther as read with the eyes of an adult.

For instance, my daughter in junior kindergarten thinks that Esther became queen in a beauty pageant. I read Chapter 2 and can see that Esther's year of training under the tutelage of Hegai, a eunuch, prepared her to audition for a harem. Tweens studying for their bar or bat mitzvah love that Mordechai is honoured and that Jews feast at the end of Chapter 8. I read on and wonder at the 75,000 foes of the Jewish People killed throughout the king's provinces.

On some level, the Book of Esther is a farce, but it is a farce that – like any good sacred literature – brings up big issues.

The story of Purim prompts us to consider important questions of gender and power or the desire for revenge and its dangers.

Because a child's education should be age-appropriate, each of us must continue our Jewish educations as adults. Jews who stop learning as soon as their bar or bat mitzvah is over deprive themselves of the opportunity to consider problems that remain relevant today. ■

Rabbi Catharine Clark is the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in London, Ont.

CLASSIFIED
416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1600	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

COMPLETELY REDONE – A MUST SEE! $1,629,000
Sleek and sun filled 4+1 bdrm, incredible kitchen, beautiful finishing's throughout. Irma Weisz* & Jaclyn Weisz* 416-488-2875

PRIME ANNEX TOTAL RENO ON SOUGHT AFTER MARKHAM ST $1,558,900
Bright 6br, 2 car pkg larg rms, high ceilings, modern kits & bths restored period details sep lwr unit. Brett Selbo* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

THORNHILL – 2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN.
1350 Sq. Ft. Bright Space. Eat-In Kitchen. Hardwood Laminate Floors. Walking Distance To Synagogue. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

PRESTIGIOUS FOREST HILL CODE CONDO
Boutique Building By Blvd & Lifetime developments. 8th Floor Unit Overlooking The Village. 750 Sq. Ft. 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath. 200 Sq. Ft. Terrace Equipped With Gas Hook Up And Water Bib. Debbie Ekonomou* 416-785-1500

NORTH PROPERTIES

JUST LISTED! THORNHILL WOODS! $729,900
Bright Open concept 3 bdrm, 4 bthrm townhome hardwood flr on main close to amenities. Susan Dick* 416-488-2875

RENTAL PROPERTY

FAB UPDATED CEDARVALE RENTAL $4300/MO.
3+1 bdrms, 3 bths, hrdwd flrs, DR with w/o to deck and yard. Steps to all, available may 1st. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE!
Spadina N/St Clair! The Heathview By Morguard! Spectacular Condo Style Living W/Unbelievable Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2801-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$5,310/Mo! Rare Find! LEASED king 2+1Br 3Bth N/W Corner Suite W/Terrace+Panoramic Views! Fab Complex! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

3 GLEN RUSH BOULEVARD! ALEXANDRA WOOD AREA!
$3,350/Mo! This Wonderful LEASED Much Admired 3+1Br 3Bth Sprawling Ranch Bungalow! Fab 50x150'! Nanny Ste! Dble Grge! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Downsize Your Home.
Upsize Your Life.
Creative solutions for Buying, Selling and Renting.

kw KELLERWILLIAMS

647-333-5530 Vivien@VivienSharon.com
www.VivienSharon.com

BATHURST/LAWRENCE/AVENUE RD.
491 GLENGARRY AVE.

Brand new, custom built, 4 +1 Bdrm. 7 bathrooms, 4 sky-lights, 3 gas fireplaces., 2 sets washer & dryers. Finished basement & walk-up. Lovely family home. Close to EVERYTHING. Steps to Bathurst/Lawrence Plaza. $2,777,000.

André Tarjan
Sales Representative
AAA Accredited Senior Agent

CALL ANDRÉ FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING.
Cell: 416-346-7770

ROYAL LEPAGE GOLDEN RIDGE REALTY

Serving the GTA since 1986
ROYAL LEPAGE GOLDEN RIDGE REALTY INC., Brokerage
7100 Woodbine Ave, #111, Markham 905-513-8878

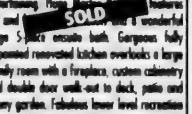
REIMAGINING REAL ESTATE

GARY MITCHELL
Broker
Awesome, Skilled, Discreet Professional.

EGLINTON/MT PLEASANT
WOW! Picture your family in this fabulous chic renovated 2 story semi-detached family home in the Northern Secondary School district. Spacious elegant home on a huge 150' lot allows for the best of urban living, for both family and entertaining. Home features [illegible] SOLD [illegible] wonderful large S[illegible] ensuite bath. Gorgeous fully appointed renovated kitchen overlooks a large family room with a fireplace, custom cabinetry and double door walk-out to deck, patio and sunny garden. Fabulous lower level recreation room and bedroom/exercise room. Quality finishes throughout. Loads of storage. Front parking. Walk to close-by schools, restaurants and transportation options.

Call Gary Mitchell
Direct 416-817-4011
garymitchell@sympatico.ca

Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage
416-488-2875



ESSIE SHER
Cell 416-464-5261

Bathurst N of Centre
$2,878,000
Stunning Stucco/Stone Custom Stylish Luxury 4 bdr 6 W/R. 50 x 180Ft. lot Approx 5700 Sq.Ft. $$$$ spent on upgraded finishes, Vaulted Ceilings, Downsview Kitchen Finished. Library.

SUTTON GROUP-ADMIRAL REALTY BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, Lefroy - cottage 3 bdrm water front, full season only. contact:expressions@rogers.com

230 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE

Thornhill Woods
8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan

Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.

Interested Physicians call
416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED

I am looking for a **single car garage** to store my trade tools and a bike. Call: 416 665 6671

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

A nurse from Israel assisting elderly, adults, children & infants w/regular or special needs. Liza-647-208-9947

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

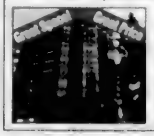
#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!

ROYAL LEPAGE

Elli Davis
Sales Representative

416.921.1112 www.ellidavis.com
800.622.9536 mail@ellidavis.com

Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli



33 Jackes Avenue **$2,390,000**
Best priced suite in exclusive boutique building at Yonge/St. Clair! Direct elevator, centre hall, appx 2,964 sq ft, 2 bedrooms + den, high ceilings. 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Amenities include valet/visitor parking, 24 hr security, indoor pool, party/exercise rms, car wash. Steps to Summerhill shops, TTC, parks.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Professional attractive man seeking attractive, educated woman 40 +. Please call: 416-258-3766.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

PERSIAN RUG SALE due to a move - 13 beautiful wool, old silk, one is 24 meters. 647-725-3334

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry. indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Certified Community Service Worker/PSW over 10 yrs. exper. looking for private clients. Veronica Daley @ 647 831 7370

Caregiver w/long track record & excellent refer. available to care for elderly senior, includ. house keeping duties. (416) 407-3957.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC.
2 Bedroom available March/April.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the **Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000**

SERVICE DIRECTORY

370 CATERING

cafe sheli
Catering - Restaurant

COR
Catering for home celebrations and office parties
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905 762 0640
www.cafesheli.com

343 ACCOUNTING

CPA - Corporate & personal tax returns. Financial statements & Consulting. Reasonable rates. Stephen Green 647 895-4550

373 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT.** 416-459-1363

Leafs scour Jewish hockey world to aid in race to bottom of standings

YANKEL DER MESHIGINEH
yankel@dermeshigineh oy

Young players are being drafted with the promise of unlimited Wacky Mac.

The Toronto Maple Leafs continued their youth movement – and soft tank into the Austin Matthews sweepstakes – by signing the entire roster of the Avenue Road Ducks Select minor novice team to professional tryout contracts.

The move dropped the average age of the Leafs – second only to the Winnipeg Jets, who signed a local peewee team recently – to the lowest in the league.

Analysts and hockey insiders were stunned by the Leafs' bold move. They had predicted the local heroes would rely on players from their Toronto Marlies AHL affiliate to ensure they would sink to the bottom of the league.

"The Leafs already have a young team," said noted NHL insider Bob McKenzie. "I was flabbergasted, flummoxed and discombobulated to see the Leafs take this measure, especially considering they're already scraping the league bottom with their current roster."

Under NHL rules, a lottery will be held to determine draft order, with lower-placed teams having a greater chance at the first overall pick, widely assumed to be the 18-year-old Matthews.

Despite its cellar-dwelling status, the Leafs' Marlies call-ups, including the kosher kid, Zach Hyman, played beyond expectations, scoring goals and actually winning games.

Concerned over the Leafs' unexpected success, team GM Lou Lamoriello sent the rest of the roster to the Marlies, "for a conditioning stint" expected to last the rest of the season. With the addition of the Ducks, the Leafs were still left with 10 spots to fill, so the team looked to un-bolster its roster with more Jewish adolescent call-ups.

With hot chocolate and kosher Wacky Mac dinners before games as an enticement, JCC Chai Sports provided an addition six skaters to the teams.

Robbins Academy, Bialik, Leo Baeck and Associated provided two more each, on condition that Hockey Night in Canada games begin after sunset on Saturday and after assistant coach Jacques Lemaire performs a *Havdalah* service. Eitz Chaim turned down the request for a player when the Leafs could not agree to its condition that coach Mike Babcock would deliver a dvar Torah at each practice and before games.

"What's a dvar Torah?," asked the 73-year-old Lamoriello. "Is that some kind of fancy new analytics? What's wrong with good, old-fashioned plus-minus? If it was good enough for Rashi, it's good enough for me."

As analysts digested the implications of the Leafs youth moves, the repercussions became clear, especially as regards the salary system.

Signing so many nine- and 10-year-olds will pay immediate dividends, said Hockey Night in Canada maven Elliotte Friedman. "They will save a ton in salary costs, pushing their payroll to near the salary cap floor.

"But there are added costs associated with the move," Friedman continued. "First of all, the costs of all those snacks and doughnuts with sprinkles add up quickly when you've got hungry youngsters practising and playing. And then you've got to hire all those extra trainers and equipment managers to lace up their skates and make sure they're wearing the right colour uniforms."

Ducks' skills coach Rob "I can't do your thinking for you" Edelbaum was stunned at the news the Leafs had signed the entire 2006 Select team. "I can't even get them to make three lines for drills during morning practice," he lamented. "How are they going to learn the left wing lock and penalty-killing systems?"

Taking a closer look at the Leafs move, Edelbaum reconsidered his criticism and pointed out that the Ducks' systems – or lack thereof – might actually resemble those employed by the Leafs in previous seasons.

"I always thought the Leafs looked like a bunch of kids scrambling around for the puck," he said. "Maybe signing nine-year-olds will make them better."

As the rest of the league learned of the Leafs' bold move, teams took steps to counter it in the race to the bottom. The Edmonton Oilers, familiar with life in the basement, reassigned their NHL squad to their farm team in Kalamazoo and signed a tyke team of seven year olds. Provincial rivals, the Calgary Flames, sent their team to Flint and recruited a group of four-year-olds from the local JCC's "learn to play" program.

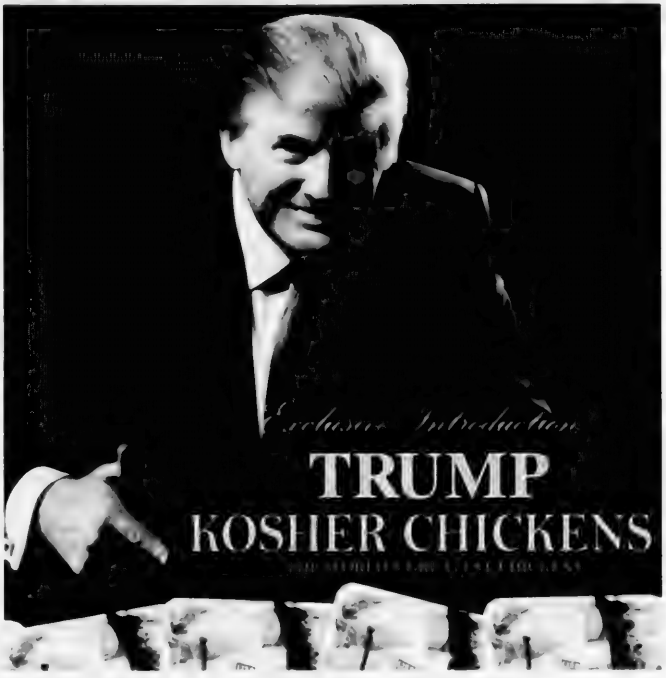
League commissioner Gary Bettman put the whole situation under video review while the NHL Players Association blessed the move, saying the added players will give the union more clout when negotiating milk and cookie breaks during the long, cold, winter season. ■

Donald Trump like you've probably heard him before

SHLOIMI MANDELBAUM
SUPER SPECIAL TO THE CJN

American entrepreneur Donald Trump, front-running candidate for the Republican nomination for president of the United States, has been gaining momentum and picking up delegates on the campaign trail by "telling it like it is."

In an effort to learn more about the man who coined one of the most overused TV catch phrases of the 2000s, a man whose popularity has many in the United States and abroad shaking their heads in utter disbelief, *The CJN* sat down with Trump, who agreed to take time out his busy schedule for an interview that touched a number of hot-button Canadian Jewish issues and promises to leave some readers more confused than ever.



"Forget steaks. Ivanka says I've got the best *polkes*." CJN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is often criticized internationally for Israel's security wall. What are your thoughts on the subject?

I will build a great wall – and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me – and I'll build them very inexpensively.

It doesn't do any good to start demeaning the neighbours, because I would love to do something with regard to negotiating peace finally for Israel and for their neighbours. As a negotiator, I cannot do that as well if I'm taking sides. That being said, I am totally pro-Israel.

I shake hands very gladly politically. I don't think you could be a politician if you didn't shake hands.

I think the only difference between me and the other candidates is that I'm more honest and my women are more beautiful.

Even a race to Obama, Hillary Clinton was gonna beat Obama. I don't know who would be worse, I don't know, how could it be worse? But she was going to beat – she was favoured to win – and she got schlonged, she lost, I mean she lost. If Hillary Clinton can't satisfy her husband what makes her think she can satisfy America.

What do you think of the controversy about women taking on Jewish leadership roles in Orthodoxy, including the title rabbi?

Women, you have to treat them like s--t. I do respect them. I have great respect for women. In fact, one of the reasons *The Apprentice* was such a successful show for so many years, the audience of women was fantastic.

All of the women on *The Apprentice* flirted with me – consciously or unconsciously. That's to be expected.

I love beautiful women, and beautiful women love me. It has to be both ways. You know, it really doesn't matter what the media write, as long as you've got a young, and beautiful, piece of a--.

I've said if Ivanka weren't my daughter, perhaps I'd be dating her.

You've managed to alienate Muslims, Hispanics, the Chinese, African-Americans, women – what have you got for the Jews?

You are not going to support me even though you know I am the best thing that could happen for Israel. Stupidly, you want to give me money. You're not going to support me because I don't want your money. You want to control your own politicians. I'm a negotiator, like you folks. I promise you that I'm much smarter than Jonathan Leibowitz – I mean Jon Stewart, who, by the way, is totally overrated.

Nailed it.

What do you think of the Jewish National Fund of Canada's decision to withdrawn its support for a Vancouver concert by an Israeli singer who was accused of supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel?

We have to go see Bill Gates and a lot of different people that really understand what's happening. We have to talk to them, maybe in certain areas, closing that Internet up in some way. Somebody will say, "Oh, freedom of speech, freedom of speech." These are foolish people. We have a lot of foolish people.

One of they key problems today is that politics is such a disgrace. Good people don't go into government.

The Jewish religion places great value on humility, as opposed to having too much pride in oneself. What are your thoughts? If you could answer in the third person, that would be amazing.

Do you mind if I sit back a little? Because your breath is very bad.

Oh. Sorry.

Love him or hate him, Donald Trump is a man who is certain about what he wants and sets out to get it, no holds barred. Women find his power almost as much of a turn-on as his money.

People love me. And you know what, I have been very successful. Everybody loves me. I mean, part of the beauty of me is that I'm very rich. I'm worth far too much money. I don't need anybody's money. My IQ is one of the highest – and you all know it! Please don't feel so stupid or insecure. It's not your fault.

We want to see winning. We want to see win, win, win – constant winning. And you'll say – if I'm president,… "Please, Mr. President, we're winning too much. We can't stand it anymore. Can't we have a loss?' And I'll say no, we're going to keep winning, winning, winning… because we're going to make America great again. And you'll say, "OK, Mr. President. OK."

Many North American synagogues are struggling to attract millennials to join their congregations. If you were a Jewish leader, what would you do?

I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK? It's, like, incredible. 15,000 people showed up to hear me speak. Bigger than anybody and everybody knows it. A beautiful day with incredible people that were wonderful, great Americans, I will tell you. John McCain goes, "Oh, boy. Trump makes my job difficult. He had 15,000 crazies show up." Crazies. He called them all crazy. I said, "They weren't crazy. They were great Americans." These people – if you would have seen these people – you – I know what a crazy is. I know all about crazies.

I think that I would be a great uniter. I think that I would have great diplomatic skills. I think that I would be able to get along with people very well. I've had a great success in my life. I think the world would unite if I were the leader of the United States.

It's a well-known fact that your daughter, Ivanka, converted to Judaism. What do you do when you spend Shabbat together?

I'll drink water. Sometimes tomato juice, which I like. Sometimes orange juice, which I like. I'll drink different things. But the Coke or Pepsi boosts you up a little.

Canadian Jews have been facing shortages of kosher chickens and have complained about the quality of poultry imported into the province of Ontario. What's your take on this?

Trump Steaks are the world's greatest steaks, and I mean that in every sense of the word. Trump Steaks are by far the best tasting most flavourful beef you've ever had. Believe me, I understand steaks.

No, chicken. I asked you about kosher chicken.

We do a tremendous steak business … We buy a lot of steaks from different places. I don't want to buy, if I'm in California, I don't want to buy my steaks from New York. We have different suppliers. We sell the steaks – and largely to our hotels and our clubs and things like that. It's a small business. ■

This interview has been edited, condensed, sliced, diced and sautéed for maximum shock value (but not clarity, because this is Trump in his own words).

Purim on the SS Negba

Backstory

YANKEL GLADSTONE

For the Holocaust survivors and North African Jews on the way to Israel aboard the ship Negbah in February 1951, the Purim celebration was significant.

My friend Mischa Cheifetz and I had volunteered to work in Marseille in one of the two large transit camps for Israeli olim. We were both members of the Montreal chapter of Habonim, the Labor Zionist youth movement. Mischa was from a Zionist family that made aliyah. His father was the editor of the Yiddish daily *Der Kanader Yiddisher Odler (The Canadian Yiddish Eagle)* – while my father, a shoemaker, was anti-religious, and an anti-Zionist Communist.

We were assigned to work with a large group of youngsters from Morocco. Since I was a graduate of the Montreal Yiddisher Lerer seminar, my assignment was to teach Hebrew and to be a youth leader. My French was not perfect but I managed to lead discussions about life on a kibbutz. The North African Jews fascinated me; many of them spoke French and Arabic, while those from Tangiers spoke Spanish. Their Jewish identity was expressed through their faith. The men, women and youths knew the Shabbat prayers by heart. Their melodies were different but very beautiful and easy to learn. I felt a deep kinship with them, in spite of our differences.

Finally the day we all longed for arrived. Representatives from the Jewish Agency in Israel assisted us to board the SS Negbah, which would take us to Israel. We led our youngsters down to the lowest level of the ship, to the dormitories. We dropped our knapsacks on the cots and headed to the upper deck. From Marseille, the Negbah headed to Genoa, Italy, to pick up Holocaust survivors who were living there in Displaced Persons camps. I stood silently and in awe watching the survivors board the ship. I was hoping that my grandfather Zelig Cymerman and perhaps someone from his large family would be among them. This in spite of the fact that I already knew they were murdered in Treblinka in November 1942.

> *There is not a Purim that goes by that I do not recall the joy, the enthusiasm, the excitement I experienced on that wonderful day.*

Many of the youngsters were seasick during the first night. With the help of the ship's nurse and two crew members, we brought them to the deck. Some of the first-class passengers helped us organize showers and laundry in their own cabins.

Four days into the 10-day trip to Haifa, we began work on a Purim program. First, we discussed the Purim story and the problem of anti-Semitism. Some in the group knew about the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal. They were familiar with the Ladino language that their grandparents and some parents spoke. A few of the boys told me they learned Torah in Hebrew, which the teacher translated in Ladino. A few tourists helped us create costumes, while some kind African women lent the girls beads and bracelets.

Nature was good to us the day of the Purim performance. The Mediterranean Sea was calm and the sky was blue. The Purim characters in their colourful robes and crowns looked as if they just arrived from Shushan. Everyone was in a festive mood. Mischa and Sarah, the English volunteer, and a committee of adults arranged for refreshments to be served. It was a smashing performance. The captain who was present invited us to perform again in the main first class hall for the tourist passengers.

This happened more than half a century ago, yet there is not a Purim that goes by that I do not recall the joy, the enthusiasm, the excitement I experienced on that wonderful day. I think of my friend Mischa, who has since died, and all the others with whom I worked in Marseille and on the Negbah. They all enriched my life forever. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Azar, Mazal	March 7, 2016	228 Glen Shields Ave
Wasser, Howard	March 7, 2016	167 Yacht Club Way
Hauer, Harriet	March 8, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Gold, Gerald	March 9, 2016	255 Newton Dr
Kelemen, Joseph	March 9, 2016	484 Steeles Ave W
Kleiman, Marcia	March 10, 2016	225 North Meadow Cres
Seaton, Shelli	March 10, 2016	1131 Steeles Ave W
Pozner, Susan	March 10, 2016	1 Emerald Lane
Opatowski, Regina	March 10, 2016	7805 Bayview Ave
Aronovici, Jean	March 11, 2016	7420 Bathurst St
Beck, Norman Earl	March 11, 2016	19 Barksdale Ave
Pearl, Edwin	March 11, 2016	18 Cedarcroft Blvd
Monchis,Yevgenya	March 11, 2016	601 Clark Ave W
Bursztejn, Sonia	March 12, 2016	205 Cummer Ave
Goldchtein, Samouil	March 12, 2016	49 Green Lane
Greenwood, Fay	March 13, 2016	84 Cherrywood Ave
Center, Molly	March 13, 2016	Private
Medjuck, Fanklyn Dan	March 14, 2016	878 Robie St
Krikunetz, Zeev	March 14, 2016	5900 Yonge St
Kanner, Harvey	March 15, 2016	Private

HEBREW BASIC

Minnie Obuchowski	Mar 5/16	4415 Bathurst Street
Rachel "Shelley" Beer	Mar 7/16	262 Ridley Blvd.
Stephen Cohen	Mar 4/16	6171 Bathurst Street
Lucy Sonia Alt	Mar 8/16	4383 Bathurst Street
Lloyd Rotstein	Mar 10/16	5444 Yonge Street

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Lou Litwin	Mar 4/16	7825 Bayview Avenue
Pearl Granville	Mar 5/16	3636 Bathurst Street
Sara Freedman	Mar 5/16	129 Dell Park Avenue
Eleanor Stanton	Mar 6/16	180 Westmount Blvd.
Anne Harris	Mar 6/16	88 Promenade Circle
Miriam Martyn	Mar 8/16	541 Finch Avenue, West
Ronald (Ronnie) Green	Mar 7/16	110 Bloor Street West
Philip Chasin	Mar 6/16	87 Hillmount Avenue
Simon Schreiber	Mar 7/16	615852 3rd Line
Les Middlestadt	Mar 7/16	10 Kenneth Avenue
Murray Kayfitz	Mar 8/16	7 Cloebury Court
Symie Leibovitz	Mar 9/16	10 Torresdale Avenue
Stan Kates	Mar 6/16	55 Strathearn Road
Marie Klodawski	Mar 11/16	333 Clark Avenue West
Gina Littman	Mar 11/16	396-4350 Bathurst Street

OPATOWSKI, REGINA ז"ל

An 87 year-old holocaust survivor, passed away Thursday, March 10th, 2016. Beloved and cherished wife of Felix for 68 years, Mother of Esther, Miriam, Nathan & Susan, and Ami. Bubby of Toby & Jody, Naomi & Michael, Leora & Rafi, Fern & James, Brooke & Zack. Great bubby of Jackson, Presley, Chloe, Miller, Georgia, & Avi.

Shalom ♥XOXO♥XOXO♥

"Next Year in JERUSALEM"

Is significant to the people of Jerusalem.

Your support of the highest priority needs at the **SHAARE ZEDEK MEDICAL CENTER** in Jerusalem is important.

All Tribute Card donations will receive a full tax receipt

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy Passover.

The Canadian
SHAARE ZEDEK Hospital Foundation
a hospital with a heart

3089 Bathurst Street, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A4
Tel: 416-781-3584 | Fax: 416-781-6439
TF 1-800-387-3595
Email: foundation@hospitalwithaheart.ca
www.hospitalwithaheart.ca

$10 for a printed card or
$5 for an eco-friendly e-card.

Order by April 15th to ensure delivery.
Visit **www.hospitalwithaheart.ca** to place both e-card and print card orders.

RETIRED LIFE

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

SPONSOR CONTENT

Maria and the Tefillin

ANDREA NATHANSON, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
QUALICARE – FAMILY HOMECARE

I love sharing real life stories from my work and here's one of my favourites. It shows how we can make a difference in families' lives.

Max was a successful lawyer who was enjoying a comfortable retired life until he started experiencing physical and mental declines. He was clear he did not want to leave his home of 60 years nor did he feel he could accept caregivers living in his home for the rest of his life.

His children contacted us to help them solve this problem. We brainstormed with them and came up with a plan that could be appealing to Dad. The key was to present it in bite-size pieces that wouldn't stress him.

We then brought in two 'personal assistants' – Maria and Evangelina – and presented them as an option to help him get through the upcoming winter – his 'Winter Plan'. Max accepted this since "it would only be for a few months." The most important goal for the assistants was to allow Max to maintain his routine.

Part of this routine was going to shul each morning. This had not been possible for the past six months, as driving had become an issue. As well, Max felt uncomfortable, because he was no longer able to put on his tefillin without help.

Max was reluctant to ask Maria to get up at 5 a.m. to take him to shul, but Maria thrived on doing any activities with Max that made him happy. Moreover, she started working on getting her G2 license so she could drive him.

Maria also learned how to help Max put on his tefillin each morning, with the rabbi's blessing and guidance. Shul attendance made him feel on top of the world in part because, by making the minyan, he enabled others to say Kaddish.

Max has thrived with his two 'angels' in his life and with the 'winter plan' that was custom-designed just for him. There is now no talk of Max's angels ever leaving him.

When we honoured Maria and Evangelina at our Caregivers of the Month luncheon at Qualicare corporate headquarters in North York, Max and his children came to show their gratitude to his nurse manager Helga and the two ladies who had entered his home and made him feel happy and safe there. Here is what one of the children wrote:

Qualicare® FAMILY HOMECARE

A year ago, I cried and had to take deep breaths as I drove away, worried, wondering if my Dad would be okay until the next time I saw him.

Today I drive away in peace, reassured that he is in safe hands and under watchful, caring and loving eyes.

A year ago I held my breath when I saw my dad climb up or down the stairs and at the thought of him using his marble Jacuzzi to bathe.

Today I don't even think twice as I know his angels are with him every step of the way.

A year ago I started to get middle of the night phone calls that scared me or caused immense frustration.

Today I get good night phone calls and it is usually me who initiates them.

A year ago I truly was in fear almost every minute of the day.

Today I know that everything is in place; my mind is at peace.

Maria and Evangelina....you are not just Dad's Angels.

You are our angels as well.

I feel extremely blessed to be able to help families across North America with our healthcare consultation services and homecare co-ordination. ■

Andrea Nathanson is the Executive Director and co-founder of Qualicare – Family Homecare, an international franchise of homecare agencies. Andrea has written a book called ***Margie's Gentle Journey****, about one of her first cases. It is available, without charge, from Qualicare – 416.630.0202 or www.qualicare.com*

Reuben Cipin HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and rooftop terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations
Ages 65+
One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Baycrest
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca
Two Neptune Drive, Toronto, ON M6A 3E6

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED.
BEAUTIFULLY PRICED.
CARESPACE SENIOR LIVING
AT AVENUE ROAD AND EGLINTON

Living Life
ON THE AVENUE
416 483 9900

SPONSOR CONTENT

***Pints!* Pub is just one of the many great places to enjoy gourmet dining at V!VA Thornhill Woods.**

A delicious approach to retirement living

There has long been a stigma attached to the meals served in retirement communities: the food is bland, unhealthy or looks less than appetizing. V!VA Retirement Communities is out to change that, and is committed to providing its Community Members with a nutritious, flavourful and truly appetizing dining experience. They call this approach to fine dining V!VA*licious*.

At V!VA Thornhill Woods, one of Vaughan's newest retirement communities, executive chef Mitchell Lash brings the V!VA*licious* concept to life.

"When you're eating well, you're living well," Lash says.

Lash began his culinary career in high-end restaurants and hotels. After gaining invaluable experience, he decided to start a new adventure in the senior housing sector. This was a pivotal moment in his career, where he has adopted the philosophy that "Age doesn't matter. Young or old, you can enjoy the finer things in life – that includes fantastic food!"

Preparing three healthy meals daily for the same clientele presents its own challenges, especially when incorporating Jewish cultural cuisine into the menu.

"Like any cuisine steeped in tradition, a lot of dishes call for ingredients and ways of cooking that we now know are not that healthy" says Lash. "I really enjoy the opportunity to cook the Jewish cuisine that our Community Members prefer, while finding ways to make the food healthier and still delicious."

V!VA Thornhill Woods incorporates a five week rotational menu that celebrates the changing of the seasons and Jewish holidays.

For example, Shabbat dinner is offered every Friday evening, and meals are suited to celebrations throughout the year, including Passover, Sukkot, Chanukah and others.

"Our commitment to good eating goes beyond Jewish cuisine and healthier ingredients," continues Lash. "All V!VA locations include a Victory Garden where our Community Members and culinary team members plant their own vegetables and herbs. Throughout the year, we use those ingredients directly in our meals. It doesn't get more local or organic than that!"

In addition, the culinary team provides access to the nutritional information of each recipe to Community Members and their families. If a Community Member is following a specific diet, healthier items are identified on the menu, and food allergies and restrictions are accommodated. To complete the dining experience, a lengthy a la carte menu is available, in addition to two Chef Specials at every meal.

What do the Community Members think of the V!VA*licious* experience? Leah Gerofsky has lived at V!VA Thornhill Woods since 2014. She says, "I've loved the food since day one! I enjoy the variety and am always impressed by how fresh and delicious each meal is. There are always so many amazing choices on the menu – I never leave hungry!"

Retirement living doesn't get much more appetizing than that. ■

Contributed by: V!VA Thornhill Woods Retirement Community.
For more information or to book a tour of V!VA Thornhill Woods, please call ***Wendy Teperman*** *at 905-417-8585, email thornhillwoods@vivalife.ca, visit vivalife.ca, or 9700 Bathurst Street, Vaughan, Ontario.*

Thornhill's finest retirement community. Home to Thornhill's finest.

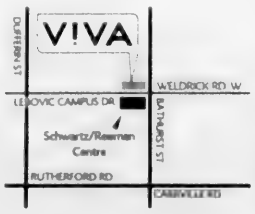
So, who are Thornhill's finest? They are the parents who raised their families here, and built the GTA into Canada's most vibrant Jewish community. Best of all, they continue to volunteer throughout the community – making it a truly special place to live.

It's people like this who inspire us daily at V!VA to fulfil our simple purpose: *Making Today Great!* From our warm and caring Team, to our delicious and healthy dining, modern amenities, inspiring activities and so much more, we look forward to becoming home to more of Thornhill's finest.

Jewish Cuisine | 24/7 Care | Stunning Amenities

Second Person Free!*
Plus, get an extra 10% off.*
Call 905-417-8585 for more details.

V!VA Retirement Communities
Thornhill Woods
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

On the move: Can Pilates be your ticket to staying fit?

MARILYN LAZAR
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

As a Pilates teacher, I'm often asked to define the workout or compare it to other approaches such as yoga. The wordsmith in me likes to begin with the briefest summary possible. The goal of Pilates is really core stabilization, but those two words represent a lot, especially to the aging population. Let's examine what that actually entails.

Stabilization is a combination of flexibility, strength and balance, all areas of key importance as we get older, not just esthetically but functionally. Pilates is ideally suited to address these challenges as it can be weight-bearing but low-impact. Our aim as we age is to stave off osteoporosis, maintain muscle mass, improve posture, boost metabolism and avoid injury. Pilates fits the bill perfectly.

Our core muscles include not just abdominals, but back muscles too – essentially our posture. Actually, there are Pilates exercises to train every muscle from your biceps to your calves, but the goal is to begin with the core, and thereby provide a solid base from which to move effectively.

The workout is named for Joseph Pilates, who developed the regimen to metamorphose himself from a child plagued by ailments such as asthma, into an icon of health and strength. He further refined the exercises to rehabilitate fellow internees during World War I.

Equipment associated with the Pilates routine, such as the Reformer, was originally fashioned after hospital beds with springs on one end and pulleys on the other. Whether you perform Pilates on the mat, on equipment, or employing small apparatus such as balls, the routine is very well suited to an aging population that wants to stay active and mobile.

Increasingly, research points to physical activity as benefiting both body and mind. The concept of mindful movement is based on the interconnection between the two. Essentially, Pilates uses neuromuscular re-training to get your body moving more optimally, whether during athletic activities or daily chores. When your Pilates alignment becomes second nature, you will retain the protective benefit when walking or playing sports.

Much of the repertoire can be modified to suit typical medical restrictions. Seniors may opt for group classes, which are tailored to their needs and offer the increased benefit of social interaction. Alternatively, choose to work one-on-one with a certified instructor who understands your limitations.

You might benefit from rehabilitative Pilates equipment or physiotherapists who are trained in Pilates. There are risks to any exercise program, so best to take a class designed for seniors or work with a specifically educated trainer. Once you've mastered the correct form under careful supervision, you can graduate to a group setting.

There is an increased focus on "taking it off the mat." Often, this refers to holding onto that sense of well-being that comes from meditative focus or releasing endorphins. But it's also the case, that once some of the basic principles of Pilates become second nature, such as the positioning of pelvis, stabilization of shoulder girdle and attention to breath, then the effectiveness of overall movement and hopefully quality of life, will be improved. ■

SALES AND MARKETING BY
ONEWORLD PROPERTIES
786-478 8180
Tonery Determann 305-458-8346
EMAIL: ffcaproperties@gmail.com
One World Properties
SE HABLA ESPANOL
NOW IS THE TIME TO SELL
YOUR FLORIDA VACATION PROPERTY!
With the Canadian dollar at levels not seen since 2003, sell your Florida based property and take advantage of both capital appreciation in both property value and US dollar vs. the Canadian dollar. Contact our team of professionals for an analysis of your property value and what exactly to expect in the selling process!

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
Stay updated anywhere, anytime at
www.cjnews.com

Come Out of The Cold
THIS WINTER
Winter with us!

MIDTOWN TORONTO'S PREMIERE
RENTAL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
Inquire About Our Winter Stay Program
This winter join us at The Dunfield for a wonderful winter stay in your private, fully-furnished suite. Relax in the warmth of our **full service rental retirement residence** – where our resort-inspired living takes place 365 days a year!
Discover **great food, superb service and a robust social calendar** all in a well-appointed environment where your happiness is the order of the day.
Call today to arrange a personalized tour and enjoy a complimentary meal.
The Dunfield
77 DUNFIELD AVENUE, TORONTO 416.481.8524 WWW.THEDUNFIELD.COM

SPONSOR CONTENT

The importance of caregiving to quality of life

DAVID BERNSTEIN
PRESIDENT, CAREGIVER SERVICES LTD

As we age, most of us want to enjoy retirement in a comfortable, familiar setting – home. Sometimes, however, we need help. Often a family member or loved one can be there. If you've received care you know how critical that support is to your quality of life. If you have been there for a loved one, you know how emotionally exhausting being the provider can be. Sometimes, it's necessary to have assistance from a professional caregiver or personal support worker (PSW). Whoever provides it, caregiving adds tremendous quality to the lives of everyone involved.

Living in a retirement home provides many benefits to help us live independently and get the support we need when necessary. But even in these environments our circumstances change and additional support is needed beyond what the retirement home can provide.

One of the most critical situations we face is hospital stays. Although our healthcare system can provide great care and our family's support is critical, to ensure that we or our loved one is consistently advocated for and engaged often requires additional support. PSWs and caregivers are ideally suited to provide this support as well.

Professional support from a caregiver or PSW can take many forms:

- A three-hour visit, one day a week, for laundry, grocery shopping, companionship, and to drive you to an occasional appointment or for banking.
- A three-hour visit, three days a week in a retirement home to help with exercises, go for a walk or grocery shop.
- A three-hour visit each morning and evening to assist with bathing, toileting, medication reminding, meal preparation and generally getting ready for and closing out the day.
- An eight-hour daily visit to assist with personal care, light housekeeping, meal preparation, medication reminding, and to help with mobility and general safety.
- 12-hour overnight care in a hospital while our loved one recuperates from surgery.
- 12-hour daytime care in a hospital to ensure our loved one is advocated for and engaged when we can't be there.
- 12-hour overnight palliative care to ensure somebody is there at all times, giving family a chance to sleep.
- 24-hour live-in care for when family members travel or vacation.

David Bernstein

> *Great caregiving respects and dignifies the lives people have built and lived, and strives to enrich their day-to-day experience wherever possible.*

- 24-hour care divided into two, twelve-hour shifts (a day shift and overnight shift) for an individual with significant mobility issues, Alzheimer's or dementia requiring constant monitoring.
- 24-hour live-in care where the overnights are not critical but assistance is needed during the day. Knowing someone is there at night can help give everyone involved peace of mind.

The goal is to understand your needs first and design a schedule with an experienced caregiver or PSW who best fits those needs.

Caregiving is about having the patience and empathy to help people in their most vulnerable states. Great caregiving respects and dignifies the lives people have built and lived, and strives to enrich their day-to-day experience wherever possible. ■

David Bernstein is president of Caregiver Services Ltd., a Toronto-based organization providing private home, hospital and facility care and 24-hour care. They can be reached in Toronto at 416-994-6096 and in York Region at 905-642-9494 or www.caregiverservices.ca.

I love the location and amenities. It's easy for me to get around and visit my friends.

SAUL SILVERSTEIN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE APRIL 2015.
CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
Make us part of your story.
784 Centre Street, Thornhill
289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

Great food and friendly people
— Ida Holtzkener, Kensington Place Resident

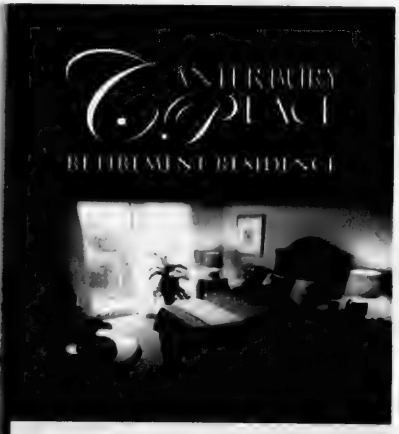
It was the kosher meals that originally attracted Ida Holtzkener to Kensington Place six years ago, but she's come to enjoy much more than the food and on-site Sabbath services. She's met friendly people, and is the official scorekeeper for the Wii bowling program. When she's not spending time knitting, on her computer or reading e-books, she appreciates the convenience of the residence bus for doing errands or taking in the theatre. Her one wish?

"We need a fourth for mahjong!" says Ida. "Besides that I've got no cooking, no cleaning, I've got friends - I'm enjoying my life here."

GREAT NEW PRICING ON SELECT SUITES!
Kensington Place
Toronto's Finest Kosher RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
866 Sheppard Ave West
Toronto, Ontario M3H 2T5
416.636.9555
www.TheKensingtonPlace.com
A Bayfield Senior Living Community
Independent Living • Assistance When Needed

1 BEDROOM + DEN
AS LOW AS
$4,500
— PER MONTH —
ASK ABOUT OUR
MOVE-IN
INCENTIVES

CANTERBURY PLACE
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

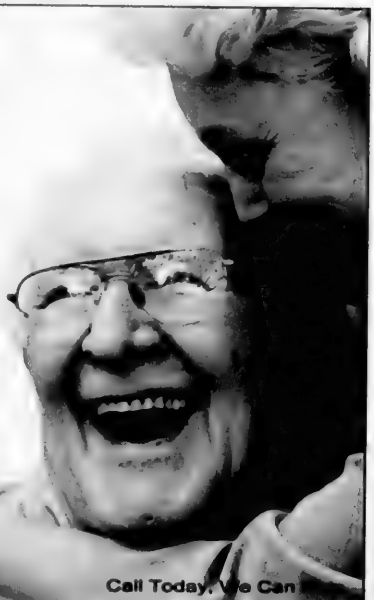


- 3 fresh & delicious meals daily
- Weekly housekeeping with flat linen service
- All suites with balconies or terraces
- Generous amenity spaces including fireside lounge, bar, theatre, salon, library and games room
- First Class Service

Verve INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING

L'chaim
retirement homes

24 hr a day care & attention.
Residents are never left alone.
All day stimulating programs.
A built in day centre.
Fresh delicious food.
Love, care & attention.
All extras are included.



...does it get better than this?

Call Today, We Can
416-398-7898
Specializing In Dementia Care

www.LchaimRetirement.ca

Retirement and the big black hole

LAUREN KRAMER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When Matt retired six years ago, it was like watching a train derail in excruciatingly slow motion. A close family friend, he'd spent his whole career in medicine before willingly throwing in the towel at 69. He was "ready to escape all that nonsense," he said, and his plan was to relax and travel with his then-girlfriend.

That plan fell flat when she ended the relationship weeks into his retirement. As he struggled to recover emotionally from the break up, it dawned on me there was no plan B. Retirement, for this man I cared for deeply, loomed like a bottomless black hole. There was nothing to do and days upon days to fill.

In the beginning his kids tried valiantly to compensate for the emptiness of his hours. They invited him for dinners, picked him up for family trips to the lake and called daily, hoping to help him clarify some structure to his week. They suggested seniors' groups where tennis was played, current events were discussed and music was heard. He tried a few before rejecting all of them. "That's for old people," he said often. "I'm too young for that."

SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

Truth be told, Matt's retirement would have looked much different had his spouse survived, or had the girlfriend that followed her stuck around. He had an unquenchable thirst to travel and the finances to support it – but once he was alone the prospect of seeing the world no longer tempted him. He scoffed at the idea of joining tour buses filled with seniors, and as the last of his friends had drifted away soon after his wife's death, there was little possibility of finding a friend to go with.

As the years passed the sense of frustration at those empty days eased somewhat. Matt became more accustomed to punctuating his hours with a walk, taking a nap in the afternoon, and filling the in-between periods with shopping trips, bike rides and an occasional visit with his grandchildren. I was relieved to watch a routine set in, one that included puzzles, games of Scrabble and weekly visits to the synagogue.

But he put me off retirement completely. After witnessing his post-career schedule unravel first hand, I vowed to think long and hard before willingly quitting my work days. I wanted nothing to do with that massive chasm of nothingness. I'd watched seniors like Matt move from well-functioning members of society to the ennui of having nothing to do.

They say, you'd never leave your career choice or the quest to find a life partner to chance, so by the same token, why retire without a very clear plan of how you're going to fill your time, and who you'll fill it with? Yet research indicates that many couples leave this discussion out of their conversation entirely, only to find, when the moment arrives, that their views on how they'll spend their Golden Years differ vastly.

To some, the idea of no longer clocking in with the workforce is an oasis in the desert, a place where time will finally be theirs to fully enjoy on the golf course, at the bridge table or lunching with the ladies. But I suspect that for most of us it's a frightening prospect, one we keep at arm's length until its imminent arrival can no longer be ignored. At that point we cobble together a plan, throw in some volunteer hours and check if the kids or grandkids need the kind of help we're willing to offer.

Me, I plan to keep working long after that point has come and gone. As they lower me into the grave you'll hear me shouting from the coffin, "Wait! I still have a deadline to fill!" ■

Let us do the cooking.

Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!

Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400

Baycrest

Terraces OF BAYCREST

Flourish in a way you never thought possible

- Kosher (COR) lunch and dinner daily
- Exercise programs in our fitness centre and warm, salt water pool
- More than 130 recreation and fitness programs each week
- On site health centre (six physicians, social workers, chiropodist, occupational therapist, pharmacist, 24-7 nurses)
- Access to Baycrest specialists and clinics
- Be part of a leading edge research community, focused on brain health and aging

Want to learn more? Join us for lunch or dinner and a tour.
Contact 416-785-2379 or MJacobson@baycrest.org.

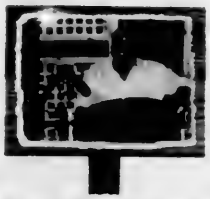
www.TerracesofBaycrest.com
55 Ameer Avenue, Toronto, ON M6A 2Z1

HAZELTON PLACE
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

Celebrate THE SUN!

— FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH FROM 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM —

LET'S GET A HEAD START ON SUMMER.
ENJOY OUR CARIBBEAN THEME.



MUSIC FOOD FUN

We'll be swinging to the Steel Drums with LINCOLN SAMUEL (BOSCO)
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
PLEASE RSVP

$4,095
111 AVENUE ROAD, TORONTO, ON | WWW.HAZELTONPLACE.CA

FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

LET THIS BE... YOUR YEAR!

Live Life to the Fullest at Four Elms!

ELVIS ROCKS FOUR ELMS!

Wednesday, April 6th , 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Elvis is in the house! Don't forget to grab your blue suede shoes and get ready to Rock & Roll away the afternoon as we feature Elvis tribute artist, KEVIN MILLS. Please RSVP

905-738-0905 | 1500 STEELES AVE WEST THORNHILL ON www.revesenioriving.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MARCH 31, 2016 • 21 ADAR II, 5776

$2.00 • 52 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Ottawa confirms closure of Office of Religious Freedom

Jewish groups decry decision after Conservative motion to extend mandate fails. **PAGE 16**

Community divided over Tony Kushner invite

UJA distances itself from Koffler event featuring U.S. playwright. **PAGE 12**

Siman

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:24 p.m.	8:28 p.m.
Montreal	7:05 p.m.	8:10 p.m.
Ottawa	7:13 p.m.	8:18 p.m.
Toronto	7:27 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg	7:43 p.m.	8:53 p.m.
Calgary	7:52 p.m.	9:03 p.m.
Vancouver	7:26 p.m.	8:35 p.m.

How Iron Dome can help Canada

From electricity to the oil sands, Canadian and Israeli companies are collaborating in new ways. **PAGE 8**

A new way to help our chained women

Technology is rebooting how we deal with men who won't give a *get*. **PAGE 10**

Out West, a holy society lives on

Calgary's Chevra Kadisha has been performing acts of loving kindness for 108 years. **PAGE 22**

From Golda Meir to Walking Dead

American actor Tovah Feldshuh set to reprise role as Israel's fourth prime minister. **PAGE 38**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 mirvish.com

Shirtless Israeli issues hoops challenge, and sexy photo draws IDF's attention

Brewer pulls 'Border Fence' beer

Bavaria's Roehrl Brewery pulled 2,000 crates of special batch "Border Fence" beer off the market last week after denying far-right sympathies and apologizing for "hurt feelings." CEO Frank Sillner said the name was a comment on Germany's migrant crisis and affirmed Bavarian values. Critics called it "Nazi beer," noting its slogan "the Homeland needs beer," and its 88-cent price, since "88" signifies Heil Hitler in neo-Nazi circles ("H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet). They also cited the beer's Nov. 9 use-by date, the day that marks the Nazi pogroms of Kristallnacht in 1938.

Welcome to Israel, Nate Robinson

Former NBA point guard Nate Robinson got an unusual welcome to Israel after signing with Hapoel Tel Aviv, when a shirtless man on a bike interrupted a TV interview he was doing to challenge him to a game of one-on-one. It turns out Raz Nisim Cohen – who scored five points in six games during the 2012-13 season for Ironi Ashkelon in Israel's second-tier league – similarly baited other pro hoopsters last year, including Hapoel Jerusalem's Donta Smith, whom he bet $5,000 in a vulgarity-laced video. "I beat [ex-NBAer Jordan] Farmar… I beat everyone on Maccabi [Tel Aviv]," Cohen boasted to Robinson. "That's the first time ever somebody's done that," Robinson said. "That's sick. So cool. Fans are great. How can you be mad at that?" From off camera, Cohen added, "Nate, I'll kick your a--, baby," to which Robinson replied, "I'll bust his a--."

Israeli bravado on display FACEBOOK SCREENSHOT

Haredi draft dodger busted

The IDF sent a draft notice to a man who had claimed an exemption from military service because he's ultra-Orthodox, after his ex-girlfriend posted a photo on Facebook of them kissing. The post also described a sexual relationship between them, Israel's Channel 10 reported. The army said his request for a deferment based on religious observance – which would include no sexual contact before marriage – was a ruse. The IDF is reportedly considering setting up a cyber unit to investigate haredim who ask for deferments to see if they're actually observant, and to draft them if they're not. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	35	Parshah	47
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	44	Q&A	50
Cover Story	8	International	25	Social Scene	46	Backstory	51

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

6

The number of Israeli universities in the top 100 of the latest QS World University Rankings by Subjects: Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Ben-Gurion University and Bar-Ilan University.

19

The number of Yemeni Jews airlifted to Israel last week in a secret operation by the Jewish Agency for Israel. Some 50 Jews remain in Yemen by choice, including 40 in Saana in a closed compound beside the U.S. Embassy.

Quotable

The Office of Religious Freedom was an important symbol to recognize the suffering and oppression so many face because of their faith.

— Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, after a vote to extend funding to the office was defeated last week. **See p. 16.**

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Vulnerable need protection

Doctors aren't the only members of the Jewish community who should be concerned about what legislation Parliament will introduce to comply with the Supreme Court decision in Carter vs. Canada ("Doctors wrestle with ethics of 'assisted suicide,'" March 17).

The report recently tabled by the parliamentary committee charged with proposing how to translate the court's decision into law has gone much farther than the Supreme Court, which granted the right to physician-assisted death to a "competent adult person who (1) clearly consents to the termination of life and (2) has a grievous and irremediable medical condition (including an illness, disease or disability) that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual."

The parliamentary committee proposed expanding the right to competent minors as well as to people with depression. Concerns have been raised by many that without adequate safeguards, people who are vulnerable because of psycho-social factors, such as loneliness or lack of adequate treatment, or motivated to reduce the drain on carers, or coerced by others, may be at risk.

A group of prominent Canadians and organizations, including the Canadian Council of Imams, the Christian Legal Fellowship, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, have banded together to propose the Vulnerable Persons Standard to ensure that Canadians requesting assistance from physicians to end their life can do so without jeopardizing the lives of vulnerable persons who may be subject to coercion or abuse.

Where is the Jewish community in this debate? Should we not be among the first to stand up for the vulnerable in our society?

Diane Richler
Toronto

Students don't feel safe

I took great offence to the March 17 article "We feel safe on campus, York and Waterloo students say."

While I cannot speak to the situation at University of Waterloo, I have experienced the anti-Semitic environment at York University first-hand. York is a place where an infamous mural glorifying violence against Israel hangs in the student centre months past its term limit; where the student federation is synonymous with the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement; and where the actions of anti-Israel student activists go virtually unpunished by the administration.

Even at Osgoode Hall Law School, Jewish law students could not hold a bake sale for One Family Fund, supporting both Jewish and Arab victims of terror in Israel, without fomenting backlash and uproar from pro-Palestinian students on campus.

While I would never criticize the important cultural work that Hillel does on campuses across Canada, the political views presented in this article in no way reflect my own experience.

Ryan Schnier
Toronto

No fan of Tony Kushner

Tony Kushner is a celebrity and a winner of many awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for drama, an Emmy award, two Tony awards, and on and on. There are many people who will want to meet him on his one-night visit to Toronto, but I am not one of them.

We are told Kushner will be discussing how he "tackles the most difficult subjects in contemporary history." Will he be discussing one of his favourite topics: that the creation of the State of Israel was a mistake? Kushner has stated Israel's founding was based on ethnic cleansing, criticized the Israeli army and supported groups that advocate boycotting Israel.

He is a member of the advisory board of the group Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). Among this group's objectives is an end to U.S. aid for Israel and a call for boycott and divestment campaigns against Israel. JVP uses its Jewish identity to shield the anti-Israel movement from charges of anti-Semitism and to provide it with legitimacy and credibility. It is not a voice for peace. It associates with radical, hateful organizations that seek the end of Israel.

Kushner is certainly entitled to his opinion. But no pro-Israel organization should be a sponsor of his presentation.

Harold Pomerantz
Dundas, Ont.

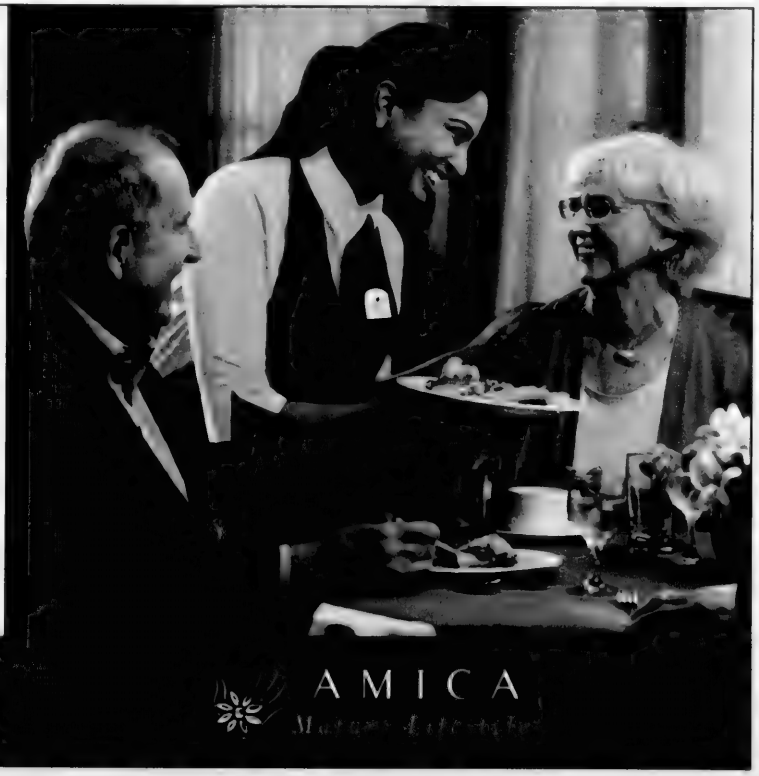
Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

Let us do the cooking.

Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!

Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca



Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400

AMICA

RABBI-2-RABBI

The case for 'radical centrism'

Can moderate voices adopt the passion often seen on the political and religious fringes?

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Scheim: The current election primaries campaigns in the United States dramatically demonstrate the passions of the polarities, with candidates on the political extremes generating extreme emotions, often with scary results.

Of course, extreme positions are not only found in politics, but in religious circles as well, accompanied by intense emotional connection with faith. Those of us who labour in the centre often envy the passion of those further to our right. How do we infuse our moderation with the "*hitlahavut*," the fiery enthusiasm of those more extreme in their practice, without sacrificing the perspective, the tolerance and the balance that exists in the centre?

Rabbi Finegold: Radical centrism, I like it! We should start a movement. Or maybe just a congregation.

I think you pointed out the paradox already – that the very balance we often seek comes at the price of tempering our passion for fear of losing the balance.

Radicals may be more willing to go for broke because they believe they have nothing to lose. By contrast, the centre has much to lose, since our message is often the first to get lost in the noise. This is the first step toward radical centrism, the articulation of what one stands for.

Polar voices come about when others want to convince the world of the objective truth of their positions. But we need to remember that personal autonomy and balance is not just an anything-goes position, it is about big ideas. It's just that we are not trying to beat people over the head with these ideas. Perhaps we need to remember to beat ourselves over the head and realize that passionate ideas need passionate people.

Rabbi Scheim: I am writing these words in Washington while attending the annual policy conference of The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Aside from the drama and extensive attention given to the appearance of the major candidates for the U.S. presidency, what is most striking here is the intense passion for Israel expressed by the 18,000-plus people in attendance.

In the case of a large percentage of the Jewish attendees, their passion for Israel likely does not extend to other aspects of Jewish life. Don't get me wrong – I am thrilled by the passion directed toward Israel, and can't begin to describe the excitement of being in a massive arena packed with lovers of Israel. I would just hope that some of that enthusiasm would find its way to core Jewish observance, and to serious Jewish learning as well.

I think you are right, much of the onus falls upon us – upon educators and religious leaders – to model the enthusiasm and the excitement that we want our congregants and our students to acquire. Should we teach Torah as literature, and not as "black fire on white fire," we diminish the power of our sacred texts and tradition to shape lives.

Rabbi Finegold: A colleague of mine, upon witnessing the same AIPAC conference, pointed out that this is the first time that he feels like a "Galut Jew," an outsider to a culture who is tolerated only so long as he votes the right way.

This highlights to me the downside of passion and radicalism. Passionate points of view and passionate leaders often deliberately exclude those who do not share their views and their passions. Donald Trump is a prime example of this. I would even go so far as to say that Trump is a haredi Republican. He is a paragon of isolationism and rejection of those who don't share his radical views.

Thankfully, we in Canada do not have to make a choice regarding such a potential leader. And maybe Canada is the example that radical centrism needs – fierce pride in a shared sense of values while fully respecting, not just tolerating, the multicultural landscape we live in. Let us take the great passion that we can use to inspire and be very mindful of the balance that centrism requires. ■

Every winter, we like to go down south. Who needs the cold at our age? Last year, we signed up for the Benjamin's Funeral Service Listings email. It gives us peace of mind to know that if someone in our community dies, we won't miss the chance to send our condolences. Benjamin's updates us every day – a free service that helps us stay in touch.

"They thought of everything."

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel
Through the generations ...a sacred trust

Sign up at:
www.benjamins.ca
We're here to help.

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 13 (2,239)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

UJA's GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

Jewish Holidays are intertwined with the food we eat and the people we share it with. Sadly for many Jews all over the world, poverty and hunger define the celebration.

Imagine: you can be the change that helps a Jewish family put food on their holiday table.

globalseder.com

HELP JEWS IN TORONTO, ISRAEL, CUBA AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION CELEBRATE A MEANINGFUL AND JOYFUL PASSOVER BY DONATING TO UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER.

TO MAKE A GIFT, VISIT WWW.GLOBALSEDER.COM OR CALL THE UJA HOTLINE AT 416.631.5705.

For more information about Global Seder contact Rafi Yablonsky at 416.631.5820 or ryablonsky@ujafed.org.

With a donation of $100 you receive a set of 30 hand-crafted place cards for your Seder table.

With a gift of $500 you receive Passover-themed puppets as well as the hand-crafted place cards.

Dollars raised through the Global Seder support UJA Campaign allocated programs and services in Toronto, Cuba, Israel and the Former Soviet Union.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergio **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Schewr, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus, George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Legion members

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Members of Wingate Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, pose on Yonge Street in Toronto, sometime in the 1940s.

SeeJN | Israeli biotech lists on TSX

Israeli Consul General to Toronto and Western Canada DJ Schneeweiss (centre of group) was at the Toronto Stock Exchange on March 21 to ring the opening bell and to help launch the listing of Vaxil Bio, the first Israeli biotech company to list on the TSX-Venture Exchange. He is pictured here with representatives of the cancer biotechnology company, the Israeli Consulate and the stock exchange.

From Yoni's Desk

Putting God first by putting God second

The Talmud in Tractate Shabbat, folio 31a, recounts the story of a man who approached Shammai with a peculiar appeal. "Make me a proselyte, on condition that you teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot," he requested. Shammai immediately sent him away. Next, the man approached Hillel, Shammai's famed sparring partner, with the same plea. "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour," Hillel replied, quoting Leviticus. "That is the whole Torah, the rest is commentary. Go and learn it."

That story captures the essence of a new book by Rabbi Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute. In *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself*, Rabbi Hartman argues that "a life of faith, while obligating moral sensitivity, also very often activates a critical flaw that supports and encourages immoral impulses." He diagnoses this condition as "religion's autoimmune disease."

This disease has two manifestations: "God intoxication," in which "the awareness of living in the presence of the one transcendent God demands an all-consuming attention that can exhaust one's ability to see the needs of other human beings"; and "God manipulation," characterized by a "sinful impulse to control the transcendent" that "extends a blanket exemption from truly seeing anyone outside our religious community."

To be sure, Rabbi Hartman insists that Jewish history and its system of laws offer pointed examples of how to avoid religion's autoimmune disease. He cites Abraham's defence of Sodom, Rebecca, who helped a stranger in need, and Moses' act of generosity to the daughters of Midian, along with the mitzvah of tzedakah (charity) and biblical laws of the shmittah (sabbatical) year as examples of a Judaism focused on human non-indifference.

And yet, despite the lessons of our forefathers and mothers, and despite numerous reminders from the Torah that "faith in God is not meant merely to inspire one to worship but to change those who worship, and to be a force for generating care and concern for all of God's creatures," Judaism's autoimmune disease persists. Rabbi Hartman cites more than a few examples of this malady at work, including what he calls "religiously endorsed injustice" when it comes to the morality of war.

But perhaps the most poignant illustration comes in a discussion of the laws of *kilayim* – the biblical prohibition against wearing clothes made of a blend of linen and cotton. He quotes the Talmud, Tractate Berachot, folio 19b, wherein the rabbis rule that one is required to strip his clothes off immediately upon learning they contain *kilayim*, even if the realization occurs in public. This ruling, Rabbi Hartman argues, "presents a model of faithfulness to God whose intent and effect are to blind us from shame, self-interest, social conventions and ethical instincts that might interfere with our unhesitating submission to God's demands."

Rabbi Hartman's thesis – as he puts it, "putting God first by putting God second" – is not necessarily a revelation, but it is an important reminder, especially coming from an Orthodox authority. As Hillel suggests, the Golden Rule is a fundamentally simple idea, but applying it to a religious life requires two feet firmly planted on the ground. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

Scheherazade's antidote to depression

Dan Yashinsky

According to *One Thousand and One Nights*, Queen Scheherazade would begin telling a story every night, and every night she would stop halfway through. This would have driven her two listeners crazy, except that one of them – her husband, King Shahryar – was already crazy, and the other – her little sister Dunyazad – was all-forgiving and loved stories.

For his part, the king spared the storyteller's life every day because he wanted – he really, really wanted – to know what happened next. He listened as if his very life depended on hearing the whole story. And perhaps it did – for in hearing her tales of kings and peasants, of fortune and destiny, of magic, quests, and lost treasures, he slowly came back to himself. By some mysterious alchemy of art and healing, his psychotic rage abated and his soul found the solace he was so desperately seeking. Scheherazade's form of narrative medicine took 1001 nights' worth of suspenseful, edge-of-your-seat storytelling to mend her listener's broken soul.

Every week, as the storyteller-in-residence at Baycrest Health Sciences in Toronto, I visit the fourth floor. The in-patients are, many of them, being treated for severe depression. When I visit, I bring stories and I listen to theirs.

I recently told them the story of the shirt of the happy man: A king had a son who was so sad that all he did was stare at the wall of his bedroom as he lay in bed. (Many heads nodded at this description. "The bed is your enemy," one patient said to another.) Finally an old wise woman came to the palace and told the king that she knew what could heal his prince. "Go," she said, "and search your kingdom for a happy man. Borrow his shirt. When your son wears the shirt of a happy man, he, too, will remember how to feel happy."

Queen Scheherazade as painted in the 19th century by Sophie Anderson

The king left his sick son and began to wander through the land, searching for a happy man. He asked the captain of the army if he was happy. "Yes, your majesty," he replied. The king asked: "Is there nothing you want?"

"Well, I wouldn't mind being the general."

"Then you're not truly happy as you are," the king responded.

He kept searching. The priest wanted to be a bishop. The merchant wanted to be even richer. He quickly found that nobody was happy with what they had or who they were.

Then one day he came to a forest. Just on the other side of a large hedge, he could hear someone chopping wood and singing a truly joyful song. The king's heart beat faster. He called out: "Who are you?"

"I am a simple woodcutter," came the reply.

"You sound so happy," the king said.

"Yes, stranger, I am happy. My family and I live here in the woods, and we have everything we need."

> *As long as we still want to know what happens next, we have a way to discover and share the meaning of our experiences.*

"Is there nothing you want?" "No, friend, I am content with the life I am leading."

"Then please help me," the king replied. "I am the king and my son the prince is ill with a terrible melancholy. A wise woman told me that only if he wears the shirt of a happy man will he be cured. Can you lend me your shirt?"

The man on the other side of the hedge didn't answer for a long moment. Then he walked around and stood in front of the king wearing only a ragged coat. "I would like to help you, your majesty, but I cannot. You see, I am so poor that I have no shirt."

And this is where, like Scheherazade, I stopped the story. What, I asked my listeners, do you think happened next? What did the king do?

The group pondered the question at the end of the interrupted story. Slowly, they offered ideas. The king, said one, could lend his shirt to the poor man and borrow it back. Another suggested that the king stayed with the poor woodcutter, met his wife and child, learned how they lived in the forest, and finally took his leave. He returned to the palace, entered his son's bedroom, and sat for a long time on the edge of the bed. Finally, without asking permission, he picked up his frail, silent son. He was surprised by how light the young man had become.

The group agreed that they liked this way of continuing the story. Someone else added: the king carried the prince out to his horse and held him closely as he rode into the forest. When he arrived, he handed him to the woodcutter. Without saying goodbye, the king rode away.

And how did the story end that afternoon on the fourth floor?

According to my wonderfully imaginative Baycrest storytellers, the king came back about a month later. Even from a distance he could hear something that made his heart lift. There were two voices singing a joyful song. And when he met his son and the woodcutter again, neither one of them was wearing a shirt as they worked together in the forest.

Scheherazade teaches us that stories and life run in a close parallel. Even in the depths of illness, the story-listeners on the fourth floor have kept the spark of imagination kindled and alive. As long as we still want to know what happens next, we have a way to discover and share the meaning of our experiences.

We remember that our lives, like a good story, contain sadness and joy, love and loss, and that the important thing is to keep listening, keep wondering what happens next, keep imagining that a future is possible in both stories and real life. That is Scheherazade's antidote to depression. The queen of all storytellers knew well that "story-care" is inseparable from healthcare. ■

Dan Yashinsky is the storyteller-in-residence at Baycrest Health Sciences in Toronto.

RUBY
FOO'S
HÔTEL
Montréal
Experience a Montreal Tradition
Free Parking - Special Group Rates - Nearby Synagogues - Reception Facilities - Kosher Services
Beauty Salon & Spa - Barber - Outdoor pool (seasonal) - Restaurants Eggspectation & Otago
1 800 361 5419 • (514) 731 7701 www.hotelrubyfoos.com 7655 Decarie, Montréal, Québec H4P 2H2

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

A dramatic innovation in the Canada-Israel relationship

From electricity grids in Ontario to Alberta's oil sands, Canadian and Israeli companies are working together in new and creative ways

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Back in the 1970s, science historian James Burke hosted a television series called *Connections* that looked at how science discoveries in one sphere of life unintentionally and unexpectedly led to breakthroughs in other areas.

As if to add evidence to his thesis, developments in Israel designed for the Iron Dome missile defence system are now being applied to a Canadian electricity grid. And Israeli innovations in water treatment are being tested to determine whether they can apply in reducing waste in the Alberta oil sands.

At the nexus of these collaborations and others stands the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), an organization founded in 1994 by the governments of Canada and Israel to fund joint projects, promote technology development and bring together companies from both jurisdictions.

The oil sands and electric grid collaborations are but two of the organization's success stories, said Henri Rothschild, CIIRDF president. But CIIRDF does more than merely create business relationships. "You build profitable business relations," he said. "You also build profitable human relations."

In Ontario, Ellis Don, a Canadian construction services company, is teaming up with Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, an Israeli high-tech firm responsible for the development of Iron Dome, to use Israeli-designed applications to operate a Guelph-based electricity grid in the most efficient manner possible.

Rafael's "autonomous decision-making" software is adaptable to running a power grid, explained Robert Barnes, director of managed services for Ellis Don, who has been at the focal point of relations between the two companies.

The Iron Dome software that evaluates incoming rocket threats and determines which should be shot down and which should be ignored can be adapted to a civilian use, Barnes said.

Israel's Iron Dome technology could be applied to electricity grids in Canada. FLASH 90 PHOTO

Right now, Ellis Don is looking at "the commercial application for [Rafael's] software expertise," said Geoff Smith, the company's president and CEO. That could be applied to make power utilization most efficient and place Ellis Don at the forefront of this developing market, he added.

Ellis Don teamed with Rafael following execution of a memorandum of understanding between the two companies, but it was CIIRDF that acted "like a marriage broker" and brought the two sides together, Barnes said.

In its recently released *2016 Impact Report*, CIIRDF focuses on the burgeoning business relationship between Canada and Israel.

Over the course of its history, CIIRDF has funded 110 projects involving more than 200 companies from both countries. It has enabled the joint development, marketing and sales of more than 50 technologically improved new products for global markets and generated $60 million in initial sales and $300 to $500 million in additional economic value. Hundreds of people in both countries owe their jobs to CIIRDF projects.

Rothschild has been instrumental in creating the structure that brings together the two sides in innovative and commercially viable projects.

At a time when "China and India are beating a path to Israel to be partners, Canada has the unique opportunity to seize on opportunities as they arise," he said.

Rothschild suggested that another area on which CIIRDF has focused – promoting the Arab-Israeli business sector in Canada – could bear fruit as well.

Last January, CIIRDF teamed with one of the arms of Israel's National Technology Innovation Authority (NTIA) to bring a delegation of Arab-Israeli industry innovators to Canada to meet with the representatives of Ontario firms. The meeting connected 12 innovative Galilee companies with prospective R&D partner firms from Ontario.

Rothschild believes there is room to grow that part of the Canada-Israel relationship. He has advised Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, who is scheduled to visit Israel in May, "to go to Nazareth (a largely Arab city in northern Israel) to reach out to the business and greater community, in light of the potential for business and overall relations between Arab-Israeli community and Ontario."

Avi Hasson, Israel's chief scientist and chair of the NTIA, said the Israeli participants in those January meetings reported that "they got very significant business introductions."

Hasson believes that, in particular, there is room to grow the Canada-Israel relationship in resource-related technologies and in medical applications.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

HELPING OUR CLIENTS PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH

We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.

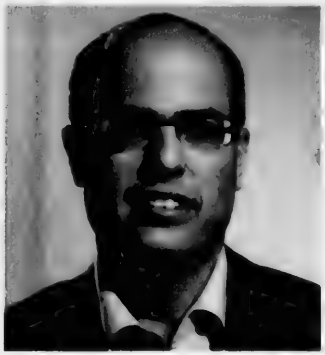
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com

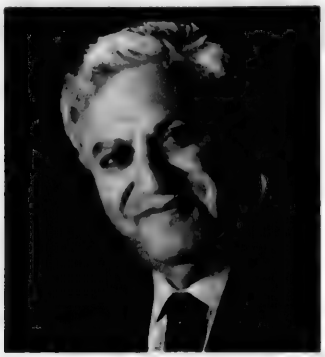
The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI"). SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian



Avi Hasson



Henry Rothschild

> *We need to expose the capabilities, interests and gaps of each country to each other*
>
> **Avi Hasson, Israel's chief scientist**

"We're certainly not experts in oil and gas," he said. "We're without natural resource companies. What we found out at conferences and meetings is that when the needs of those companies are explained, there were a lot of Israeli companies that had the technology applicable to that space."

"No word is more important than collaboration," he said.

From Hasson's perspective, "the last few years have been very successful.

"The companies follow the opportunities. They don't care about the political situation and they respond loud and clear. They recognize the opportunity Canadians and Canadian companies present to them.

"A lot of it is about awareness," Hasson continued. "We need to expose the capabilities, interests and gaps of each country to each other. That's a lot of work and CIIRDF plays right into this."

When it comes to resource development in the Alberta oil sands, provincial legislation sets tough regulatory standards for the industry, including in water use and a reduction in the carbon footprint. That's where Israel comes in, Rothschild said.

Israel is a country that faces a shortage of fresh water, but "adversity brings ingenuity, the need to be on top of your game," and so Israel has developed an expertise in water use, which can be employed in the oil sands, he said.

The Canada Oil Sands Innovation Alliance (COSIA) has been "evaluating Israeli technologies. Last year, Israel was the single biggest source of new technologies in areas such as water purification, monitoring, sensors," Rothschild said.

Tom Reinders is intimately familiar with the Israeli role in technologies that could benefit the oil industry. A technology development engineer at Devon Canada, one of 13 members of COSIA, he's visited Israel to see first hand what technologies might be available for use in the Canadian oil industry.

Acting as a middleman and leveraging its position as an associate member of COSIA, CIIRDF had presented more than 20 Israeli proposals to COSIA for its consideration.

"Of the 20 plus Israeli technology proposals that were submitted to COSIA through CIIRDF, about half a dozen were selected for further evaluation by COSIA member companies." Reinders said.

"Israel's reputation is strong. I would say the perception is that there is a lot of high-tech being developed in Israel. Certainly on the water side, everyone knows the challenge of water, and people know they're leaders in water treatment," he said.

"We want to collaborate and work together to improve environmental performance," he added.

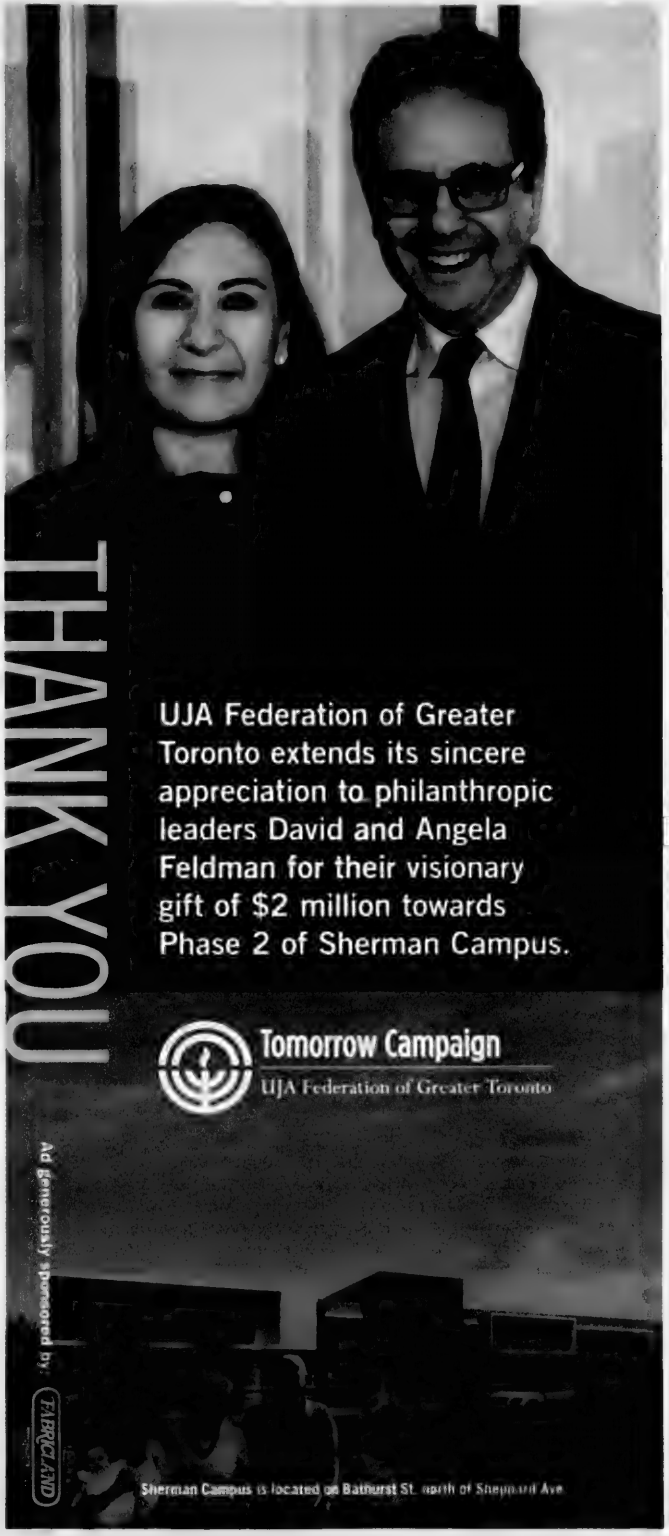
As described in *2016 Impact Report*, "the Canada-Israel R&D project aims to improve the operation, service and maintenance capabilities" of parts of the water treatment process, improve safety, reliability and ultimately boost productivity and profitability.

There are many other areas of bilateral co-operation, midwifed by CIIRDF, that are referenced in the report: in wireless technology, wearable technology for athletes, training surgeons, improvements in cardiac imaging devices, satellite data transmission and more.

As far as Rothschild is concerned, the future is bright and going to get brighter.

"The real story, in an age of innovation, is that Israel is a partner of choice for the world, and that is true of Canada," he said.

That collaboration helps both sides in developing current business projects and in opening doors for ventures in Europe, China and the United States, he added. ■


THANK YOU
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto extends its sincere appreciation to philanthropic leaders David and Angela Feldman for their visionary gift of $2 million towards Phase 2 of Sherman Campus.
Tomorrow Campaign
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Ad generously sponsored by:
FABRICLAND
Sherman Campus is located on Bathurst St. north of Sheppard Ave.

To shame or not to shame?

Yael C.B. Machtinger

Ta'anit Esther, the Fast of Esther, marked International Agunah Day, the purpose of which is to publicize the plight of agunot, "chained" women who are not able to obtain a *get*, a religious divorce, from their husbands.

The name "Esther" is related to the Hebrew word "hester," meaning hidden. For nine years, Esther guarded the secret of her religious and familial heritage. As the Talmud notes, she "hid her words." The Purim story heroine was thus kept silent.

How does this connect to this International Agunah Day?

Like Esther, the voices of agunot have been hidden and silenced. Consequently, when a *mesurevet-get*, a woman whose husband has refused to grant her a *get*, can voice her void, we must embrace it. And while some might find the act of shaming men who withhold *gets* shameful in and of itself, I contend that any opportunity to empower *mesuravot-get* and recast the characters, making abusive husbands the object of shame, must be embraced.

"E-shaming," is a constructive, re-imagined, rebooted version of traditional acts taken to shame men who refuse to grant gets. Technology can help remedy instances of *get*-refusal by exposing abusive husbands as those who should be ashamed. Intensified use of technology in our digital age offers a fresh take on remedying this deep-rooted phenomenon.

E-shaming, a term I coined in relation to the agunah issue, is more beneficial than other grassroots remedies because it cuts across boundaries and networks of affiliation. The critique of traditional *cherem*, or excommunication, is that abusive husbands can join new communities or synagogues easily, leaving their bad behaviour behind them. The effects of *cherem* are not as severe or impactful as they were centuries, or even decades, ago when moving was more onerous and expensive and congregations less prevalent. E-shaming, reverses this effect, so that husbands, too, are chained to their choices to chain wives.

Most importantly, this nexus of get refusal and technology enables women to be active participants in navigating complex legal orders, simultaneously challenging the imagery of the passive victims they are portrayed as. Transforming *mesuravot-get* from passive, helpless victims to active participants in campaigns to exact *gets* is momentous, not shameful. Social media has become a platform whereby *mesuravot-get* can recast the mistaken perceptions about them and assert their agency (something we should celebrate as feminists, by the way).

That said, not every agunah would feel comfortable with e-shaming. Individuals must be respected, and public campaigns are not always in everyone's best interests.

However, in Canada, e-shaming could be particularly potent, since no other remedies, including a viable, legal and halachically endorsed prenuptial agreement, have yet to emerge. My objective is to alert the Jewish community to the e-shaming phenomenon and the transformative successes it has been known to produce in challenging dominant perceptions about agunot as weak, passive, submissive victims, and in challenging dominant normative reactions by communities which deny the existence of get-refusal altogether.

E-shaming contributes to the unsilencing and self-narration of *mesuravot get*, and I welcome giving them a platform from which to tell their stories. Most of the women I have interviewed in the course of my work, including dozens in New York and Toronto, described the shame they feel, having endured abuse and accusations they wronged their families by failing at marriage and disappointing the community and the marriage ideal that the religion propagates. If empowerment can be achieved through e-shaming, that is noteworthy, and we mustn't be ashamed of it. We must use every tool in our toolbox.

Let us not stand idly by, allowing the everyday heroines of our generation to remain hidden, to be silenced as Esther was. Let us reveal the hidden by empowering agunot and their narratives. ■

Yael C.B. Machtinger is a PhD candidate in socio-legal studies at York University in Toronto.

We must make day school affordable for the middle class

Daniel Held

It's day school tuition season. Across North America, Jewish day school budget committees and boards are reviewing budgets, fine-tuning enrolment projections, and negotiating contracts to arrive at tuition costs for the 2016-17 academic year. It's always been a gruelling process, but in today's day school environment, it's that much more difficult, and that much more pressure lands on the shoulders of these volunteers.

For more than a decade, school tuition has risen at a pace exceeding increases in inflation or median household income. These increases have resulted in day school tuition taking up an increasing portion of the average family's disposable income.

Middle income families – who live just above the threshold for traditional tuition assistance, but struggle to afford the full cost of day school – have been impacted most by these increases. Indeed, we've begun to see a barbell effect in day school enrolment – high market penetration among lower-income families who qualify for and receive tuition assistance, lower market penetration among middle-income families who struggle to afford tuition, and high market penetration among high-income families who can pay full tuition.

In budget committees and around board tables, there are two pressing issues. First, how can we mitigate increases in tuition, reducing annual tuition increases to a point where we can look toward a more stable future? Doing so is critical to the long-term viability of Jewish day schools. If we do not dramatically cut these increases today, the compounded impact in years to come will cripple the day school system – a trend that is already emerging.

Second, how can we make day school affordable for middle-income families? Three years ago, when writing the Greenbook on Day School Affordability and Sustainability for the Avi Chai Foundation and Jewish Funders Network, there was a smattering of middle income programs at schools across North America. As one case in point, at the time, there were fewer than half a dozen schools with iCap programs – programs that cap tuition at a proportion of household income.

In the summer of 2015, when UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education completed a survey of day school pricing models (which can be found on our website at www.cjetoronto.com), we found an astounding range of middle income programs at schools across North America, including more than two dozen schools utilizing iCap.

In Toronto, the Leo Baeck Day School launched Aleph Baeck, a program offering middle income families grants to make it easier to afford tuition. Similarly, Robbins Hebrew Academy, with support from UJA Federation and the Avi Chai Foundation, was one of the first schools to mount an iCap program. In Montreal, the Generations Fund provides subsidies and tuition freezes for middle income families.

Each of these programs has been an audacious pilot, testing the waters and learning what works. Making day school affordable for middle income families is essential to ending the barbell effect, ensuring economic diversity among the student body and securing the long-term sustainability of our schools.

I don't envy those who sit on school budget committees and boards. In the coming weeks, we're sure to hear stories of the difficult deliberations that take place around their tables, stories that are true reflections of the seriousness with which they treat their difficult task. At the same time, we will hear the frustrations of parents, who, once again, will be asked to shoulder an increase in tuition that has not been matched by increases in their paycheques.

If I could offer both committees and parents one piece of unsolicited advice, it's the Einstein quote hanging on the wall of my office: "We cannot solve our problems using the same thinking we used when we created them." Cutting costs, middle income interventions and other new forms of thinking are required to solve today's problems. ■

Would we devour each other without good government?

Jean M. Gerber

Just returned from a visit to our neighbours to the south, my original home and native land. Except that it is no longer my home, less and less like my native land.

There are many things to say about the U.S. elections: some good – more young people involved – and some very, very bad.

Unless you are just back from Mars, you know the tenor of many speeches on television: what passes for platforms are slogans; what passes for debates, obscenities; for dialogue, bombast and boast.

I thought back to my Grade 7 class debate, the year Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower ran against Adlai Stevenson. Our social studies class (then called citizenship) held a debate on the platforms of the respective candidates.

I was the Republican supporting Eisenhower, another classmate the advocate for Stevenson. In the end, I won. So did Ike, although without my help. No surprise there, as Pennsylvania is, and was, a Republican stronghold and Ike a war hero. But we addressed the issues: e.g. Communism, the atom bomb, the welfare of newly de-mobbed soldiers.

Fast forward many years and what have we got? Un-reality TV.

Yes, we are not living in America, but make no mistake. The outcome will affect us all, both as individuals (think border crossings) and as a country (think NAFTA, security, immigration.) More, think of the example this campaign sets to all young people contemplating a political career.

What can be derived from our Judaic heritage to guide us at this fraught moment? The rabbis of Pirkei Avot had some wisdom for us: "Be wary of the government, for they get friendly with a person only for their own convenience. They look like friends when it is to their own benefit, but they do not stand by a person when he is in need." (Pirkei Avot, 2:3)

How well we know this can be true. However, as long as we keep alert, usually in a democracy we can be assured the government will stand by us, and by Israel. It's not the 1930s anymore.

"Pray for the welfare of the government; for if it were not for fear of it, one person would swallow another alive." (Pirkei Avot, 3:2)

This feels acutely relevant. Every week on Shabbat, we pray for the government and the people of Canada, that we may be governed wisely and compassionately. So what kind of government are we praying for? Is it true that without government we would devour each other? Where are those better angels of our nature? What are we losing?

We only have to look at parts of the world where government has ceased to function to see the truth behind this cynical view of humankind. Syria, or what was once Syria. Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East. Afghanistan. Libya. South Sudan and other areas of Africa.

But is *any* government suitable? Is any old kind of governance preferable to none? Would we actually fall into chaos if our institutions ceased to act on behalf of the people? We only have to remember the Weimar republic to see how a nation can choose poorly in order to survive. Or, for example, Rwanda today, where a saviour has become a tyrant.

Yet what is on offer by my Grand Old Party? Candidates who are racist, xenophobic, and above all, ignorant of the fundamentals of government. Nor has the media distinguished itself in drawing out the vacuity of the campaign.

Indeed, the U.S. government has almost ceased to function, with congressmen openly refusing to do their jobs. When this happens, we have incipient chaos. Soon, perhaps, people will begin swallowing each other.

Yes, every head of state is an imperfect choice. They will do things we dislike, or make policies injurious to the vulnerable. So we need to hope that we have chosen someone who can govern wisely. Right now, that seems an open question down south. ■

Turkey's terror fight comes late, and with blind spots

Paul Michaels

Along with just about every other country in the Middle East, Turkey is going through a period of instability.

So far in 2016, Turkey has been rocked by four major terrorist attacks, including two in Istanbul, both of which have been attributed to ISIS.

One of these, on March 19, left three Israelis and one Iranian dead, and 36 injured, 11 of them Israelis. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon said that Turkey is "awash in terrorism."

As of this writing, there are unconfirmed reports the suicide bomber, a Turkish national affiliated with ISIS, deliberately targeted the visiting Israelis, following them from their hotel.

If verified, the claim would lend support to what Raphael Green of the Middle East Media Research Institute told the *Jerusalem Post*: that while war against Israel is not – at least now – a high priority for ISIS, through its official newsletter, *Al-Naba*, the Islamic State calls on Muslims worldwide, as a matter of religious duty, to support a Palestinian jihad against Israel and to support attacks against Jews wherever they may be.

Meanwhile, as Israel and Turkey lurch toward normalizing relations, Turkish President Recep Erdogan, in a rare gesture, sent Israeli President Reuven Rivlin a letter on March 20 expressing his condolences "to the people of Israel and to the families of Israeli citizens who lost their lives in this treacherous attack."

For someone well known for his bitter hostility toward Israel, and even for his anti-Semitism, Erdogan's words came as a bit of a surprise, but they also reveal the seriousness of the situation he and his country now find themselves in, including hostility with Russia.

According to Israeli media, Dore Gold, director general of the Foreign Ministry, praised the Turkish government for its co-operation. "It's clear that the Turks went above and beyond to coordinate with Israel… We had to transport people over the border without passports, mobilize airplanes and bring the bodies of the dead back to Israel," Gold said.

If there's a positive side to this very sad story, it's the co-operation between Turkey and Israel in this case.

Whether that manifests itself elsewhere in the relationship remains to be seen. There are still difficult issues standing in the way of normalized ties, foremost being Turkey's hosting, in Istanbul, a major faction of Hamas whose goal, among other things, is to establish cells in the West Bank.

In his correspondence with Rivlin, Erdogan emphasized what he termed "the absolute necessity for the international community to conduct a joint, united and determined fight against terrorism," but he refuses to acknowledge that that also includes a fight against Hamas – deemed a terrorist organization by the European Union (EU).

Ironically, following the controversial deal Turkey recently reached with the EU, in which Syrian and other refugees will be considered for immigration to Europe, Erdogan believes Turkey's application for membership in the EU can be expedited, even though, as an increasingly aggressive authoritarian, he violates EU democratic values by jailing journalists and confiscating critical media outlets.

Another irony, which has escaped most western media attention, is that the killing of the Iranian citizen in the Istanbul attack occurred on the very day that Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif was in Istanbul to further solidify ties, mainly economic, with Turkey. Where is the Turkey that once was touted to be the great Sunni counterforce to Shia Iran's incursions into the region, including foremost its sponsorship of terrorism?

Yet not only does Iran fund and arm Hezbollah, which even the Arab League earlier this month designated a terrorist organization, it also reportedly is back to funding Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza. All are dedicated to Israel's destruction.

Were Erdogan not so obsessed with attacking the Kurds (whose only demand is autonomy within Turkey), he might long ago have confronted both Sunni and Shia violent extremism. Now it may be too late. ■

News

Federation distances itself from controversial playwright

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

After "thoughtful consideration" and consultation with its leadership, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has distanced itself from a May 9 event at the Koffler Centre of the Arts – a UJA constituent agency – featuring U.S. playwright Tony Kushner.

In a March 21 statement, the federation noted that Kushner is a member of the advisory board of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), "an organization that supports boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel."

Though Kushner "has publicly stated that he does not support the BDS movement, UJA Federation has concerns about [his] association with JVP, and we will not support an event where there is any link to organizations supporting BDS.

"Therefore, we are disassociating ourselves from this particular event involving Mr. Kushner, although we remain strongly supportive of the Koffler Centre of the Arts."

Kushner is perhaps best known for his two-part epic play *Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* and for screenplays for the Steven Spielberg movies *Munich* and *Lincoln*. He's won some two dozen awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, two Tony Awards, an Emmy, and the New York Film Critics Circle Award.

The federation had previously promoted the event on its website, a post that has since been removed. It was also listed as one of the Koffler Centre's institutional supporters in a full-page ad in the March 17 print edition of *The CJN*.

Tony Kushner

> *[I have] never supported a boycott of the State of Israel. I don't believe it will accomplish anything positive*

While the UJA logo appears in ads and on websites of affiliated schools and agencies, "UJA was not involved in organizing or approving this particular speaker," Dan Horowitz, the federation's editorial director, told *The CJN*.

Kushner will discuss how he "tackles the most difficult subjects in contemporary history," and offer his thoughts on the future of contemporary theatre in North America, according to the Koffler Centre's website.

In response to UJA Federation's position, the Koffler Centre said it is "very fortunate that Tony Kushner, one of the world's greatest living playwrights and certainly among the most significant thinkers of our time, has accepted our invitation to visit Toronto for an evening."

Kushner has "publicly and repeatedly stated" that he does not support BDS and "we accept this acknowledgement," said Tiana Koffler Boyman, the centre's co-chair of the board in a statement.

Jewish Voice for Peace, founded in 1996, "proudly endorses the Palestinian civil society call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) until Israel abides by international law," its website states.

"We reject the assertion that BDS is inherently anti-Semitic and defend activists who employ the full range of BDS tactics when they are demonized or wrongly accused of anti-Semitism."

The website lists Kushner as a member of JVP's advisory board.

While Kushner has rejected BDS, he supported the Israeli artist boycott of the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

In 2010, 60 leading Israeli actors and playwrights signed a letter stating they would refuse to play in the new theatre in Ariel, one of Israel's largest settlements.

"They are refusing because settlements like Ariel sprawl across Palestinian land occupied by Israel and are illegal under international law," Kushner and Columbia University professor Alisa Solomon wrote in *The Nation*.

In 2011, City University of New York withdrew an offer to award Kushner an honorary degree because of his views, but later reversed its decision and granted him the degree.

Responding in a letter to the *Jewish Week* newspaper, Kushner said he has "never supported a boycott of the State of Israel. I don't believe it will accomplish anything positive in terms of resolving the crisis." He said he remains on the advisory board of JVP, "even though I disagree with the organization about a number of issues, including the boycott."

He added that "the historical record shows, incontrovertibly, that the forced removal of Palestinians from their homes as part of the creation of the State of Israel was ethnic cleansing."

He said his "feelings and opinions – my outrage, my grief, my terror, my moments of despair – regarding the ongoing horror in the Middle East, the brunt of which has been born by the Palestinian people, but which has also cost Israelis dearly and which endangers their existence, are shared by many Jews, in Israel, in the U.S. and around the world."

The author said he's "very proud of being Jewish, and discussing this issue publicly has been hard," but he believes his job "is to try to speak and write honestly about what I believe to be true," and that "silence on the part of Jews who have questions is injurious to the life of the Jewish People."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 49

SONE ROVET CHASSON LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

It is with great pleasure that we are announcing the merger of
Sone & Rovet LLP and **Chasson & Greenglass LLP.**
Effective immediately, the two firms will operate together
under the name of **Sone Rovet Chasson LLP.**

We are excited to be joining forces to provide our clients with quality accounting, assurance, tax planning and business advisory services. Our firms hold similar core values and philosophies, with a primary focus on client satisfaction, while complementing each other with varying areas of expertise.

Our address remains the same, **1220 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 406.**
The telephone number for the new firm is **416-498-7200**
and we encourage you to visit our new website at **www.srcllp.com.**

Artists at York promote pro-peace dialogue on Israel

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Always thinking of new ways to promote peaceful dialogue about Israel at York University, Hasbara at York brought graffiti artists to paint pro-Israel murals in the school's central square, much to students' delight.

"Students reacted really positively and were excited to see graffiti artists on campus," said Ariella Daniels, president of Hasbara at York.

"Students from all backgrounds, very diverse, came up and signed the murals and had conversations with us, and it was a beautiful atmosphere to have on campus."

The artists – who go by the monikers Vinny, Pesu and SeeOne – were invited to York for their involvement with Artists 4 Israel. Founded in 2009 as a non-profit initiative to promote artists' rights and the right of Israel to exist in peace and security, the New York-based organization presents the work of non-Jewish artists who create pro-Israel work that's "credible and adaptable to the widest possible audience."

Daniels said despite the recent controversy involving the pro-Palestinian mural hanging in York's student centre – which spurred media mogul Paul Bronfman to pull his support from the university – this event was not organized as a response to it.

"We've wanted to do this for the past two years. Most students and faculty thought that we were challenging the [earlier] mural, but that is not the case. We just want a different way of producing dialogue on campus," she said.

"The idea was that people would walk by and see these graffiti artists in action and it would catch their attention and hopefully start a conversation with students walking around."

Daniels said the program, co-sponsored by StandWithUs Canada, Masa Israel Journey Canada, Size Doesn't Matter, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, was something she wanted to bring to York since she learned about Artists 4 Israel about two years ago.

She said she heard about the group when she was on a Hasbara Fellowships trip in Israel.

Graffiti artist SeeOne paints a mural.

"A couple of my friends from New York mentioned an organization called Artists 4 Israel... that tries to show a different medium for dialogue, and they brought it to university campuses. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I want to bring this to York because it uses art to bring about dialogue and it's more of a cool way to appeal to students,'" she recalled.

She explained that the organization's artists come from all over the world. Most of them have travelled to Israel, and produced artwork there.

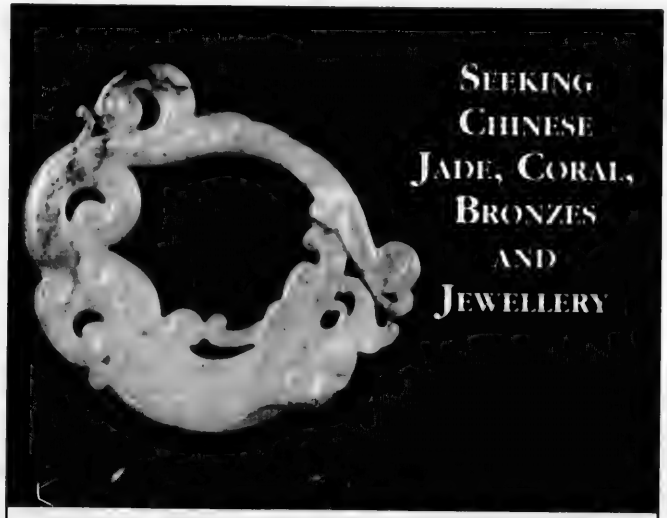
"The idea is that they don't just produce beautiful art, but they also get a chance to engage verbally with other students and talk about how they've been to Israel," Daniels said.

"When I spoke to them on campus, they mentioned that they try to produce artwork that's as unbiased as possible. It's just pro-dialogue and pro-peace. That way, students can participate and engage in more dialogue on campus."

"One of the canvases says: 'Peace for Israel' along with the logo of York University. A bunch of students signed it and wrote messages for peace and dialogue."

Another depicts a lion, which is York's mascot, with the words "peace, unity and love" adorning it.

She said Hasbara at York hasn't made a decision about whether to seek permission to have the murals displayed elsewhere on campus, but in the meantime, the group plans to display them at its own events. ■



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS

SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS
$1,337
including all taxes
Book by April 2, 2016

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
	Apr. 19 – May 01	July 03-14
		July 24 – Aug. 04
	Winter Break	Aug. 07-18
	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017	Aug. 21 – Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS

WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• ***FREE* – Exclusive** $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• **We do all the work!** We can design an exclusive itinerary with your **budget** and **preferences!**
• **Preferred rooms** in every hotel **for less!!**
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY

LIVELINK Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

Survey of York Region Jews aims to boost engagement

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

A large segment of Vaughan's Jewish population can be likened to "swing voters" when it comes to their potential to become more Jewishly engaged, according to a new survey by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education.

A report based on the survey, *The Jewishly Engaged of York Region*, was published last month. The poll itself was conducted last fall by the Koschitzky Centre in conjunction with American research firm Measuring Success, as well as 50 Jewish partner agencies.

Its purpose, explained the centre's executive director Daniel Held, was to determine how Jewishly involved the Jewish community in Vaughan – which he said "is growing by leaps and bounds" – currently is, how its members might consider becoming more involved, and the barriers that prevent them from doing so.

Based on 4,600 responses, the survey found that "central Vaughan," the portion of the region running along Bathurst Street from Highway 7 north to Major Mackenzie, is an area that Jewish community institutions should target to have the greatest impact on engagement, because it's home to a high proportion of the GTA's young Jewish families.

Central Vaughan is home to many young Jewish families.

Held said Statistics Canada's 2011 National Household Survey showed that the Jewish population of Vaughan more than doubled in the last 20 or so years, from 21,290 in 1991 to 47,135 in 2011, and that as of 2011, 30 per cent of Jewish Torontonians under the age of five live in Vaughan.

The report noted that "southern Vaughan," which runs from Steeles Avenue to Highway 7, already has a "large, established communal infrastructure," including five day schools. Southern Vaughan has "reached saturation and is no longer growing," the report said.

By contrast, between 2001 and 2011, the Jewish population of central Vaughan grew by 614 per cent.

Whereas southern Vaughan has a much higher proportion of Orthodox Jews, central Vaughan respondents reported being less likely to attend High Holiday services or to be synagogue members, though their Jewish activities have increased over the last three years more than their southern Vaughan counterparts.

Held said one striking finding was that in Vaughan overall, even among the most Jewishly engaged, parents of school-age children responded "maybe" far more than "definitely" to questions of whether they would send their kids to Jewish day school, supplementary school, day camp, overnight camp and early childhood education programs.

This finding, which the report dubbed "the opportunity of the maybes," is significant, Held said, and further analysis of the data should shed light on what Jewish agencies can do to reduce obstacles for families.

The centre and the polling firm's researchers will be doing deeper analysis over the next few months and expect to release a more detailed report in May.

"We can look, for example, at all the people who answered 'maybe' to sending their kids to Jewish camp. Then we can look at where they live, their household income, the languages they speak at home and their barriers to entry, to determine the reasons they may or may not send their kids to camp," Held said.

The survey showed that, across Jewish institutions, finances were the greatest barrier to entry for respondents in the "maybe" category.

In a presentation he prepared for UJA Federation's board of directors that he supplied to *The CJN*, Held said it was surprising to learn that finances proved such a significant barrier to families not only for sending kids to day school, but also to supplementary Jewish schools and residential camps.

"It's clear that the cost of engaging with the Jewish community, in any form, is a barrier we need to lower... especially for middle income families," he said.

Held stressed that the data must be "drilled into in more detail" over the coming months, in order to learn how to better attract those families in the "swing voter" category.

"It's incumbent on us and our agencies to face the new challenge of recruitment of these 'maybes' head on," he said. ■

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto
APRIL 3 - 13, 2016
DONATE TODAY
SO ALL CAN CELEBRATE
Thank you for Caring for Our Community
DELIVERY DAY: APRIL 17, 2016 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM
416.633.5100 · pfd@ncjwctoronto.org · www.PassoverFoodDrive.org · www.NCJWCToronto.org
Our Sponsors: **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** · Barrday · Dov Capital · Durante's No Frills · Pat's No Frills · Circle of Care · Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Foundation · Liberal · Great Gulf Homes · Carlo's No Frills · Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Jewish Family & Child · Brampton Brick · Metroland Media · Sobeys Hilda & Clarke · Terraplan Landscape Architects · DMS Property Management · Universal Lamp · Jewish Immigrant Aid Services · HomeSweetHomeToronto.com · Jewish Youth Network · Burnbrae Farms · Y5 Creative Studio

Jews most targeted group in hate crimes: Toronto police

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

While the City of Toronto witnessed a drop in the number of hate crimes in 2015, Jews continued to be the single-most targeted victim group, though there were fewer incidents involving Jews than the year before.

According to the *Toronto Police Service 2015 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report*, 31 occurrences involved Jews – plus one that targeted an Israeli.

The next most commonly victimized group were members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community, who were targeted 29 times. They were followed in number by Muslims, with 26 occurrences, and blacks, with 20.

In addition, among 10 separate incidents categorized as "multi-bias," which referred to actions that targeted more than one victim group, three victims were described as black and Jewish, one was Jewish and LGBTQ and another was distinguished as Jewish and Muslim.

Altogether 134 incidents were reported to police in 2015, a drop of 8.2 per cent from the 146 occurrences the year before.

In 2014, Jews, were also the single most targeted group, with 44 occurrences reported. The 31 incidents in 2015 represent a 29.5 per cent drop from the number in 2014.

Jews make up 3.8 per cent of the city's population, as measured by religious affiliation, yet in 2015 were victimized in nearly 24 per cent of the religiously motivated incidents.

Most of the incidents involved mischief to property, such as anti-Semitic graffiti or vandalism. Apartment buildings, schools and public places, such as laneways, were the most common location for mischief offences.

"The Jewish community was the most victimized group for mischief to property occurrences, while the LGBTQ community was the most victimized group for assault occurrences," the report stated. "The Muslim community was the most victimized group for criminal harassment occurrences."

Those incidents targeting Muslims spiked in November and may be attributed to a "negative backlash following the attacks in Paris, France, and the [Canadian] government's refugee settlement program," the report suggested.

Only 21 charges were laid against 19 persons in 2015, and only three of them were related to mischief offences.

Joel Reitman

Commenting on the police findings, Toronto Mayor John Tory said, "I think we have work to do in our society, making sure we put into action the values that we talk and brag a lot about.

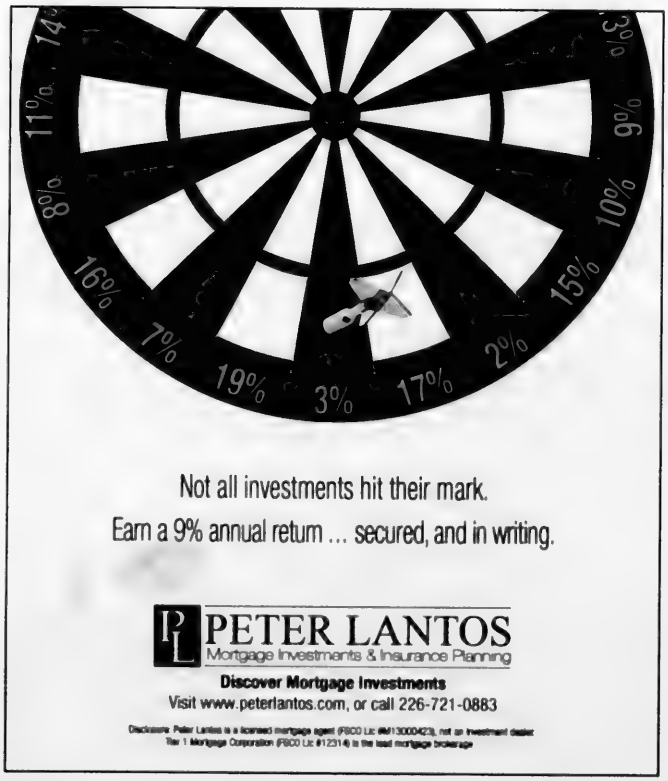
"I don't think this is a job for the police. I think this is a job for each and every one of us as citizens. We have to better inform ourselves, we have to avoid what often happens, which is a rush to judgment about people based on their religion. I think that is true in recent times in the case of the Muslim faith," he stated.

"For the 10th year in a row the Jewish community continues to be the number one target of hate crime offenses in the City of Toronto... This is a devastating and unacceptable pattern of hate which should have alarm bells sounding in the corridors of Toronto's law enforcement, educational and political offices," said Avi Benlolo, CEO of Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"It is clear that our civic leaders in all walks of life need to put a much greater effort into ensuring the safety and security of the city's Jewish minority, and to speak clearly and forcefully against a growing tide of anti-Semitism," he said.

Joel Reitman, co-chair of Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), Toronto, said, "Unfortunately, it comes as no surprise that the Jewish community finds itself once again disproportionately targeted in reported hate-crimes in Toronto. This is hardly an anomaly, which is why the security of our community is CIJA's top priority. We offer a wide range of free services to ensure that Jewish institutions, their staff, and our community members are well protected. These services include security assessments, security briefings and tailored training sessions for security personnel.

"We strongly encourage staff and volunteers in the Jewish community who hold security-related responsibilities at their institutions to go to our website to learn more about the resources that are available," Reitman added. ■



Not all investments hit their mark.
Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.

PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning
Discover Mortgage Investments
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000423), not an investment dealer. Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

My Dad suffers with Alzheimer's. Today he spent the entire day at home in front of the TV...again.

At One Kenton Place our activity based lifestyle transforms the patient back into a person.

One
KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One.

• Activity based programming
• Personalized care plans for every need
• New state-of-the-art dedicated residence

Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto

COR

Reuben Cipin HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations
One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
Education. Culture. Community
Leonard Wolinsky Lectures on Jewish Life and Education
RE-IMAGINING THE BIBLE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Professor Lori Lefkovitz, Northeastern University:
"Bedrooms and Battlefields: Biblical Foundations of Sexual, Gender, and Ethnic Identities"

Professor Adele Reinhartz, University of Ottawa:
"Holy Words of Hollywood: Moses as Jesus in DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* (1956)"
SUNDAY
APRIL 10, 2016
2:00 P.M.
Private Dining Room
Executive Learning Centre,
Schulich School of Business
York University,
Keele Campus
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SPACE IS LIMITED
FREE PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE LECTURE
REGISTER at: cjs@yorku.ca | Tel: 416-736-5823
www.cjs.blog.yorku.ca | facebook.com/cjsyorku
YORK U

Jewish groups decry loss of Office of Religious Freedom

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Andrew Bennett

Following a vote against a Conservative motion in the House of Commons to extend the mandate of the Office of Religious Freedom, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) expressed its disappointment and urged the government to reconsider.

David J. Cape, CIJA's chair said that although the office operated on a "relatively modest budget" of $5 million a year, "it established a number of practical initiatives to help protect at-risk communities and strengthen Canada's role as a leading voice for human rights. We also note that the office was instrumental in uniting diverse religious communities in Canada – including Jews, Christians, Muslims and Sikhs, among others – to work together as partners in this vital cause… We encourage the government to reconsider its decision."

The motion was defeated 226 to 90, with the Liberals, NDP and Green party voting against it.

The office was established in February 2013 by the Stephen Harper Conservatives with a three-year mandate and had a staff of five people, including Ambassador Andrew Bennett. Some critics had criticized it for being too focused on Christianity and saw it as an attempt to gain support from some ethnic voter groups.

In advance of the March 21 vote, Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion confirmed that while the government will continue to defend and promote religious freedom as a part of its human rights agenda, the office's mandate will expire March 31.

Dion added that the Liberal government is "determined to fight tooth and nail for religious freedom around the world," and that he appreciated the work the office has done.

"We have to consider whether it might not be more effective to combine all of Global Affairs Canada's efforts to defend and promote human rights into a single office to advance and to leverage the resources of the department in its embassy network around the world to advance this mission," Dion said.

"Canada will support every effort to speak out when human rights are in question or where people are being persecuted for who they are or for their beliefs, including when human rights defenders are arrested and threatened for daring to speak out against human rights."

Interim Conservative Leader Rona Ambrose posted a note on Facebook that called the vote a "sad evening in the House of Commons," as the office "advocated on behalf of religious minorities under threat, opposed religious hatred, and promoted Canadian values of tolerance. It also funded projects, which have helped groups in Iraq monitor and report on religious persecution."

She added: "Closing this office at a time when freedom of religion is under threat is truly shameful."

CIJA spokesperson Steve McDonald said the office was involved in projects from Holocaust commemoration activities to alleviating tensions in particular communities.

"They were active in Sri Lanka, in Nigeria, in Burma, in Pakistan in areas where there are often clashes and religious minorities are singled out and attacked," McDonald said.

"We engaged with [Bennett] not just on the Holocaust file… but we also began working with him on the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and Africa. On that file in particular, he was a great force in bringing together Eastern Christian leaders as well as Jewish community leaders to talk about these issues, to learn from one another and learn from these opportunities for joint advocacy."

He added that while the statement expressed CIJA's disappointment "we also noted that we are pleased with the fact that Dion's statement was very strong in saying that Canada is going to vigorously defend freedom of religion."

Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, said, "In the face of continued divisiveness in our society, the Office of Religious Freedom provided a sense of inclusivity with government to many groups of numerous faiths. This is a loss for Canada and for anyone who believes in human rights and the sanctity of freedom of religion."

Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, said the government's decision was "unfortunate."

"The Office of Religious Freedom was an important symbol to recognize the suffering and oppression so many face because of their faith. With acts of terror so often religiously motivated, now more than ever, Canada must enshrine the promotion of religious freedom as a cornerstone of its foreign policy," Mostyn said. ■

Canada should hitch its wagon to Israeli high-tech, ambassador urges

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Vivian Bercovici FLASH 90 PHOTO

Canada must get on Israel's high-tech juggernaut or risk lagging even further behind.

That was the message sounded by Canada's Ambassador to Israel, Vivian Bercovici, to a blue-chip luncheon audience March 24 to the venerable Empire Club.

"If you want to make it in global tech, in global innovation, you must be in Israel," Bercovici told about 400 people.

Since the early 1990s, Israel has become a global tech powerhouse rivalled only by the United States and China, an "economic miracle" that must contend with "unimaginable security challenges," she said.

Appointed Canada's envoy to Israel in January, 2014 by former prime minister Stephen Harper, Bercovici was in Toronto for a few days to help lay the groundwork for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's trade mission to Israel, slated for May 15 to 19. More than 100 leaders in business, politics, commerce and trade are expected to go.

In her talk, Bercovici stressed Israel's booming high-tech sector, and "a telling fact": In 2014, Israel spent 4.1 per cent of its gross domestic product on high-tech research and development. Canada, she said, spent 1.6 per cent of its GDP on R&D.

That means Israel is ranked No. 2 in the world by this metric, and Canada 19th.

However, in terms of actual dollar amounts spent on R&D, Canada is 13th in the world and Israel 22nd.

"If you want to support a robust economy with strong tech fundamentals, you have to invest the dollars," Bercovici said. "More than that, it also means you have to ensure your investment is tied to commercial viability."

While it's true that Canada is investing more money than Israel in R&D, "we're lagging in terms of technological prowess. And we are now in a game of catch-up. We must assess our strengths and weaknesses very critically and quickly, and we must deploy our considerable resources and talents very strategically."

Canada "cannot waste time. Tech power is economic power. Period."

Over the past few years, Bercovici said she has watched as other countries – South Korea, China, India, Britain and Australia – "have focused and accelerated their national tech investment on partnering with and investing in Israeli ventures. They're all over the place."

As well, Israeli companies represent the fourth-largest number of listings on the NASDAQ stock exchange, exceeded only by companies from the United States and China, and all of them are high-tech firms. "Pause and consider that for a moment," Bercovici urged. "Nobody can still be sitting here and saying 'Why do we want to be [in Israel]? Why do have to be there?' Everybody's there."

She touted other opportunities, such as water, in which Israel is a world leader in use, re-use, desalination, and recycling, as well as agri-tech, medical and health breakthroughs, cyber-security, aerospace, and a "tremendous opportunity" for Canada to help Israel extract and distribute recently discovered offshore natural gas deposits.

Canada "should be in the mix, and we're not. We have pockets of investment and activity. But we don't have near the representation a country our size and sophistication should.

"We will never sell a million TV sets there," Bercovici stated. "We will never have a balanced trade budget with Israel. Commercial relations with Israel are all about leveraging Israeli intellectual property and capital with assets and resources in our economy to enhance our productivity and spur our growth.

"We have to start to understand that here, because most other countries are way ahead of us. Other countries have all figured it out."

Bercovici was scheduled to be presented the Community Service Award for Israel at Beth Sholom Synagogue on March 29. ■

Tom's Place
4 DAYS ONLY
Tom's Place
Spring Warehouse SALE
at the International Centre
Designer Slim Fit Suits
100% wool. Reg. $399-$599
$349 $169*
Canadian & Other Designer Suits
Reg. $795 each
3 for $1200 $999*
Selected Sports Jackets ..... 2 for 1
Selected Dress Shirts & Pants
2 for 1 3 for 1*
Selected Outerwear ..... 50% OFF
Women's Liquidation ..... up to 90% OFF
Skirts, blouses, sweaters, pants, jackets & suits
*Only with this ad!
No rainchecks offer will be refused!
Established 1958
Tom's Place
We'll suit you.
Thurs March 31 - Sun April 3
International Centre, Hall 6 - 6900 Airport Road
Corner of Airport & Derry Rd. (Lots of free parking)
Thur & Fri 11-8 · Sat 10-6 · Sun 11-5
416-596-0297 toms-place.com facebook.com/TomsPlaceTO

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

CIJA, JSpace and NIF discuss Mideast peace prospects

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Three speakers from Jewish advocacy groups on the centre and centre-left agreed that current prospects for Mideast peace are poor, with one blaming the lack of a partner on the Palestinian side for the impasse.

Hosted by Oraynu, Toronto's congregation for Humanistic Judaism, and held at the Borochov Cultural Centre, the March 22 panel featured Steve McDonald, deputy director of communications and public affairs at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA); Karen Mock, a human rights consultant and a founder of JSpaceCanada; and Joan Garson, chair of the New Israel Fund of Canada (NIFC).

They answered questions from moderator Rabbi Denise Handlarski, Oraynu's spiritual leader, about prospects for peace in Israel, the secular/religious divide among Israeli Jews, Israel's economic challenges and the role Canada should play in supporting and criticizing Israel.

On the question of peace, Mock said what's needed is mutual recognition followed by bilateral negotiations based on pre-1967 borders and leading to Palestinian statehood.

She added that the Palestinians must abandon the notion of pre-1948 borders as a starting point for talks, disavow violence and "demonstrate a willingness to stay the course of negotiations."

Garson said a lasting peace should be based on the values of Israel's founders as stated in Israel's Declaration of Independence, namely, the upholding of full social and political equality for all citizens, regardless of race, creed and sex.

In addition to stressing that Israel must oppose racism and "expand the shrinking democratic state," Garson said, "we must end the occupation and show we're not looking to build a state from the river to the sea, while remaining committed to Israel's security."

She conceded that currently, "with ISIS perched on the Syrian border," security feels more tenuous, but "without mutual respect for all communities and passion to seek peace, even if it seems far away today, that peace won't come."

McDonald took a harder line on prospects for peace, saying resistance on the Palestinian side has made it "elusive."

Since 1967 and through the Oslo process of the 1990s, he argued, Israel has tried to withdraw from land in exchange for peace. Since 2000, Israeli prime ministers have made three different offers that would have created a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, he said, but all were rejected without a counter proposal.

From left, Steve McDonald, Karen Mock, Joan Garson JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

Most Israelis support a two-state solution, he said, yet recent polls showed that a large proportion of Palestinians support the stabbing campaign against Israelis.

"If an election were held today, [Palestinian President] Mahmoud Abbas would win. He has neither the credibility or will to make peace," he said.

McDonald added that the path to peace is one in which Israel works – ideally with the Palestinians, but if not, unilaterally – "to create economic opportunities for Palestinians, improve conditions in the territories and hope the Palestinians will one day have a leader... who's a partner for peace."

On divisions between religious and secular Israelis, Mock and Garson denounced circumstances they said have caused many secular and non-Orthodox observant Jews to feel like second-class citizens.

"The balance of power is in the hands of the Orthodox. They get to say which schools get more money and who's exempt from military service, and they maintain a grip on the laws of marriage and conversion," Mock said, suggesting that electoral reform could help resolve these issues.

McDonald said he sees the religious/secular divide in Israel as a "greater existential conflict than that between Israel and Palestine."

He praised efforts being made in the haredi community to integrate its members into the military and work force.

He said the haredi community's primary concern is losing children to secularization and that Israelis' ultimate goal should be "unity, not uniformity," since "the last thing we should do is tear ourselves apart from within." ■

Honour someone with a donation in their name to United Jewish Appeal and we will send a beautiful, custom designed Passover tribute card on your behalf.

For a minimum tax deductible amount of $10.00 per card, your support will help strengthen the lives of Jews in Toronto, Israel and around the world.

It has never been easier to show someone that you care.

To order Passover cards, contact Shai Abraham at **sabraham@ujafed.org** or fax **416.631.5682** with the following details:

- Recipients' name and address as to appear on the envelope
- Name(s) on card, if different from the envelope
- How you would like the card to be signed, i.e. *From, Love, Fondly,* etc. and name(s)

(Please include your name, address, phone number, Visa, Master Card or Amex numbers and expiry date.)

To place your Passover Card orders online and get to an instant tax receipt, visit us at **www.ujatributecards.com**
To place an order of 3 cards or less, call Shai directly at **416.631.5685.**

On behalf of UJA of Greater Toronto, we wish you and your family and friends Happy Passover!

CELEBRATING 100 1917-2017 United Jewish Appeal UJA Federation

Toronto man fundraises to buy bikes for Israeli kids

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Building off the success of a project that began in 2008 to provide needy Israeli children with bicycles, Yehoshua Wolman decided to step up his efforts with a crowdfunding campaign to reach even more children.

Wolman explained that several years ago, he took a course in bicycle mechanics and decided he wanted to use his expertise to benefit children in Israel.

"I established an organization called bicycles4israel, which aimed to take used bicycles, which were donated by the Toronto Jewish community, repair them if needed, and ship them to Israel," said Wolman, who currently works in a bike shop in Toronto.

He said that following an article about his project that ran in *The CJN* in 2008, he gathered about 200 bikes from Toronto's Jewish community.

"These bikes were beaten up, and some were scrap, so I decided initially to repair them and send them to Israel... and my counterpart in Israel did the legwork to see if it was feasible," Wolman said.

He said that tariffs and fees for the shipment made it too expensive. He decided instead to sell the bikes in Toronto, and used the funds to purchase bikes in Israel for needy kids.

Yehoshua Wolman

> *Religious kids don't play much sports, so their greatest joy is a bicycle.*

"I decided to continue repairing bikes and have periodic bike sales from my garage, and over the years I got a following. I had repeat customers and all the money collected went into a special account," he explained.

Wolman said that in late 2015 he contacted his friends in Israel and asked them to find "a good shop that would provide the best deal."

In January, Wolman travelled to Israel and was able to purchase 40 bicycles that were given to needy children in Safed.

"Religious kids don't play much sports, so their greatest joy is a bicycle. It's recreational and also for transportation to yeshiva or cheder or whatever," Wolman said.

"It went off with great success and great emotion," he said, with a quiver in his voice. "I said, 'I can't stop now.' I knew I wasn't going to wait another seven years to sell enough bikes to purchase more bikes in Israel."

He said his friend suggested he start a crowdfunding campaign to call on members of the community to donate to the cause.

"I had never heard of Go Fund Me, but I spoke to a friend and he suggested this website and it sounded good and I'm in the midst of it right now," he said.

He started collecting for the crowdfunding campaign in February and so far has raised more than $400 of his $20,000 goal, which he hopes to reach by June. He hopes the $20,000 will translate into about 100 bikes.

Wolman said the reaction from the community about his ambition has been nothing but positive.

"They're giving me good vibes," he said with a laugh. ■

For more information, visit www.gofundme.com/h3nqxcb8.

Free

LARGE PRINT HAGGADAHS

for those who are visually impaired or reading disabled The JBI Library can help you or a loved one fully enjoy the Passover Seder!

Aussi disponible en français/l'hébreu

Please call the JBI Library before
April 15, 2016
800-999-6476

To download or order online at
www.jbilibrary.org

JBI International
110 East 30 Street, New York, NY 10016 • Established as The Jewish Braille Institute in 1931

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

New head of Mizrachi Canada focuses on youth

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

With his appointment as new executive director of Mizrachi Canada, an international religious Zionist non-profit group, Rabbi Elan Mazer said he's committed to helping the organization change its focus to engage a new generation of young Jews.

Speaking to *The CJN* in the weeks following the announcement that Rabbi Mazer would be taking over from Rabbi Meir Rosenberg, who retired following a 10-year stint as Mizrachi Canada's executive director, the 28-year-old Montreal native said he grew up "very much in a Mizrachi system."

"I grew up with both the ideology as well as the education from the Mizrachi world. That very much defined where I was headed and what I'm doing right now," Rabbi Mazer said.

He attended Montreal's religious Zionist school, the Hebrew Academy, and was involved with Bnei Akiva, a North American religious Zionist organization. He said it was at the Bnei Akiva camp, Moshava, where he met his wife, Nomi.

He was 17 when he decided to make aliyah. He joined the hesder program at Yeshivat Hakotel, a five-year joint army and yeshiva program. He served in the combat engineering corps of the Israel Defence Forces.

"I was living in the Old City of Jerusalem for five years, which was very special. To be actually living the dream, to look around and know that you're living, not only your own personal dream, but what the Jewish people have been dreaming about for 2,000 years, was very empowering," Rabbi Mazer said.

Although he was living his personal dream in the Old City, he said coming back to Canada as a shaliach was always part of the plan.

"I always say it was a way of fully giving back, something that my shlichim inspired me [to do]…"

Three years ago, Rabbi Mazer came to Toronto with his wife and children to serve as a spiritual adviser, at the Bnei Akiva schools: Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanot Orot Girls' School.

Rabbi Mazer said he is now committed to helping Mizrachi Canada join the international effort to change the organization's focus.

"Mizrachi Canada is now in the midst of a rejuvenation, not only in Toronto, but across the world. This is something that is happening in the Israeli headquarters of World Mizrachi in Jerusalem, as well as all across North America, England, Australia and South Africa," he said.

Rabbi Elan Mazer

"The relationship between Israel and the Diaspora is going through a transition. In the past, the goal was building the state. In that sense, the role of Diaspora Jewry was to help Israel come to life, help them grow, physically and spiritually."

He said that the goal of World Mizrachi is no longer about galvanizing Diaspora Jews to lend a helping hand to a fledgling state.

"I think there is much more of a partnership, much more of a feeling that we are in this together. Both the Diaspora and Israel are working together in order to grow on both ends," he said.

About two years ago, a new director general of World Mizrachi came in, a man by the name of Rabbi Doron Perez, and he has been leading the revolution across the world… [We're] creating a sense of activism and partnership within young adults and the next generation of the Jewish communities here."

National president of Mizrachi Canada, Jerry Rosenfield, said in a statement, "We're confident Rabbi Mazer will attract a younger demographic and deepen our community's connections to the Torah, the people and the land of Israel."

Rabbi Mazer, who took this role on for the short term, as he has plans to return to Israel, said his goal is for Mizrachi to become an organization that facilitates an active role for Diaspora Jews in Israel's continued growth.

"The reason I took this job is because I strongly believe that no matter where you are in the world, the more you are a part of the building of the state of Israel, both in a spiritual and physical way, the greater your sense of identifying as part of the Jewish people will be." ■

PR CREATIVE CATERERS

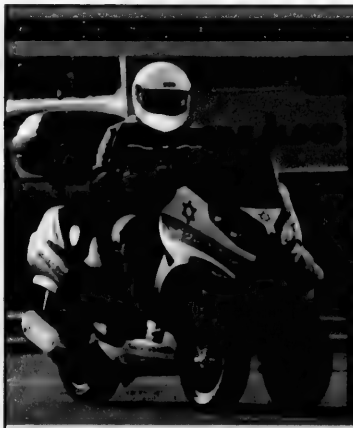
Passover is just around the corner!

Visit our website **www.prcreativecaterers.com** to download our menu and place your order today!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

RECEIVE A **5%** DISCOUNT BY **APRIL 8th** WHEN ORDERING ONLINE

WWW.PRCREATIVECATERERS.COM
416 787 9889



In response to on-going excessive terror attacks and recent events, MDA Israel has issued a "Code Red" for the immediate purchase of an additional 50 MEDI-CYCLES

* MEDI-CYCLES contain the most advanced mobile medical equipment.
* MEDI-CYCLES are able to maneuver through heavy traffic and reach victims quickly, allowing paramedics to provide lifesaving medical treatment.

40 Years / Ans
CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM / CANADIEN
for Israel · pour Israël

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 3155
Montreal, QC H3X 2T8
Tel: **514-731-4400**
Fax: 514-731-2490
Toll-Free: **1-800-731-2848**
Email: info@cmdai.org
www.cmdai.org

TORONTO CHAPTER:
4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508
Toronto, ON M3H 5Y2
Tel: **416-780-0034**
Fax: 416-780-0343
Toll Free in Ontario
1-888-858-2632
Email: toronto@cmdai.org

HELP US SAVE LIVES – DONATE NOW!
ISRAEL CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT MDA · MDA CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU

Montreal genealogist had key role in case of oldest man

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thejcn.ca, MONTREAL

The designation earlier this month of a 112-year-old Israeli as the world's oldest living man by Guinness World Records would not have been possible without the sleuthing of Stanley Diamond, the Montreal-based executive director of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI).

The exacting Guinness organization was not convinced by Yisrael Kristal's claim that he was born on Sept. 15, 1903 in the town of Zarnow. He did not possess documentation that Guinness regards as irrefutable proof.

When Diamond read about Kristal and his supporters' bid for the oldest title in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* about six weeks earlier, he knew he had to help.

Diamond was by no means certain he could come up with what Guinness required, but he knew that if anyone could find that vital missing piece it would be JRI. Diamond founded the non-profit JRI 21 years ago, an outgrowth of his amateur genealogical research into his own Polish Jewish roots sparked by discovering he had a rare genetic condition.

Today, JRI is the largest, fully searchable database of indexes to Jewish vital records accessible online – for any country. Five million records from more than 550 Polish towns are now indexed, and more are added all the time.

Unfortunately, those records did not include a birth certificate for Kristal. Diamond found that the vital records for Zarnow, the small town nearest the village where Kristal was actually born, have not survived.

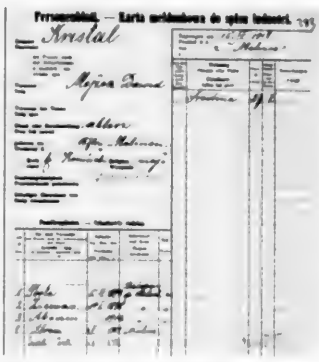
"Although Kristal has postwar international tracing service records and immigration papers to Israel [with his age], they are more than 20 years old, which Guinness does not accept," Diamond explained.

The first breakthrough in JRI's sleuthing was the discovery in the state archives of Kristal's residency card in Lodz, thanks to the co-operation of the director of the Lodz archives, a longtime collaborator of Diamond's, and the work of JRI's database manager, Michael Tobias in Glasgow, Scotland.

At 17, Kristal had gone to that city to rejoin his father who had come back from Russia and had a candy business.

He was known in Poland as Izrael Icek.

The card shows his birth year as 1903 – and this document is within Guinness's 20-year limit.



This Lodz residency card shows Yisrael Kristal's name (Izrael Icek) written with the birthdate of 1903 in the left-hand column.

But it was not enough. Diamond then came upon Kristal's marriage banns to his first wife published in the town of Malagoszcz in 1928. The rabbinical certification stated that the groom was 25 years old.

But alas that record was more than 20 years after Kristal's alleged birth date.

Then Diamond had a "eureka moment" when he discovered birth protocols, a type of sworn statement, attached to the banns for both Kristal and his bride.

They had been cut off on the right-hand side when first scanned.

That was sufficient to convince Guinness, and on March 11 it confirmed Kristal as the world's oldest man (but only the 32nd oldest person, those older than him all being women.)

"The key thing in all this is to underline that [Jewish] records do survive, that people can follow a paper trail, and that we can help them do that," said Diamond.

JRI has frequently been called upon to find proof of age, but has never undertaken a project quite like this.

"Often, I've had people right here in Montreal come for help because when they immigrated they said they were younger than they were. Then when they have reached pension age, they need proof of their real age to get those benefits," he said.

Kristal survived the Lodz ghetto and Auschwitz. His first wife and two children perished in the Holocaust. Kristal immigrated to Israel, to Haifa, where he still lives, in 1950. ■

GUEST VOICE

A holy society out West

Susan Dvorkin

The Chevra Kadisha of Calgary held its annual volunteer dinner last month, and in the same fashion as they conduct their business, the evening was low key, unassuming and without fanfare.

Is it appropriate to celebrate an institution that deals with death? The dinner's purpose wasn't to celebrate the business of death, but rather to take pride in the chevra's role in the community and, more importantly, recognize and acknowledge its many volunteers, without whom this organization would not exist.

Calgary's chevra kadisha is one of a very few in North America that are able to support their Jewish community's burial needs solely through the tireless efforts of volunteers, and it's been doing so for more than 108 years.

Volunteers come together as a community, regardless of their personal philosophies or levels of observance, to honour the centuries-old tradition of preparing the deceased for their final journey with the utmost respect and dignity. In this way, they link themselves to their people's past, present and future while performing the mitzvah of *chesed shel emet*, the last act of loving kindness, for which repayment is neither expected nor repaid.

Volunteers of any chevra kadisha have always been referred to as a holy or sacred society, and those who participate in the various tasks have often done so anonymously. While that is respectful of traditions, this anonymity can make it difficult to recruit new volunteers.

Although many are involved because their parents and grandparents also volunteered, without a newer generation of volunteers, the tradition of hand-sewn *tachrichim* (shrouds) created by the women, may end, to be replaced by imports from factories in the East.

Undoubtedly, in larger communities such as Toronto and Montreal, business is done in a more commercial manner by outsourcing and purchasing *tachrichim*. But the way Calgary's chevra honours, cares for and buries its dead completely "in house" says so much about this small, but very caring, Jewish community.

> *All Jews, regardless of communal affiliation or non-affiliation, are entitled to a proper Jewish burial.*

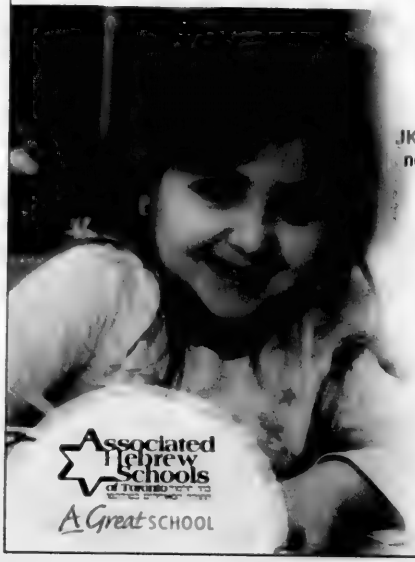
All Jews, regardless of communal affiliation or non-affiliation, are entitled to a proper Jewish burial, and the chevra won't deny anyone this honour, even if financial hardship is an issue. A situation may also occur in which the chevra is given the important task of burying a *met mitzvah* – a deceased who has nobody else to take care of his or her funeral. To this end, the fundamental principle of *kibud hamet* (honouring the deceased) is reinforced, as every person is treated equally and in the same manner – the shrouds used are the same for everyone, and the casket used is usually the same for everyone as well.

At some point in their lives, every Jew in Calgary will have to use the services of the chevra kadisha. It brings them together as a community at perhaps their greatest time of need. Death is not something many wish to speak about, plan for or be associated with, because it is accompanied by sorrow and pain. Donating one's time, as a volunteer is truly a mitzvah because there is no repayment.

The volunteers in this small Jewish community are truly priceless. They are asked to perform their duties with love and respect, and often with very little notice. They ensure that the deceased is properly prepared for their final appearance and judgment before God and their passage into the Olam Haba (the world to come.

What a wonderful mitzvah to be proud of! ■

3 more reasons to pick Associated Hebrew Schools, from the start!



NEW full-day JK at Associated Cedarvale campus for 2016/17

JK and SK tuition support now available at all campuses

Reduced fees for Nursery at Associated Cedarvale for 2016/17
$2,840 tuition decrease for full-day
$1,575 tuition decrease for half-day

Register today!
Contact Pearl Greenspan
pgreenspan@ahschools.com
905.889.3998 ext. 508

For more information, visit
ThisIsAssociated.com

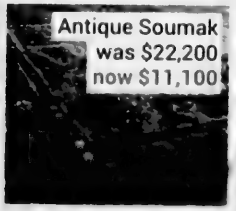
Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great SCHOOL

CLOSING SALE

45 days left

After twenty-five years, Reznick Carpets is closing.

As we say goodbye to this Design District institution, take advantage of *once in a lifetime* liquidation prices on rugs and broadloom.



Thousands of rugs available:
modern
designer
traditional
tribal
& broadloom

Shop early for best selection.

REZNICK CARPETS
81 Ronald Av, Toronto. 416-787-7676
www.reznickcarpets.com

Salomon Benzimra fought tirelessly for Israel

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

To those who knew and supported his work, he was a tireless fighter for a cause too often overlooked.

Salomon Benzimra, a staunch advocate for what he argued was Israel's rightful land title under the 1920 San Remo conference and a vocal opponent of what he saw as the international community's legal violation of this title, died March 15 of a massive heart attack.

He died at age 72 on an El Al flight back to Toronto from Israel, where he'd met with Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Hotovely and Education Minister Naftali Bennett to discuss Israel's land rights.

Benzimra was a chemical engineer by profession, but had, since 9/11, steeped himself in the historic legal documents of the British Mandate for Palestine, a resolution that came out of the San Remo conference, which was attended by the principal Allied powers of World War I and determined the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire's territories in the Middle East.

Through speaking engagements, his work with Canadians for Israel's Legal Rights (CILR), a group he co-founded in 2009, and his 2011 book *The Jewish People's Rights to the Land of Israel* – published in English and Hebrew as an e-book – Benzimra used his study of the British Mandate to argue that the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was illegal, as it contained a clause forbidding the transfer of the land.

"His life's aim was for the government of Israel to claim its legal land rights, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea," said Goldi Steiner, who co-founded CILR with Benzimra.

"He wasn't technically an expert in law, but there were many times that lawyers would comment that his was superior to any lawyer's mind – it was very clear," she added.

In addition to meeting with Israeli politicians, Benzimra and Steiner collaborated with the European Coalition for Israel to host an educational event in San Remo, Italy, in 2010, to marking the 90th anniversary of the San Remo Conference. It was attended by politicians and activists from Europe, the United States and Canada.

Benzimra was born in 1943 in the international zone of Tangiers (now Morocco), into a Spanish-speaking family whose

Salomon Benzimra

roots trace back to Inquisition-era Spain. His ancestors were among the many Jews who crossed the Straits of Gibraltar to escape persecution during the 1400s.

Benzimra's mother died when he was a child, and he was raised by an uncle.

He was educated in Paris and immigrated to Canada, living first in Montreal and then moving to Toronto in 1976.

As an engineer, he worked for the United Nations, the World Bank and several large chemical companies.

"He was the most gentle, humble and good-hearted person I've ever met – this has been corroborated by everyone who's reached out to me since his death. He stood for justice and truth," Steiner said.

Mark Vandermaas, director of training for Israel Truth Week, said Benzimra, whom he met in 2012, had "a really profound effect on me and the work I do reaching out to pro-Israel people."

Vandermaas often came to Benzimra, who he said was "modest and respectful," with legal questions. He noted that Benzimra's book, intended as a teacher's guide for high school students, which Steiner said was delivered to all members of the Knesset, is "a powerful tool to show the world that it had given the Jewish People back its homeland."

Benzimra was dismayed by Israel's portrayal in the media and the Israeli government for, Vandermaas said, "not holding up its land title deed... he felt what was missing from the debate on the pro-Israel side was the use of a moral argument to counteract the anti-occupation stuff... He felt it was like a neighbour accusing you of stealing your land. Wouldn't you then hold up your title deed?"

Vandermaas said Benzimra was well liked by everyone, even those who disagreed with him.

"He really was a warrior for the dignity and good of the Jewish People." ■

LB
leo baeck

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
is pleased to announce the appointment of
Elliott Brodkin as Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Brodkin brings to this post a depth of experience and commitment to the Jewish community and education. He has served as Executive Director/CFO of Toronto's Associated Hebrew Schools as well as Chief Financial Officer of Toronto French School.

Currently the Chair of the UJA Federation's Business Administrators group, Brodkin has served as President of the Business Officers group for CAIS, the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools, and as President of the Business Officers group for the Conference of Independent Schools.

He was a member of the Board of Directors and Finance Committee for the Montessori Jewish Day School, as well as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for Congregation Darchei Noam. Brodkin has also spent more than 20 years in various senior financial management positions in the manufacturing and service industry sectors.

Such a distinguished career is fitting for the administration of Leo Baeck, Canada's only Reform Jewish day school and the country's first Jewish International Baccalaureate World School.

Canada's first Jewish International Baccalaureate World School

Canadian Accredited Independent Schools

UJA Federation

WILLIAM ASHLEY
TABLEWARE KITCHENWARE HOME DECOR GIFT REGISTRY

BERNARDAUD

LES VITRAUX D'HADASSAH
MARC CHAGALL

In 1959, the Hadassah-Hebrew Medical Center in Jerusalem commissioned a set of twelve stained-glass windows from Marc Chagall to symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel. The Chagall Committee entrusted Bernardaud with these heritage designs from its archives. This pictorial cycle, created to harmonize with the selected material and with light, is reviving Chagall's designs and colours, this time on porcelain.

MADE IN FRANCE
STARTING AT $340
(Matzah Plate)

SHOP ONLINE WWW.WILLIAMASHLEY.COM

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

Frank Medjuck was a pillar of Halifax's Jewish community

JOEL JACOBSON
ATLANTIC CORRESPONDENT

The Halifax and Atlantic Jewish communities lost a dear friend, strong contributor and devoted volunteer when Frank Medjuck passed away March 14 after a two-year battle with cancer.

The 71-year-old graduate of Dalhousie University Law School and holder of a master's degree in urban planning from University College of London, was a two-time president and 40-year board member of Beth Israel Synagogue, with which he had a deep and personal relationship.

He established the congregation's endowment fund in the 1980s, meeting with many members of the community to help them direct their tzedakah toward the long-term financial stability of Beth Israel.

In 1989-90, he devoted hundreds of hours to editing a 100th-anniversary commemorative book that drew histories from 120 families of the Halifax community. He served on virtually every committee of the synagogue, ensuring the Orthodox traditions were retained and followed, and he participated in daily minyanim, weekly Shabbat services and every holiday celebration.

In 1993, he also edited a 50th-anniversary book about Camp Kadimah where he spent a dozen summers of revelry, mischief, learning and developing lifelong friendships.

Frank Medjuck

After his university years and travel time, Frank, the youngest of three sons of Irving and Blanche Medjuck, worked with his oldest brother Ralph, also a lawyer, in a thriving real estate development business. Frank was primarily corporate counsel for the Centennial Group, working with city council on planning and gaining approval for various projects. He helped engineer some of the biggest real estate deals in Atlantic Canada, as well as some in Ontario and Alberta. Frank's efforts helped build Yonge-Richmond Place and Cambridge Suites in Toronto.

"It's sad. And he was so young," said Ralph, 83. "We worked together on probably half of the company's 56 projects. We got along well. Never had an argument."

Cousin-in-law Victor Goldberg said Frank and Ralph were a team.

"Ralph was the visible one, but Frank was the details person. Frank was pivotal for all the contracts and zoning issues and negotiating with the city."

Ralph called Frank "quiet and intelligent," but many of his friends thought he was far from quiet. He had a wry sense of humour, willing to joke about any situation if it would resolve an issue.

Mark Appleton of Halifax said, "I'll miss his jokes. With a very straight face, Frank would tell you something that was totally believable, stringing you along with fact after fact until, after several minutes, the zinger would come out of his mouth. And then the smile and the laugh, that warm laugh."

He loved Israel, inspired from growing up surrounded by Zionist Jewish values at Camp Kadimah and in the Halifax Jewish community. Around the time of the Six Day War in 1967, he became enchanted with a passion to live in Israel, to work the land and help build the country. In 1970, he made aliyah, lived in an absorption centre and studied Hebrew.

He was hired by the municipality of Jerusalem to work in its urban planning unit as a development control officer. He would often talk of those exciting times to be working in city planning for the *iriya*, the municipality of Jerusalem, with huge economic growth, a population explosion and great prosperity.

Over the years, he visited Israel regularly, staying connected to his beloved homeland, nurturing numerous close friendships there and spending valued time working the land.

He spent decades finding the burial spot of his grandfather, Yehoshua Medjuck, who made aliyah in 1935 from Halifax, and died in Israel during the War of Independence in 1948. He was buried on the Mount of Olives under the cover of darkness. The precise location of the grave was unknown for decades until, after years of research and interviews, Frank found the location, and eventually set a stone on the correct place.

Frank was a good friend, respectful, charitable and funny. Great with words, he loved to write and talk and learn new things. An eclectic man, he loved riding bikes, baking – he was the lead at hamantashen bakes at the shul – flying kites and telling jokes. He was a lifelong athlete and played masters basketball until two years ago, when illness prevented him from continuing. At 60, he completed a 350-km bike marathon from Jerusalem to Eilat when he was first about to become a grandfather. Eight years later, when he was anticipating turning 70, he did it again.

To Frank Medjuck, a good name and good reputation were paramount. Frank was always the person who helped someone privately, or gave generously of his money and his personal time to help raise someone's spirits or to help pay for a community event.

While speaking of her father at his chosen resting place at Eretz HaChayim Cemetery near Bet Shemesh in the Jerusalem Hills, Bena Medjuck-Bruckner said, "In his final months, Dad was worried about his unfinished tasks, things he had started or dreamed of starting, household projects, and future family celebrations that he would miss. We assured him that he prepared us well and that he is leaving things in good hands. We promised to take care of each other and keep his memory strong in our hearts and in our lives."

Frank is survived by wife Hedda, daughter Bena (Gustavo) Medjuck-Bruckner, and son Jacob (Shauna Nep), four grandchildren, and two older brothers, Ralph (Shirlee), and Harold, plus many nieces, nephews and cousins. ■

WELCH'S
MANISCHEWITZ
#1 BEST SELLING GRAPE JUICE BRAND
IS TEAMING UP WITH
#1 BEST SELLING KOSHER BRAND
NEW!
100% GRAPE JUICE
JUS DE RAISIN À 100 %
No Artificial Colors, Flavors or Preservatives
KOSHER. NO ARTIFICIAL COLORS, FLAVORS OR PRESERVATIVES.
AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE IN CANADA AT YOUR FAVORITE GROCERY STORE
DISTRIBUTED BY FOODFEST CANADA'S LARGEST KOSHER DISTRIBUTOR

INTERNATIONAL

BDS will vanish if Israel takes steps to peace: EU envoy

RAPHAEL AHREN
JERUSALEM

Without the Israeli-Palestinian conflict there would be no boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, the European Union's envoy to Israel said March 28, arguing that the best way to fight BDS is to take steps to advance a two-state solution.

"The most effective antidote against the BDS movement is to solve the Palestinian issue. If there were no Palestinian issue, there would be no BDS movement," Ambassador Lars Faaborg-Andersen said at a conference in Jerusalem.

At the very least, the boycott movement "would swing into virtually nothing" if there was no Israeli-Palestinian conflict "to tag onto," he argued.

The EU does not expect Israel to be able to solve the conflict unilaterally, the ambassador stressed. "It takes two to tango. It takes the Palestinians also." But it is important for Israel not to be seen as undermining a two-state solution, he said. "If more effort is put into showing a will to move forward and to obtain progress in this process, it would greatly weaken the BDS movement."

Faaborg-Andersen added BDS is a "rather marginal" phenomenon that currently "has very little effect" on Israel. "That means that we have to, of course, stay vigilant in order to ensure it does not get further boosts and does not get further support. But I think it's important to keep a sense of proportions here and ensure that we're not to talking up this phenomenon rather than talking it down, and thereby giving it a platform that it really doesn't have."

There is "big difference between legitimate criticism of policies and BDS," he said. "There's a great risk, by lumping things together that really don't belong together that you first of all give the BDS movement a prominence that it doesn't have. And secondly that you cut off dialogue and conversation with those who are critical of the policies but are not supporters of BDS."

Earlier during the conference, which was organized by the *Yedioth Ahronoth* daily newspaper, Faaborg-Andersen expressed the EU's desire to see Israel thrive and said the union completely rejects any efforts to boycott Israel. "Let me make one thing 100 per cent clear: The European Union is against BDS. Our policy is totally opposite of BDS. Our policy is one of engagement with Israel."

Lars Faaborg-Andersen, the ambassador of the European Union, seen here in Jerusalem last November. FLASH90 PHOTO

> *Our policy is totally opposite of BDS. Our policy is one of engagement with Israel.*

The EU has "a long track record to prove" his point, Faaborg-Andersen said, citing the $30 billion (US) bilateral trade volume and the fact that the EU is Israel's "most important partner in science and technology."

However, the envoy stressed, the EU thinks settlements are illegal under international law and a hindrance to the peace process. Settlement goods are sold freely and are "welcome on the European market," he said, though they do not enjoy preferential customs treatment – products from Israel proper do –and have to carry an indication that they are from the settlements.

"Not even the Israeli government claims that the West Bank is part of Israel. So why would products coming from the West Bank be labelled as from Israel? We have no problems with those products; they just have to be correctly labelled," he said. "This doesn't amount to any kind of boycott."

The EU's envoy further said the union has recognized "on several occasions" that Israel "doesn't face a level playing field" in international forums, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council.

No other country is singled out for routine scrutiny the way Israel is, he acknowledged. "We have been critical of that and we have also been trying in various ways to help Israel in overcoming some of these obstacles they are facing in terms of an unequal playing field in the Human Rights Council, for example."

But there's only so much the EU can do, he added. "We are 28 voices but the council is much bigger than that. So therefore we have to abide by the rule of the majority. And our position continues to be that these bodies, even though we might not always agree with the majority view, these bodies are important for international dialogue. And therefore our policy with them is also one of engagement."

Faaborg-Andersen's participation in the conference, and his appearance on a panel with former settler leader Dani Dayan, had led to harsh criticism from the BDS movement. In an open letter posted online, BDS activists called on the EU to withdraw the senior diplomat from the panel.

But Faaborg-Andersen said he was "totally undeterred" by these calls. "Sometimes I'm criticized by extremist settlers and today I am criticized by the BDS movement."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, who also spoke at the conference, said that delegitimization of Israel lies at the core of the BDS movement, but warned against blacklisting legitimate criticism of Israel.

"We must distinguish between criticism and delegitimization when we deal with the BDS. Criticism can be given also among friends, but it is important to make sure that it does not turn into the delegitimization of Israel," he said.

Not everyone who criticizes Israeli policies opposes the state's right to exist, the president continued. "The fact that we can bear criticism and successfully explain our positions in a debate within Israeli democracy is our strength. We must realize that there is no other way." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Palestinian causes not more pressing than other issues, Islamic State says

JTA
JERUSALEM

The Islamic State (IS) said in its weekly newspaper that it has not focused on attacking Israel because it does not believe the Palestinian cause is more significant than other issues affecting Muslims.

According to the *Times of Israel*, which cited a translation by the Middle East Media Research Institute, a March 15 article in IS' *al-Naba* said, "If we look at the reality of the world today, we will find that it is completely ruled by polytheism and its laws, except for the regions where Allah made it possible for the Islamic State to establish the religion.... Therefore, jihad in Palestine is equal to jihad elsewhere."

The article also criticized late secular Arab leaders, such as Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and Iraq's Saddam Hussein, for pressing the belief that "Palestine is the Muslims' primary cause."

The article calls for jihadists to fight the "infidels" nearest to them, leaving the fight against Israel to the Muslim Palestinians.

The article argues that jihadis should focus first on toppling the Arab regimes, which it believes defend Israel, and only when that is accomplished should they approach "the borders of [the] Jew[ish] State and confront its army directly," according to *The Times of Israel*.

But it notes that Muslims have a religious duty to bring Palestine back into the "house of Islam" and should send aid to Palestinians who are fighting Israel.

The article encourages those unable to travel to the Middle East to fight Israel to attack "the Jews and their allies wherever they find them, [by] killing them, destroying their property, and harming their intereats in any way they can." ■

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO, 5LBS
SAVE $10.00
9.99
HALF PRICE!!!

MANISCHEWITZ EGG MATZO, 16oz
SAVE $2.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ WHOLE WHEAT MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $3.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ MEDITERRANEAN MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $1.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ GLUTEN FREE MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $2.00
6.99

MANISCHEWITZ ORGANIC SPELT MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $2.00
4.99

MANISCHEWITZ SCHMURA MATZO, 10oz
SAVE $1.00
5.99

WELCH'S MANISCHEWITZ 100% GRAPE JUICE, 1.89LT
SAVE $3.00
4.29
NEW LOWEST PRICE

WELCH'S MANISCHEWITZ 100% GRAPE JUICE 25.4oz, SPARKLING
SAVE $2.00
3.99
NEW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO MEAL, 16oz
SAVE $2.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO MEAL, 27oz
SAVE $2.00
6.49
FAMILY SIZE

MANISCHEWITZ GLUTEN FREE MATZO MEAL, 15oz
SAVE $2.00
7.99

MANISCHEWITZ WHOLE GRAIN MATZO MEAL, 16oz
SAVE $2.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ CAKE MEAL, 16oz
SAVE $2.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO FARFEL, 14oz
SAVE $2.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ POTATO STARCH, 16oz
SAVE 2.00$
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ GLUTEN FREE CAKE MEAL, 16oz
SAVE 2.00$
7.99
NEW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO BALL AND SOUP MIX, ASSORTED 4.5oz
SAVE 2.00$
1.99

MANISCHEWITZ CHICKEN BROTH ASSORTED, 10.5oz
SAVE $2.00
2.49

CROYDEN HOUSE MATZO BALL AND SOUP MIX ASSORTED, 4.5oz
SAVE $2.00
1.99

TRADITION CREAMY CHICKEN SOUP, GLUTEN FREE 2oz
SAVE 20¢
1.79

MANISCHEWITZ 16 VARIETIES MACAROONS, 10oz
SAVE 1.00$
4.89

MANISCHEWITZ 16 VARIETIES CAKE MIXES, 15oz
SAVE 1.50$
4.49

MANISCHEWITZ MUFFIN MIX ASSORTED, 12oz
SAVE $1.00
4.99

MANISCHEWITZ PANCAKE MIX PLAIN, 9oz
SAVE $1.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ CEREAL ASSORTED, 5.5oz
SAVE $1.00
3.99

MANISCHEWITZ BAKIT ORIGINAL CHICKEN ROASTERS, 3oz
SAVE $1.50
1.49

JASON SEASONED COATING CRUMBS, 15oz
SAVE 50¢
4.99

MANISCHEWITZ TOASTED COCONUT MARSHMALLOWS, All Varieties 10oz
SAVE $1.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ FRUIT SLICES, 8oz
SAVE $1.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ PASSOVER TAM TAMS CRACKERS ASSORTED, 8oz
SAVE $1.00
3.49

MANISCHEWITZ MANDLEN, 1.75oz
SAVE $1.00
2.79

MANISCHEWITZ DRIED APRICOTS, 170g
SAVE $1.00
6.99

MANISCHEWITZ PITTED PRUNES, 8oz
SAVE $1.00
4.79

MANISCHEWITZ POTATO CHIPS ASSORTED, 6oz
SAVE $1.10
1.89

MANISCHEWITZ VEGETABLE OIL 24oz
SAVE $2.00
2.99

MRS. ADLER'S GEFILTE FISH ASSORTED 24oz
SAVE $3.00
4.79

AUNT BERTAS JAM ASSORTED, 340g
BEST QUALITY FROM ISRAEL
SAVE $1.00
2.99

MANISCHEWITZ BALSAMIC VINEGAR AND PARADISE OLIVE OIL, 500ML
SAVE $2.00
5.99

GALIL HERBES TEA ASSORTED,
SAVE 20¢
2.99

HASHAHAR CHOCOLATE SPREAD ASSORTED, 16oz
Save $2.00
2.99

ELITE INSTANT COFFEE, 200g
Save $3.68
6.99

ELITE TURKISH COFFEE, 100g
Save $1.00
3.49

ELITE ALADIN COFFEE, 200g
Save $1.00
4.99

ELITE PLATINUM FREEZE DRIED COFFEE, 200g
Save $7.00
12.99

ELITE MILK OR BITTER CHOCOLATE ASSORTED, 85g
Save $1.36
1.49

ELITE FLAKED LOG BARS, 24x25g
Save $6.00
18.99

ELITE MUST GUM SUGAR FREE ASSORTED, 28g
Save 20¢
1.19

OF TOV TURKEY BACON, 150g
Save $1.00
5.99

NATHANS HALF SOUR, FULL SOUR PICKLES, 1L
Save $2.00
3.49

FOODFEST YOM TOV HORSERADISH RED OR WHITE, 375ML
Save $1.00
1.99

BENZ GEFILTE FISH ASSORTED, 604g
Save $2.00
7.99

FOODFEST HERRING IN WINE MARINADE, 320ML
Save $2.00
3.99

OF TOV ASSORTED PASSOVER CHICKEN, 908g
Save $6.00
13.99

OF TOV ASSORTED DELI SLICES, 125g
Save $1.30
3.99

FOODFEST SOLE FILLETS, 400g
Save $2.00
4.99

FOODFEST COD FILLETS, 400g
Save $2.00
4.99

FOODFEST POLLOCK FILLETS, 400g
Save $1.00
5.49

FOODFEST COD LOINS FILLETS, 400g
Save $2.00
8.49

FOODFEST HADDOCK FILLETS, 400g
Save $2.00
8.99

FOODFEST WILD SALMON FILLETS, 454g
Save $1.00
9.99

FOODFEST STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, 140g
Save $2.00
7.99

FOODFEST STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, 250g
Save $4.00
10.99
FAMILY SIZE

FOODFEST SOCKEYE WILD SMOKED SALMON, 70g
Save 1.00$
3.99

NANUK SMOKED COHO SALMON, 140g
Save 99¢
7.99

NANUK SMOKED COHO SALMON, 454g
Save $3.00
19.99

NANUK SMOKED COHO SALMON, 300g
Save $3.00
14.99

MANISCHEWITZ SCOTTISH STYLE STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, 250g
Save $1.00
10.99
NEW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ HERRING, 4 DELICIOUS VARIETIES 600g
Save 1.50$
5.99
FAMILY PAC
NEW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ YOM TOV HORSERADISH RED OR WHITE, 375ML
Save 1.50$
1.99
NEW!!!

MANISCHEWITZ HALF SOUR, FULL SOUR PICKLES, 1L
Save $1.50
3.49
NEW!!!

MOTHER'S SOFT MARGARINE, 454g
6.79

MANISCHEWITZ COCONUT MACAROON PIE SHELL, GLUTEN FREE 6oz
Save $1.30
3.49

SHICKS FAMOUS CHOCOLATE CAKE ASSORTED, 454g
Save $4.00
13.99

SHICKS FAMOUS CHOCOLATE CAKE 7 INCH, 568g
Save $6.00
23.99

HUGE EARLY PASSOVER SALE!!!

nofrills
lower food prices

PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1ST UNTIL MAY 5TH, 2016

Durante's No Frills 1054 Centre St., Vaughan

Happy Passover

All references to any savings claims(ie. "save", "was", "1/2 price", etc.) is in comparison to our regular retail. we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some franchise and independent stores may have sold or will sell for less. Product selection may vary and may not be available at all stores. Image prevails when text does not correspond to the description of advertised product. ™/TM trademarks of Loblaws Inc. ©2011 Loblaws Inc.

Netanyahu faces criticism over shooting of Palestinian

NOGA TARNOPOLSKY
JERUALEM

Israeli Prime Benjamin Netanyahu faced a revolt from his more extreme right-wing ministers following his condemnation of an Israeli soldier who shot dead a Palestinian assailant who lay wounded and subdued on the ground following an attack on a group of soldiers.

The March 24 incident in Hebron was captured on video by a fieldworker for B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights NGO. On the video a man can be heard saying "this terrorist is still alive, this dog."

"What happened in Hebron does not represent the IDF's [Israeli Defence Forces] values," Netanyahu initially said when the video was released the next day. "The IDF expects its soldiers to act calmly and in accordance with the rules of engagement."

Army prosecutors charged the soldier, who is not being named, with murder at the Jaffa Military Court on March 25 after an initial investigation concluded that he shot the disarmed and wounded Palestinian assailant after the latter no longer constituted a threat.

Spying an opportunity to attack the prime minister, at Sunday's cabinet meeting Education Minister Naftali Bennett, of the extreme right-wing Jewish Home party exclaimed, "Why is he being led to court in handcuffs? What kind of message does this send to thousands of soldiers? An indictment for 'murder'? You're confused about who the good guys are and who the bad guys are! Why is the entire leadership dancing to the tune of B'Tselem?"

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara visit soldiers of the Kfir battalion at the Etzion regional brigade, in the West Bank on Purim. Netanyahu has been under criticism for his condemnation of the soldier who shot dead a subdued Palestinian.
AMOS BEN GERSHOM/FLASH90 PHOTO

By Sunday, defending himself from right-wing attacks, Netanyahu had shifted his tone, and said "any challenge to the morality of the IDF is outrageous and unacceptable. The soldiers of the IDF, our children, maintain high ethical values while courageously fighting against bloodthirsty murderers under difficult operational conditions. I am certain that in all cases, as in the current one, the inquiry takes into account all conditions. We must all support the IDF chief of staff, the IDF and our soldiers, who safeguard our security."

Outside the cabinet, former foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman, of Yisrael Beiteynu [Israel Our Home], another right-wing party, snarled that "the prime minister is worthy of being called the ultimate weather vane. I saw Netanyahu's first statement, and then he saw where the winds were blowing - and flipped his position. How can a soldier even expect a fair investigation, a fair trial, when all in the proper authorities in the IDF already know what the commander wants?"

The initial findings of the Israeli army's probe into the incident are devastating to the soldier, whose lawyer claims his client acted because he feared the stabber may have been wearing an explosive jacket hidden under his shirt.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

MEDJUCK, FRANK, ז"ל

The Yeshiva University family and the Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University are grieved by the passing of Frank Medjuck ז"ל. Frank was a dynamic leader on behalf of many worthy causes for Halifax and world Jewry. He was especially close to Yeshiva University as his older brother, Ralph Medjuck, served as the Chairman of the Atlantic Provinces Region of the CFYU, and in his role as President of the Beth Israel Synagogue, Frank consulted with Rabbinic leaders at Yeshiva University.

Heartfelt condolences to his wife Hedda and to his children and grandchildren: Bena (and Gustavo) Medjuck-Bruckner and family, and Jacob (and Shauna) Medjuck, and to his brothers, Ralph (and Shirley) Medjuck and Harold (and Helene) Medjuck and to his nieces and nephews.

Frank Medjuck was respected and admired and will be surely missed by all who knew him. May the entire family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Yeshiva University
Richard M. Joel, President
Herbert C. Dobrinsky, Vice President for University Affairs
Jeremy Magence, President, CFYU
Stuart Haber, National Director, CFYU

Recently Married?

In honour of your marriage,

The Canadian Jewish News

*would like to give you a 12-week subscription**

Go to www.cjnews.com/weddings-promo/ and complete the subscription form.

*CANADIAN DELIVERY. NEW SUBSCRIPTION ONLY.

OPINION

Israel needs a strong and confident America

Sagi Melamed

On my last visit to the United States I watched a television debate with the candidates for the Republican party nominee for president. Although jetlag got the better of me before the end, I still managed to learn some things from what I saw.

The bad news was my surprise and disappointment that these are the candidates, the best available options that Great America is offering its voters.

The good news was that, compared to the crudities expressed by the U.S. Republican candidates and the low standard of debate among them, the standards and styles of some of the Israeli politicians, suddenly look good.

On my return to Israel, my brother Amichai asked me: "Which candidate is best for Israel?" I considered for a moment, then answered that although a good question (and one I have difficulty answering), it is not the most important one. The most important question is: Which candidate is best for America?! Because Israel needs a strong America, a confident America, with ethics and leadership – no matter who the U.S. president is.

The late Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol, when he was told there was a drought in the south of the country, responded: "Drought? In the Negev?! For a moment I was worried – I thought you meant in the United States…"

Why does Israel need a strong America?

Firstly, the United States and Israel, despite occasional differences of opinion and of language, style and size, have always shared similar values, world view, beliefs and lifestyle. Nowhere in the world do we have any better friend or partner than the United States.

Secondly, the entire world needs a leader, to provide a moral compass and for policing. A leader that will guide the way and influence how we deal with global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, human rights abuses and the acquisition of nuclear weapons. The world needs a moral compass to remind us that despite all its shortcomings, democracy is still the best and most moral method of government. And we need firm, steadfast policing that is ethical and moral (as much as possible), yet carries a big stick and knows how to use it when necessary. And no less important – all the malevolent actors of the world will believe that the police officer is willing and able to use the big stick if they try to do evil.

> *Nowhere in the world do we have any better friend or partner than the United States.*

Thirdly, many of the economic and financial variables of Israel are connected to the United States, the American economy, its stock markets and currency exchange. These variables include, among other things: exchange rates, foreign investments, foreign trade, philanthropic investments, credit ratings and investments in scientific research.

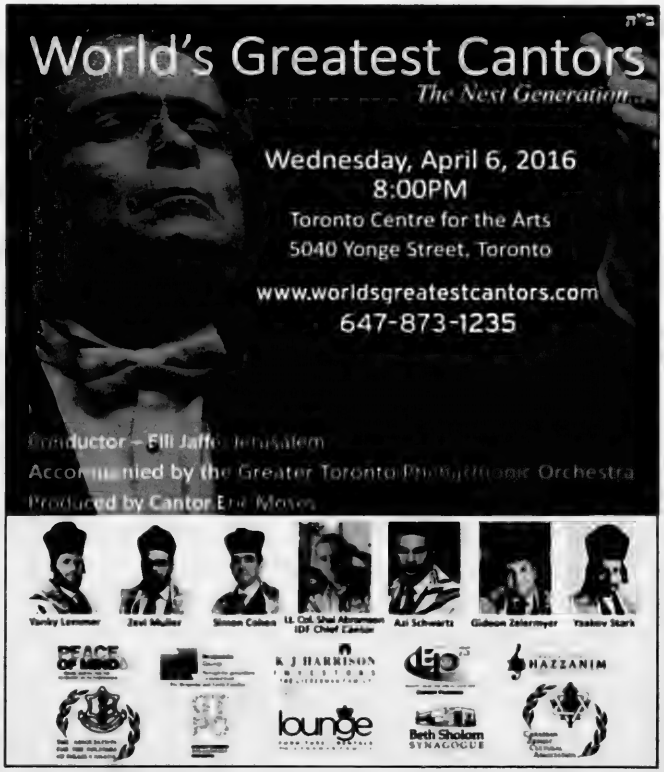
Fourthly, the Middle East is an unstable and violent region. With all due respect to our own power and our army, in our neighbourhood we need a trusted and strong friend who will not fear and will not hesitate to stand beside its bratty younger ally, to back him up and give him protection and support.

Finally – and I recognize that not everyone will agree with me on this – Israel sometimes needs a strong United States, sensible and involved, to save Israel from itself.

Although I have dual American and Israeli citizenships, I have so far chosen not to vote in American elections. In November 2016, once again, I will most likely not vote. But I will send Israel's best friend a verse from the Prayer for the State of Israel that we read each week, with best wishes and the hope that they will elect a president who is suitable, deserving and capable:

"May You guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth, and correct them with Your good counsel."

Good luck America! ■



Dion asks UN to review nomination of anti-Israel prof

DANIEL KOREN
dkoren@thecjn.ca

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion has joined the chorus of voices questioning the appointment of University of Western Ontario law professor Stanley Michael Lynk to the position of special rapporteur on the Palestinian territories by the United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC).

Canadian MPs Michael Levitt, Tony Clement and Peter Kent have also questioned the professor's nomination over his alleged anti-Israel bias, as have several Jewish organizations.

A letter sent out by UNHRC president Choi Kyonglim March 23 proposed that Lynk be appointed to the position.

"We call on the UNHRC president to review this appointment and ensure [that the] special rapporteur has a track record that can advance peace in the region," Dion tweeted. "Canada will continue to advocate for transparent processes for the appointment of credible, impartial and objective special rapporteurs."

Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, condemned the decision because of what he describes as Lynk's bias regarding the Israel-Palestinian conflict, calling the appointment a "travesty of justice and a breach of the world body's own rules."

"Someone who accuses Israel of 'apartheid' and openly seeks to dismantle the Jewish state is neither impartial nor objective," Neuer said in a statement, agreeing that Ottawa should take a strong stand against the appointment.

"Because Lynk is Canadian, the Trudeau government can play a critical role by making clear to the UN its opposition to the appointment of a manifestly partisan candidate for a post that, under the UN's own rules, requires complete impartiality," he told *The CJN*.

Neuer said Lynk also blamed the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on "global inequalities" and "disregard by western nations for the international rule of law," and proposed to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by going "back to 1948, the date of partition and the start of ethnic cleansing."

Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), also "strongly denounced" Lynk's appointment. "Despite the specific requirement that candidates for the position demonstrate impartiality and objectivity, Mr. Lynk has a long record of involvement with anti-Israel initiatives and has repeatedly made public statements that demonstrate hostility towards Israel," Fogel said.

"Bodies like the UNHRC must be fundamentally restructured to ensure they are no longer abused as platforms for extreme agendas, but rather serve to advance the UN's founding ideals," he added.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) echoed Fogel's position, citing a recent letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from Conservative MPs Tony Clement and Peter Kent, who charged that Lynk "plays a leading role in the Canadian Palestinian Education Exchange, a group that promotes Israeli Apartheid Week events, addresses 'one state' conferences that seek to eliminate Israel, and calls for the prosecution of Israel for war crimes."

Stéphane Dion

Liberal MP Michael Levitt said in a press release that Lynk's appointment is cause for "great concern."

"Michael Lynk... has demonstrated repeatedly that he is unsuitable to fulfil this position through his long record of anti-Israel activity," he said. "Given the concerns that I and others have expressed to Minister Dion, I am pleased that he instructed our ambassador to Geneva to reach out to the president of the council to underscore the importance Canada assigns to ensuring that the chosen candidate meet appropriate criteria of professionalism and neutrality.

"Clearly Michael Lynk does not meet this standard and I am exceptionally disappointed that he has been selected for this role. I know that Minister Dion shares this concern and I urge him and Global Affairs Canada to look into every available option after a full consideration of the facts."

In a statement to *The CJN*, Michael Mostyn, CEO of B'nai Brith Canada, said his organization is "ashamed that a Canadian will be assuming the mantle of chief propagandist for some of the world's worst human rights violators.

"By appointing Lynk, who has a long history of comparing Israel to the Nazis and promoting anti-Israel campaigns, the council has demonstrated its intent to continue its ongoing agenda of demonizing the world's only Jewish state," Mostyn said. "We call on the Canadian government to join B'nai Brith Canada in condemning this abhorrent appointment."

If his nomination becomes official, Lynk will replace Makarim Wibisono, who announced in January that he would step down over Israel's "refusal" to co-operate with his mandate, which many consider controversial, as it is limited to investigating Israel's human rights violations.

In his final report to the council on March 21, Wibisono citied a "lack of co-operation [that] regrettably seems to signal the continuation of a situation under which Palestinians suffer daily human rights violations under the Israeli occupation."

In a statement to *The CJN*, Lynk said he is unable to comment until he confers with the UN about his new role. "I would welcome, at the appropriate time, the chance to correct the misleading statements that have been said about me and my views," he said. ■

Soldier shot victim at point-blank range in the head

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

The investigation revealed that, following regulations, a superior officer had confirmed that the wounded assailant posed no danger and the incident was declared over. The soldier in question, a medic, left the scene only to return minutes later to a situation clearly under control, and, without consulting officers also on the scene, shot Abdul Fatah Al-Sharif at point-blank range in the head.

Servicemen interviewed by military police reported the accused soldier told them "the terrorist needs to die" after the Palestinian stabbed one of the soldiers and that his comrades "tried to calm him."

"The procedure for a situation in which there is suspicion the terrorist has an explosive belt on is clear and known, and includes telling the other troops to back away and be careful, something the soldier did not do," an IDF official told Israeli media.

Speaking with the *Media Line*, Elazar Stern, a parliamentarian representing the centrist Yesh Atid party, who previously served as the head of the army's manpower directorate and chief education officer, said there is "a very, very, very small possibility the soldier deviated from the rules slightly. On the face of it, it appears he simply flouted the rules completely. The event was over six minutes before he came back. There is absolutely no chance he obeyed the rules, which are clear and which I was taught and which I myself taught generations of soldiers."

Stern mentioned several incidents in which IDF soldiers, including himself, obeyed orders to protect the lives of Palestinian youths and put their own lives at risk."

Nava Boker, a member of the Knesset from Netanyahu's Likud party demanded that the Palestinian B'Tselem fieldworker be investigated for filming the incident in Hebron and on March 26 a group of right-wing activists filed a police complaint against Emad Abu-Shamsiyah, the cameraman.

B'Tselem said that Abu-Shamsiyah's Hebron home was attacked by Jewish Israelis living in post-1967 territory, throwing rocks and chanting "Death to Emad." IDF soldiers at the scene did not intervene, according to their report.

"When you take into account that the IDF chief of staff and the minister of defence have been attacked over this incident," Jessica Montell the former director of B'Tselem, told *the Media Line*, "it is not surprising that a Palestinian from the West Bank is also facing threats. This case has shocked everyone and it's causing a political furor."

Addressing the political firestorm, Stern said "the ongoing competition on the right to see who can be more extreme and to a certain extent the reasons behind the cabinet infighting are the very same causes that lead to an atmosphere in which a soldier could misunderstand matters and take them into his own hands.

"I have no doubt," he added, "that the IDF is the most moral army in world, and that is precisely because we are not tolerant of incidents like this." ■

The Media Line
Themedialine.org

ANALYSIS

Despite candidates' vows, Tel Aviv embassy is here to stay

Raphael Ahren
JERUSALEM

Republican candidates made a lot of promises to pro-Israel activists at the AIPAC conference last week in Washington, among them that the Iran nuclear deal will be gutted and the United States Embassy will be moved to Jerusalem. And all by Jan. 21, 2017.

Now for a reality check: No. To all of it.

Israelis hoping to see the promises made in Washington actually come to fruition will be sorely disappointed, experts say, pointing to the need for bipartisanship to push anything through the American political system.

The fact that American politicians still wholeheartedly declare they will be the one to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem is somewhat peculiar, since so many presidential hopefuls have vowed it before yet always failed to deliver on their promise.

"Believe me," Donald Trump said a whopping 12 times during his speech, but even if you give credence to his other incredible claims – for instance that he studied the Iran deal in greater depth "than anybody else" – don't believe him when he says he will move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Israel's "eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem."

Senator Ted Cruz, who is lagging far behind Trump in the primaries but still hopes to get the nod at the Republican National Convention in July, made the same pledge. He went one step further and vowed to begin the moving process on his "very first day in office." Many presidential candidates, both Republicans and Democrats, have promised the same, speaking to very same audience, Cruz acknowledged. "Here's the difference: I will do it," he said.

There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of such declarations. Cruz, like other right-wing American politicians, is probably genuinely inclined to move the embassy to Jerusalem, and might actually believe that he will do so. The problem is that even the commander-in-chief of the most powerful nation on earth cannot make such decisions all by himself, without taking into consideration his advisory council and many other important factors.

"Nobody is going to move the embassy," said Amnon Cavari, an expert on American presidential politics at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. "This is not a decision that depends on the personal preferences of the president. There is a status quo that has been maintained for a long time. Other countries have not moved their embassies, and it's not going to happen with the United States, either."

The US Embassy in Tel Aviv WIKIPEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

John Kasich, the third Republican candidate still in the race, called Jerusalem Israel's "eternal capital" but did not promise to move the capital. In his address to AIPAC, he also did not vow to cancel the Iran deal, but merely said he supports the "suspension of the U.S.'s participation in the Iran nuclear deal in reaction to Iran's recent ballistic missile tests" and that he would seek to immediately re-apply sanctions on Iran if the regime "violates one crossed T or one dot of that nuclear deal."

Republicans have been vowing to move the embassy since 1972

Grand but unrealistic statements about Israel are nothing new at AIPAC conferences. In June 2008, then-senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama said, to raucous applause, that Jerusalem "must remain undivided." He soon clarified – read: partially retracted – his statement.

In 2000, then-governor and presidential candidate George W. Bush told AIPAC that, "as soon as I take office I will begin the process of moving the U.S. ambassador to the city Israel has chosen as its capital."

But it didn't start with Bush. The idea of moving the embassy to Jerusalem is at least 44 years old. It was bruited in 1972 by Gerald Ford, then the minority leader in Congress. President Richard Nixon opposed the proposal, but the Republican party included it in its platform for that year's election. (It has been part of the party platform in at least the last five elections).

Ford, in his first press conference after being elected president in 1974, declared that he was no longer keen on moving the embassy from Tel Aviv. "Under the current circumstances and the importance of getting a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," he said, "that particular proposal ought to stand aside."

Yitzhak Rabin, who was then Israel's ambassador to Washington, later asked Ford about the embassy issue. "In the Oval Office you view things differently than from the House of Representatives," Rabin quoted Ford as replying.

The Republican candidates' promises to cancel the agreement with Iran are likely to suffer the same fate as their predecessors' vows to transfer the embassy.

"On the first day in office, I will rip this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal to shreds," Cruz thundered at AIPAC. Trump similarly declared that his "No. 1 priority is to dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran. (He later added that "at the very least, we must enforce the terms of the previous deal to hold Iran totally accountable.")

But the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the deal is formally known, is not a bilateral agreement between Washington and Tehran but was signed by Iran and six countries, which means that it would not be so easy to just cancel the pact, said Cavari, the IDC expert on U.S. politics. The U.S. dropping out of a multilateral agreement that took nearly two years to negotiate would severely damage Washington's ability to gather future international coalitions about anything, he posited. "I don't think it's going to happen."

Of course the Republican candidates also made promises that were just as pleasing to AIPAC conference goers but more realistic. They all vowed, for instance, to veto Palestine-related resolutions at the United Nations, to confront Iran over its non-nuclear regional aggression, to condemn Palestinian incitement, to fight the anti-Israel boycott movement, and so on.

But all these assurances, including rejecting Security Council resolutions seeking to impose terms on Israel, are pretty much consensus positions in American politics. Hillary Clinton, the leading Democratic presidential candidate, also pledged to "vigorously oppose" such a move.

Echoing her Republican rivals, the former secretary of state dubbed Iran an "extremist regime that threatens to annihilate Israel," one whose "unacceptable" ballistic missile tests should be punished by "more sanctions" from the international community. She committed herself to resolving any difference of opinion with Jerusalem "quickly and respectfully," and declared that Washington "should provide Israel with the most sophisticated defence technology so it can deter and stop any threat."

Clinton said many other things that were music to the ears of the AIPAC crowd, but two things she did not promise: to cancel the nuclear deal with Iran and to move the U.S. embassy. In fact, in her speech she did not mention Jerusalem once.

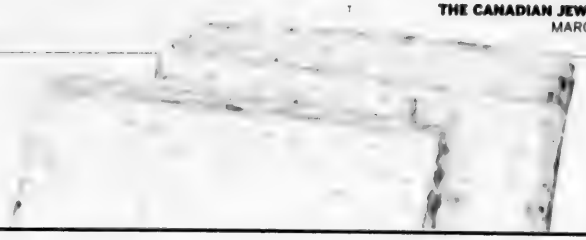
All of this is not to say that a Republican president would not be "better" for Israel than a Democrat. While the judgment on this question really depends on what one thinks is good for Israel, the assessment among many in the pro-Israel community that Republicans are more staunch supporters is a truism.

The ceaseless friction between the Obama administration and the current government in Jerusalem would appear to bolster the claim, to some extent, albeit for the time being. In the recent past, Israel has had relatively warm relations with a Democratic administration (that of Bill Clinton) and difficult ties with a Republican presidency (that of George H.W. Bush).

But whoever moves into the White House after Jan. 20, and regardless of his or her views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel's embassy will remain in Tel Aviv and the Iran deal will stay in place for the foreseeable future. ■

The Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

PASSOVER FOOD



Luscious lemons at Passover

RANDY FINGRUT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

If life gives you lemons, sweeten them with honey and cook with them! Your taste buds will jump for joy from the juicy lemon and honey tanginess found in the savoury dishes that I am presenting. Serve the three dishes together if you are a real lemon fan, or mix and match them with your other favourite dishes. This Passover is going to be extra luscious.

Crispy lemon almond broccoli

- 2 tbsp. oil
- 2 tbsp. fresh ginger, minced
- 1/2 cup unsalted almonds
- 1 tbsp. lemon zest
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp. salt, plus additional salt to taste (optional)
- 1 large broccoli, cut into flowerets
- 2-4 tbsp. water
- 2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- lemon slices for garnish

Process almonds until they resemble a coarse meal.

Heat a large frying pan over medium heat for 90 seconds. Add 1 tbsp. oil and the ginger. Sauté until soft. Add in the almonds, lemon zest and garlic. Continue to sauté, stirring often, until mixture is toasted. Remove from heat and mix in 1/4 tsp. of the salt.

Place mixture in a bowl and wipe out the pan. Heat the pan again and add in the remainder of the oil. Raise the heat to high and stir fry the broccoli, drizzling the water, 3-4 minutes or until cooked through but still crunchy. Dust with remaining salt.

While the pan is still on the heat, put almond mixture over the broccoli along with the lemon juice and mix together. Sprinkle additional salt to taste (optional). Pour onto a serving platter or bowl and garnish with lemon slices. Serve immediately.

Lemon roasted potatoes

- 12-14 small potatoes, uniform in size
- oil spray
- 4 tbsp. Passover vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp. margarine
- zest of one large lemon
- juice of one large lemon
- 2 tsp. honey
- 2 tbsp. fresh chopped tarragon or 2 tsp. dried tarragon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 400. Prepare a baking sheet with foil and spray it with spray.

Peel potatoes and immerse immediately in cold water. Mix together lemon juice, honey, tarragon, salt and pepper, set aside.

Heat a small frying pan and heat the oil, margarine and lemon zest; continue to stir until mixture turns golden brown. Drain the potatoes and pat them dry. Toss potatoes with lemon mixture and place them on baking sheet. Bake for 45 minutes. Baste potatoes with lemon juice mixture. Bake for 15 minutes more or until potatoes are golden brown and fork tender. Serve immediately.

Lemon and rosemary chicken breasts

- 4 lemons
- 3 tbsp. honey
- 1/2 cup of water
- 5 skinless/boneless chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp. dried rosemary
- 2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 tsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- large Ziploc baggie
- extra olive oil or spray

Using a zester with five holes, remove the zest from the lemons. (A vegetable peeler can also be used, remove zest and then slice it very thin.) To prepare candied lemon zest, place zest, honey and water in a small pot. Bring to a simmer and cook until zest is translucent. Strain and cool.

Mix the rosemary, salt, pepper, candied lemon zest, lemon juice, honey and olive oil together in a small bowl. Pat the chicken breasts dry.

Brush the mixture onto the chicken on all sides. Place the prepared chicken in the Ziploc bag and pour in any remaining marinade mixture, seal and place in refrigerator for 2 hours. Preheat the oven to 450 and put the rack in the middle position. Prepare a baking dish sprayed or greased with olive oil. Place the chicken breasts onto the prepared pan, along with the remaining marinade. Bake for 15 minutes then turn the chicken breasts. Reduce oven temperature to 350. Continue baking another 30-35 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. ■

Applause

Happy Passover from Applause Catering

Kosher for Passover Menu

Deadline for orders is Wednesday, April 13th, 4:30pm

APPETIZERS & SOUPS

(1lb serves approx. 4 people)

Smoked Whitefish, Sweet Pickle Fish	$20.00 per lb
Chopped Liver (GF) with Matzah Crackers	$15.00 per lb
Red Velvet Beet Crêpes with Leek & Mushroom Filling (GF)	$6.00 per piece
Traditional Chicken Soup (GF)	$10.00 per litre
Matzah Balls	$1.75 per piece
Butternut Squash and Pear Soup (GF)	$10.00 per litre

MAINS

Chicken & Turkey

Blackened Chicken Supreme (GF)	$16.00 per piece
Matzah Breaded Chicken Roulade	$18.00 per piece
Stuffed Chicken Supreme (GF)	$18.00 per piece
Chicken Fingers	$20.00 per lb
Turkey Cutlet	$14.00 per 5 oz

Beef

Slow Roasted Beef Brisket (GF)	$16.00 per 6 oz
Grilled Montreal Spiced Ribeye Steak (GF)	$21.50 per 10 oz
Charoset Braised Short Ribs (GF)	$29.50 per 10-12 oz

Fish

Cranberry Apricot Crusted Salmon Filet	$16.00 per 7 oz
Sweet and Sour Salmon (GF)	$14.00 per 5 oz

Vegetarian

Stuffed Pepper with Ratatouille (GF, Vegan)	$12.00 per piece

SALADS

Italian (GF)	$4.50 per serving
French Country (GF)	$4.50 per serving
Israeli (GF)	$5.00 per 4 oz
Beet and Mandarin (GF)	$5.00 per 4 oz

SIDE DISHES

(1lb serves approx. 4 people)

Oven Roasted Herbi Potatoes (GF)	$20.00 per lb
Seasonal Vegetable Saute (GF)	$25.00 per lb
Honey Balsamic Root Vegetables (GF)	$25.00 per lb
Egg Noodles (GF)	$14.00 per lb

EXTRAS

Seder Plate	$8.00 per plate
Charoset	$6.00 per 1-2 lb
Potato Kugel	$30.00 per pan
Apple Kugel	$31.00 per pan

DESSERT

(Each cake serves 12 to 14, nut free)

Frozen Chocolate Vanilla Caramel Cake (GF)	$65.00 per cake
Frozen Lemon Meringue Torte	$55.00 per cake
Coconut Macaroon	$3.00 per piece
Caramel Matzah Crunch Squares	$9.00 per 6 pieces
Fresh Fruit Salad (GF)	$5.00 per 6 oz

GF = Gluten Free Under the supervision of COR

Please call us or email your order to
kerra@applausecatering.ca or rosana@applausecatering.ca
Tel: 416.628.9198
www.applausecatering.ca

Pick up location at Beth Tzedec
1700 Bathurst St.,
Main Hall,
Friday, April 22nd,
10am – 3pm

SPONSOR CONTENT

The Canadian Haggadah canadienne: By Canadians and For Canadians

Richard Clark

Canada's Jewish community is unique. It is time that its experience translated into our own Haggadah.

Canada's Jewish community is the world's fourth largest – after Israel, the United States and France. It is an extraordinary vital, dynamic and productive community. It has a very different, distinct personality from that of other countries. And yet…

And yet, most of the books that we use are made in the United States, in Israel or in France. Rabbi Adam Scheier from Montreal's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Richard Marceau, general counsel for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), set out to change this.

Rabbi Scheier and Marceau live and work in bilingual environments. Both interact with French and English speakers in their personal and professional lives. And, a few years ago, both walked away from their respective Passover seders with similar experiences.

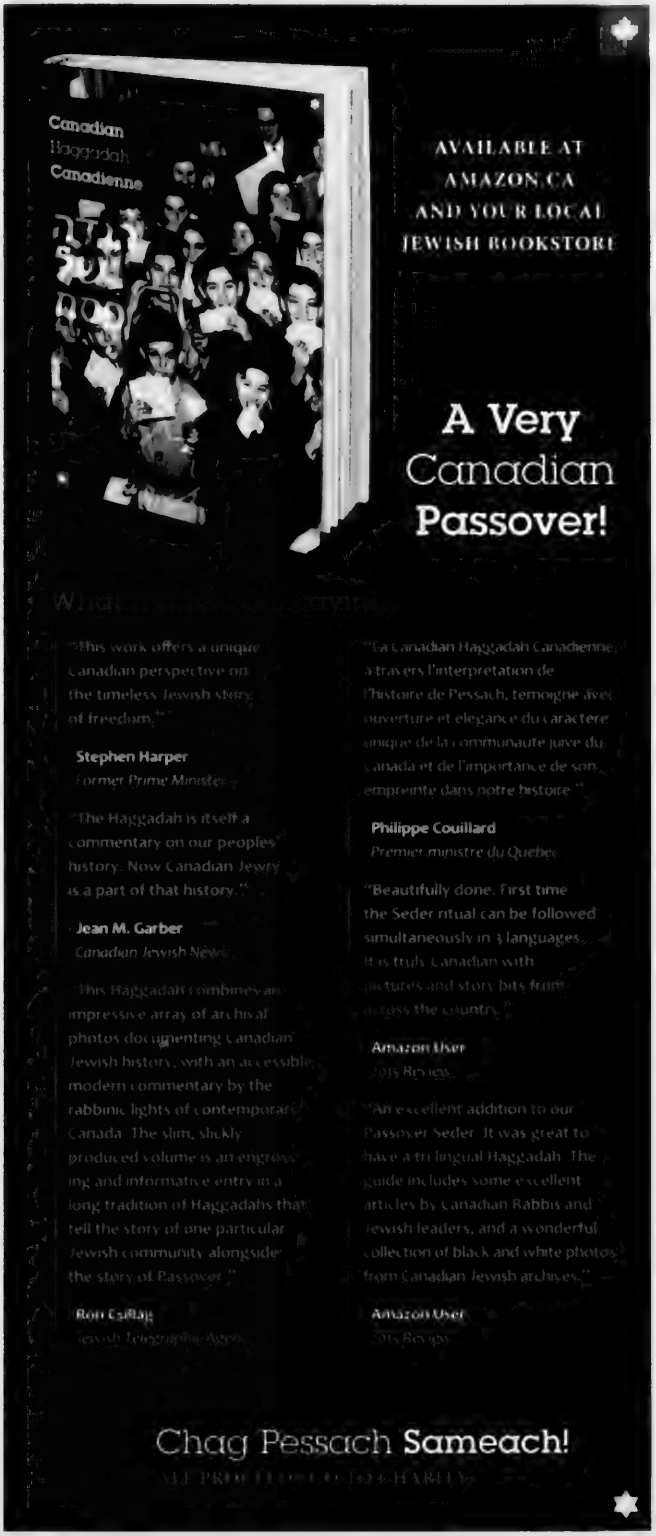
Marceau says, "I was hosting a seder at home with French speakers and English speakers. My wife Lori and I were looking for a Haggadah to use that would be comfortable for both groups, and we could not find one. So we tried to use two at the same time (one English-Hebrew and the other French-Hebrew) but we all became lost. If it wasn't for the great company we had around the table, it would have not been a good seder. So I set out to create a Haggadah that could be used by bilingual families like mine."

Unbeknownst to Marceau, Rabbi Scheier was having similar issues: "I host seders at my home every year, and we love that our guest list represents the diversity of Canadian Jewry: Sephardim, Ashkenazim, Canadians-from-birth, those who have recently moved to Canada. Our seder table hosts many languages and customs, and I was looking for a way to make everyone comfortable around the table. When Richard and I met and shared our similar experiences, we decided to work together to have a trilingual Haggadah."

A partnership was born. The concept evolved, as both Rabbi Scheier and Marceau wanted more than simply a trilingual Haggadah. They wanted a truly Canadian product, one that would be representative of the Canadian Jewish experience and that would feature commentaries from rabbis from across the religious spectrum.

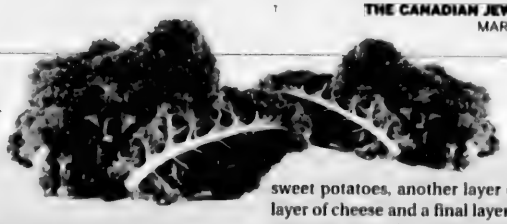
"Rabbi Scheier set out to contact his rabbinical colleagues from across Canada, I lined up the wonderful graphic artist and a good translator, and we both painstakingly pored through Jewish archives from coast to coast, as we wanted pictures of the Canadian Jewish experience, which would create meaningful conversations around the seder table," said Marceau.

"The Haggadah was a five-year project, one that required much more time and energy and travel than we expected at the beginning. We are very proud of the final product. It aesthetically beautiful, and rich with content and meaning. I am convinced that the Canadian Haggadah Canadienne will enhance the seder experience of every household that uses it", says Rabbi Scheier.


Canadian
Haggadah
Canadienne
AVAILABLE AT
AMAZON.CA
AND YOUR LOCAL
JEWISH BOOKSTORE
A Very
Canadian
Passover!
"This work offers a unique Canadian perspective on the timeless Jewish story of freedom."
Stephen Harper
Former Prime Minister
"The Haggadah is itself a commentary on our peoples' history. Now Canadian Jewry is a part of that history."
Jean M. Garber
Canadian Jewish News
"This Haggadah combines an impressive array of archival photos documenting Canadian Jewish history, with an accessible, modern commentary by the rabbinic lights of contemporary Canada. The slim, slickly produced volume is an engrossing and informative entry in a long tradition of Haggadahs that tell the story of one particular Jewish community alongside the story of Passover."
Ron Csillag
Jewish Telegraphic Agency
"La Canadian Haggadah Canadienne, à travers l'interprétation de l'histoire de Pessah, témoigne avec ouverture et élégance du caractère unique de la communauté juive du Canada et de l'importance de son empreinte dans notre histoire."
Philippe Couillard
Premier ministre du Québec
"Beautifully done. First time the Seder ritual can be followed simultaneously in 3 languages... It is truly Canadian with pictures and story bits from across the country."
Amazon User
2015 Review
"An excellent addition to our Passover Seder. It was great to have a trilingual Haggadah. The guide includes some excellent articles by Canadian Rabbis and Jewish leaders, and a wonderful collection of black and white photos from Canadian Jewish archives."
Amazon User
2015 Review
Chag Pessach Sameach!

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

Kugels lend variety to the meal



DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The word "kugel" refers to the fact that kugels were originally made in a kugeltopf, an earthenware jar that sat on top of a soup or stew, and was essentially steamed as opposed to baked. Historically, it wasn't until well after the Middle Ages that most common folk owned an oven. Until then, only wealthy people had ovens in their home, and the townsfolk had to go to a common area, the local baker or the town's wealthy overlord, to bake their breads, sometimes for a fee.

Hence, the popularity of steaming a kugel. In fact, at that time, it was much easier to regulate some water or stew over a fire than in a rudimentary oven. With the popularization of the home oven in the mid-19th century, kugels increasingly became a baked dish. With the introduction of affordable sugar, they also made the leap into the sweet realm. Nowadays, you can pick and choose your kugel, and I sincerely hope you'll try the ones below, one for a dairy meal, one pareve and one sweet.

Sweet kugel with dried cherries and pistachios

The perfect brunch meal, this can be served at any time of year. During Passover, use the broadest kosher for Passover noodles you can.

- ❑ 1 lb. wide egg noodles
- ❑ 1 cup dried sour cherries, chopped
- ❑ 2 cups whipping cream
- ❑ 2 cups cottage cheese
- ❑ 4 large eggs
- ❑ 2 large egg yolks
- ❑ 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- ❑ 1 cup dried sour cherries, chopped
- ❑ 2 cups crushed matzah
- ❑ 2/3 cup shelled pistachios
- ❑ 2 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the egg noodles until al dente, about 8 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350.

In a large bowl, whisk the whipping cream with the cottage cheese, eggs, egg yolks and sugar. Add the dried cherries to the bowl and then the noodles and stir. Pour the mixture into a 9-by-13-in. ceramic baking dish.

In another bowl, toss the crushed matzah with the pistachios, melted butter and a pinch of salt. Scatter the matzah mixture over the noodles and bake in the centre of the preheated oven until the noodle kugel is set and the topping is golden, about 45 minutes. Transfer the kugel to a rack and let cool slightly before serving.

Sweet potato and kale kugel

This is a terrific kugel for a luncheon during Passover or for when you're having a dairy meal.

- ❑ 2 tbsp. unsalted butter
- ❑ 1/2 large onion, chopped
- ❑ 5 cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 2 tbsp. chopped fresh or dried chives
- ❑ 3/4 tsp. salt
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. pepper
- ❑ 2 tsp. potato starch
- ❑ 2 cups whipping cream
- ❑ 3 sweet potatoes, thinly sliced
- ❑ 3 cups coarsely chopped fresh kale
- ❑ 1-1/2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
- ❑ 2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 375. Lightly grease an 8-in. square glass dish.

Melt the butter in a large non-stick skillet set over medium-low heat. Add the onion and garlic; cook, stirring, just until the onion starts to turn golden, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the chives, salt and pepper, and potato starch. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Pour the cream into the skillet; bring to a boil. Remove the skillet from the heat.

Arrange 1/3 of the sweet potatoes slices, slightly overlapping, in a single layer in the prepared pan. Layer with 1-1/2 cups of the kale and about 1/4 of the cheese. Repeat with another layer of sweet potatoes, another layer of kale, a layer of cheese and a final layer of sweet potatoes. Pour the cream mixture over this evenly. Top with the remaining cheese and the Parmesan. Cover the dish tightly with foil and place on a large rimmed baking sheet.

Bake in the centre of the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Remove the foil. Bake for 30 to 40 more minutes or until the potatoes are tender and the top is a golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Makes 8 servings.

Potato, turnip and carrot kugel

The turnip and carrot add some natural sweetness to this kugel, which is nicely balanced by the earthy tones of the mushrooms.

- ❑ 5 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ❑ 2 large onions, cut in half and sliced into half moons
- ❑ 4 large cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 8 oz. chopped fresh mushrooms
- ❑ 2 tsp. dried thyme
- ❑ 1 tsp. salt
- ❑ 3/4 tsp. pepper
- ❑ 6 russett potatoes, cut into wedges
- ❑ 2 turnips, cut into large pieces
- ❑ 1 large carrot, cut into large pieces
- ❑ 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- ❑ 2 tbsp. coarse matzah meal

Preheat the oven to 400. Pour 3 tbsp. of the oil onto the bottom of a casserole dish. Place on a rimmed baking dish and place inside the oven.

Heat the remaining 2 tbsp. of oil in a large non-stick skillet set over medium heat. Add the onions, garlic and mushrooms to the skillet. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are golden and the mushrooms are starting to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the thyme, salt and pepper and remove from the heat.

Meanwhile, in the bowl of a food processor fitted with the shredding attachment, or using a hand held grater, shred the potatoes, turnips and carrot. Transfer the mixture to a colander. Using large handfuls, squeeze out as much excess moisture as you can. Transfer to a large bowl. Stir in the onion/mushroom mixture, stirring until it is well distributed. Stir in the eggs and matzah meal until well mixed.

Remove the casserole from the oven. Carefully swirl the pan so that the oil coats the side of the casserole (or use a brush to do this). Transfer the potato mixture evenly into the pan. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven until golden and cooked throughout, 55 to 60 minutes. Serves 8 ■

STEELES
DELI
RESTAURANT
New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions
*SPECIAL
$2.00 OFF*
Any Adult Dinner Entrees
Dine-in Only
Passover Menu Now Available
FREE Home Delivery on orders over $50.00
(within immediate area)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Not to be combined with any other offer. Valid until 04/18/16. Special only creditable on total bill, not for each separate meal
FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT · DINE-IN · CATERING

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

Jewish Life

A new take on cantorial music for all tastes

Beth Sholom Synagogue Cantor Eric Moses and the cover of *Crossroads*, below.

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Beth Sholom Synagogue Cantor Eric Moses is behind two musical endeavours he hopes will resonate with fans of both traditional and contemporary music.

About a year after healing from his successful vocal surgery, Cantor Moses produced a musical album called *Crossroads*. Although this is the third album he's released, he said *Crossroads* is different from anything he's done before.

Moses teamed up with the Ruach Singers, an a cappella group that Beth Sholom incorporated into its Shabbat morning services once a month, in an attempt to attract a younger demographic to the shul.

"It's a fusion of the old and the new, and it's meant to inspire a new generation. I think every religion is looking for ways to engage people, and we don't want to be complacent and think that if we just keep doing the same thing year after year, week after week, people are going to keep coming. We've relied on that for too long and we need to show people a reason to come that inspires them. I'm not saying this is the end all and be all and the one answer for everybody, but if we find multiple ways to inspire people, then we have a shot at the future generation of Jews," Moses said.

"I was not a believer in the beginning. But it's a really good, unique sound, and it's amazing – people love it. We get calls from people who book their bar mitzvahs three years in advance... They're calling and asking for the Ruach Singers too... It's really taken off with people. That's why we said we have to do an album and put it out there so people can enjoy it and get to know the tunes."

> *These are all guys in their 40s, including the chief cantor of the Israeli army, Shai Abramson.*

Moses said he collaborated with the Ruach Singers on the album, which was launched on Erev Purim, to create "a new sound set to traditional texts and melodies."

"*Crossroads* reflects the vision of blending the old and the new to create a deeply soulful experience down to the core of our tradition," he said.

Moses praised the Ruach Singers for their beat-boxing talent, or "mimicking instrument sounds or different sounds that create the experience as if you're almost hearing a band... J-M Erlendson, the beat boxer, is like a band in and of himself."

In what he called a "completely different experience," Moses spoke about the April 6 concert he is organizing and promoting, called the World's Greatest Cantors Concert, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

"One of my passions is traditional chazzanut, and that's something that Toronto has truly been a leader in... This is a way to showcase something that I think is really important and nostalgically important and a part of the Jewish music of Toronto," he said.

He said this is the third time he's run a similar event, but in the past, he has hosted the generation of chazzanim who are older than him.

"This time they are all my generation... These are all guys in their 40s, including the chief cantor of the Israeli army, Shai Abramson. It was a challenging feat to get him to be here because of his many responsibilities in Israel, but we're happy to be able to have him," he said.

Seven of the best-known cantors from Canada, the United States and Israel will be in Toronto, as well as Israeli conductor Eli Jaffe, who will be backed by the 50-piece Greater Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra.

"What's unique about this new brand of cantors is that they're out there... for example, Yaakov Lemmer. You look at him and he looks like he stepped right out of the shtetl because of the way he dresses. But he sang the U.S. national anthem on the sixth night of Chanukah at the Barclays Center, at the basketball game between the Brooklyn Nets and Detroit Pistons. And he sounded like a total pop singer. He belted out the *Star Spangled Banner*. You'd never think this guy sang cantorial music," he said.

"This is the first time in at least two to three years that we have a really major cantorial concert... I've never embarked on one this large."

For more information, visit www.worldsgreatestcantors.com.

Toronto actor/singer tackles a different kind of role

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

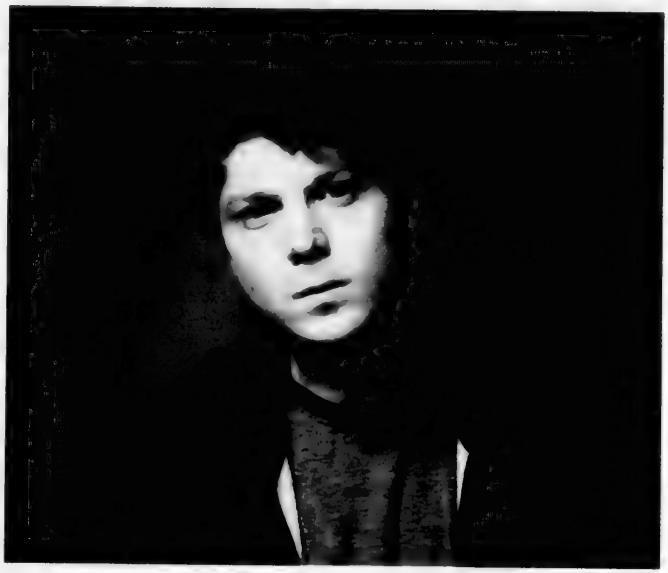
In the biggest stage role of his career, actor Stephen Joffe plays the dysfunctional boyfriend of an intellectually disabled woman, in a remount of *The Crackwalker*.

The play is a dark portrait of a group of marginalized people living in 1970s Kingston, Ont., where its author, Judith Thompson, was once a social worker.

Joffe, 24, a 2012 graduate of the National Theatre School, said the role of Alan, Theresa's boyfriend, is older than he's used to playing. "With my face and body, I generally get cast younger than I am."

Joffe described his character as a guy who's lived at the bottom of the pecking order. "He may have been born with a touch of fetal alcohol syndrome. Definitely a very difficult childhood. Not a good family and a lot of abuse," Joffe said. "As the play develops, he starts to struggle very aggressively with mental illness. Really, what he's trying to do is to achieve some sort of peace and happiness in his life. Unfortunately, we're in a system that continues to push the low even further down."

Preparing for the role, Joffe was curious about the response to *The Crackwalker* when it premiered in Toronto in 1980. He found critics and others referred to the play's characters – including Alan and Theresa's friends Sandy and Joe, as well as The Crackwalker, a homeless First Nations man – as bottom feeders or bottom dwellers.



Stephen Joffe HILL PEPPARD PHOTO

"It's just simply not true," Joffe said. "These are human beings who are products of their environment."

The play is no less relevant today, he reflected. "These people still exist, and we still have this aggressive tendency to ignore them or dehumanize them and to separate them from ourselves," he said. "We have a duty not to look away, no matter how much it may be scary to see what we created, a mirror of ourselves. We have a responsibility to watch."

Along with acting on stage and in films – Joffe starred in the 2013 short, *The Path*, a social satire on consumerism – he's tried his hand at playwriting. Two plays he submitted to recent competitions proved to be winners. He came first in the 2013 Panfish New Play Contest, for *Offers of Home*, in which he explores homelessness, and he won the 2013 Theatre in the Ruff New Play Contest with *The Cocoa Stand*, a parable about capitalism.

Joffe also plays mandolin and sings in the award-winning band, the Birds of Bellwoods. An energetic folk ensemble whose harmonies soar, the group won a 2015 Toronto Independent Music Award in the best folk or roots category.

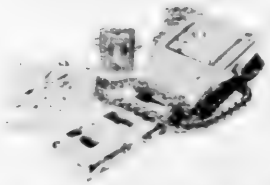
Sky, a tragic song filled with regrets about lost friendship, on the Birds' EP, *The Fifth*, was a finalist in the 2015 John Lennon Songwriting Competition. The group shares songwriting duties. Joffe often begins the process by coming up with a basic melody and a lyric, inspired by an experience that is greater than he is able to let go of.

"It's like an emotional fire hydrant," he said. The Birds of Bellwoods will release a single in the next month or two and a full-length album is in the works. Joffe sees himself as a performer more than as an actor or a musician. He aims to engage an audience in two-way communication, whether he's on stage or with the Birds of Bellwoods at a club.

"I get up and open my heart with the hopes that other people will open theirs as well," he said. "And that we can communicate and that we can recognize each other."

The Crackwalker, directed by Thompson, runs at Factory Theatre until April 10. For tickets, visit www.factorytheatre.ca. For more information about Joffe's band, visit www.birdsofbellwoods.com. ■

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA..... 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

The Dennis Waldman Foundation For Jewish Education
IMPORTANT
Scholarship Notice

The Dennis Waldman Foundation for Jewish Education is soliciting applications from high school students in their graduating year for an award of $4000 toward university education. The Waldman Scholarship will be awarded on the following criteria:

1. **Academic achievement**
2. **Extra-curricular activities and community service**
3. **Teacher references**
4. **An essay**
5. **An interview with members of the Board**

The Scholarship is open to Canadian students in their graduating year from either a Jewish or a public secondary school who intend to pursue university level study. In either case, the applicant must provide a demonstrated history of involvement in Jewish communal life.

Applications are available at your school OR online at www.waldmanfoundation.org
OR
The Dennis Waldman Foundation c/o Sloan Partnership LLP 4646 DuMenn St. Suite 6 Toronto, Ontario M3H 5S4 Telephone 416-665-7735

Applications due by May 6, 2016. Scholarship will be awarded in June

Egyptian myth subject of Toronto writer's debut opera

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Sharon Singer has always been fascinated by ancient Egypt. That's part of the reason she wrote *Isis and Osiris, God of Egypt*, an opera about the timeless Egyptian myth and love story.

Singer, who's a Toronto-based writer, poet, spoken word artist and now librettist, has worked for a number of years to put *Isis and Osiris* on stage and in the hands of a talented group of singers. Now, her two-hour-long opera will finally have its world premiere on April 1 at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts.

"This opera is my baby so this is giving birth," she says of the long process.

While she took care of the words, renowned Canadian composer Peter-Anthony Togni wrote all of the music. Singer describes their relationship as a collaborative one; they often work together, both in person and via Skype because Togni lives in Halifax.

Singer, however, penned the entire opera before Togni even added the music. Although, she would often sing her libretto (script) aloud to make sure it sounded melodic.

Sharon Singer

"Peter never heard what I sang, luckily," says Singer with a laugh. "And I had no idea what he was going to do with it. But he said that it was the libretto that inspired the music because he was very charmed by it."

Togni's score is quite contemporary. And that's intentional, Singer says. She says the opera itself conveys modern day themes, despite the fact that it's rooted in a story from millenniums ago.

> *One of the things you realize in watching this is that human beings have not changed.*

"One of the things you realize in watching this is that human beings have not changed," she says. In the Isis and Osiris myth, Osiris (sung by Michael Barrett) is the king of Egypt who rules along with his wife Isis (sung by Lucia Cesaroni). Osiris' brother Seth (sung by Michael Nyby) murders him out of jealousy and Isis goes on a journey to bring him back to life.

The opera explores timeless themes of love, hate and sibling rivalry. "There's a line in the opera when Isis says to Osiris, 'thousands cannot die for one man's lust for power,'" says Singer. "And we read this in the newspaper every day."

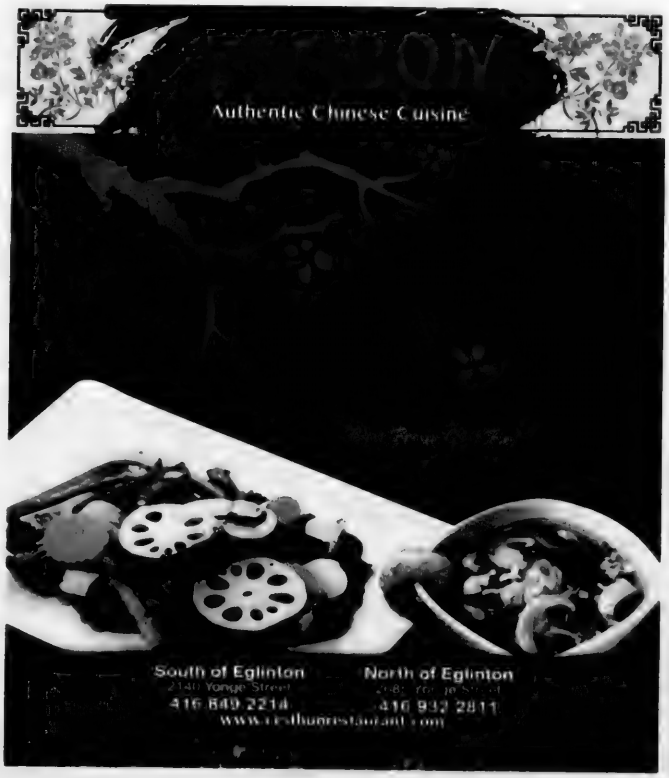
There's clearly more to this opera than just beautiful music. Dignitaries from Egypt, for instance, will be attending the world premiere as Singer hopes to inspire cross-cultural understanding.

Part of the reason why ancient Egypt captivated her in the first place, she says, is because of the Jewish people's biblical history there, especially during the time of Joseph.

As she brings that passion to life, she's also accomplishing another goal. Singer's never written an opera before, but back in the mid-1990s, she started putting music behind her spoken word pieces. One time, she heard soprano Doreen Taylor-Claxton sing her poetry. She was hooked. "I was so thrilled that I just wanted to do a bigger project," she says.

And now after years of putting the two together, her love of music, words and of course, ancient Egypt will finally take centre stage. ■

Voicebox: Opera in Concert presents Isis and Osiris, Gods of Egypt from April 1 to 3 at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts. For tickets visit www.stlc.com.



Walking Dead star to reprise her Golda Meir role

DAVID COLLIN
dcollin@thecjn.ca

American actor Tovah Feldshuh who just wowed TV audiences with her thrilling role on AMC's *The Walking Dead* will reprise her role as Golda Meir in *Golda's Balcony* in June.

Feldshuh says the show mixes humour and history. "You can get an education about the 1973 Yom Kippur war, it's phenomenal, it has humour, what Jewish person doesn't love a good laugh, are you kidding me?" says Feldshuh.

Feldshuh was in Toronto recently, appearing at Fan Expo Canada's Toronto Comicon, a smaller-scaled version of the annual mega-con held at the Metro Toronto Convention Center in September. Between greeting fans of her work on *The Walking Dead* and for her recent adjunct role as Naomi Bunch in Rachel Bloom and Aline Brosh McKenna's award winning musical comedy *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* Feldshuh signed autographs and posed for photos.

Feldshuh played Deanna Monroe, the leader of the safe-haven Alexandria, in the popular TV show based in a zombie-over-run post-apocalyptic world for 12 episodes in seasons 5 and 6. Asked why the award-winning *The Walking Dead* has consistently been a top-rated show, Feldshuh said the show is more about the relationships between those that remain alive amidst the hordes of undead "walkers" (the survivors' name for the zombies).

Tovah Feldshuh

"We're all going to die, we want to know how to live out the years in our body," Feldshuh said. "How do we live in a sea of opposition and a sea of threat?"

> *Just give me a great part and I'll show up*

Feldshuh drew parallels of the environment her character's struggles in to maintain a sense of culture and decency to that of the concentration camps of World War II and any country where its people are threatened with genocide.

Feldshuh loves stories about time travel and said if offered a part in the period series *Outlander*, she would kill for the chance to get dressed up in costume from days gone by. "If you participate in projects that remind you of your childhood then you too can go back in time."

In a sense Feldshuh continues to do just that each time she returns to a musical. "Just give me a great part and I'll show up," she told *The CJN*.

Parts have always been offered to her. The 62-year-old-actress, who has been thrilling audiences on stage, screen and television for over four decades said that "age is irrelevant."

She said all directors want to know is if you can play the part. She joked, though that, "I may have to write my own series to give myself a starring role and one in which I can't be killed off."

After her Broadway debut alongside Canadian legend Christopher Plummer in the short-lived 1973 musical *Cyrano*, in 1975 Feldshuh secured the title role in *Yentl* both on and off Broadway. She then became internationally recognized for her role as Helena Slomova in the 1978 mini-series *Holocaust*.

In 2003, Feldshuh starred in *Golda's Balcony* delivering over 500 performances and winning the Drama Desk Award for outstanding solo performance. The show set a record as the longest-running one-woman play in Broadway history in 2005. ■

The Harold Green Jewish Theatre is bringing Golda's Balcony to Toronto's Greenwin Theater's stage from June 7 to June 19. hgjewishtheatre.com

EATING FOR WELLNESS
with Bonnie Wisener

Wednesdays, April 6 & 13 at 1:30 PM

Bonnie Wisener, a registered holistic nutritionist, will guide us through the basic principles of eating for good health. No charge.

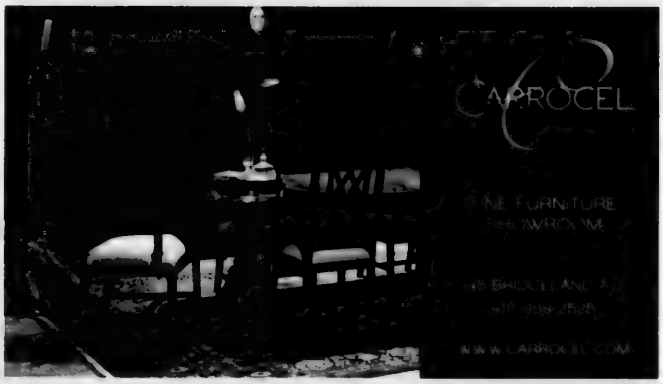
April 6
Promoting Digestion, Mood and Mental Clarity

April 13
Prevention of Common Ailments and Disease

For information or RSVPs, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511.

Sponsored by Living Assistance Services

THE CHASM
Rabbi Michael Skobac
Understanding the Differences Between Judaism and Christianity
jewsforjudaism
KEEPING JEWS JEWISH



A snapshot of a lost prewar Polish Jewish community

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

In the summer of 1938, the author's American grandparents, David and Liza Kurtz, took a six-week European vacation that included a brief visit to a Polish town, where David shot three minutes of footage – mostly in colour, which was rare for that day – with a 16mm camera.

In 2009, more than 70 years later, Glenn Kurtz discovered the film in a dented aluminum canister in a closet in his parents' home in Florida. But it had deteriorated so badly – having "shrunk, curled on itself, and fused into a single, hockey-puck-like mass" – that it could not be projected. Fortunately, some of the images had been transferred to videotape, and when Kurtz saw them, he was amazed and transfixed: he knew the film was important, and that it had to be preserved.

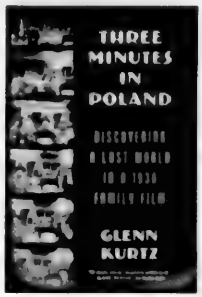
The film showed a vibrant Jewish community in a Polish town in August of 1938, just three months before Kristallnacht and one year before the onset of the war. But what town? Family sources insisted it was Berezne, his grandmother's ancestral shtetl, but Kurtz had growing suspicions it might be his grandfather's ancestral shtetl of Nasielsk. In any case, no one could positively recognize any of the buildings depicted in the crowded town square, abuzz with life.

It was only after he donated the footage to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – which excitedly declared it to be "unique" – that Kurtz solved the mystery by finding an old photograph of the Nasielsk synagogue, identical to the synagogue that appears in the film.

Further confirmation that the town was indeed Nasielsk came after the film was posted online and the son and grandchild of octogenarian Maurice Chandler spotted him in the film as a sprightly 13-year-old boy wearing a cap. His family told Chandler, born in 1924 and one of relatively few Jews from Nasielsk to survive the Holocaust, that "you're in a sea of ghosts."

That's a riveting moment in the increasingly dramatic story of how the obsessive Kurtz strives to provide context and identity to the rich, lost and initially anonymous world that has been preserved in those three extraordinary – yet terribly ordinary – minutes of film. The random images of the townsfolk preserved on film – a crowd in the street, workers in ragged clothes, religious men in long black overcoats, women in kerchiefs, a procession leaving a synagogue – are laden with dramatic irony, since all seem blissfully unaware that their world is soon to be turned upside down and destroyed.

As he endeavours to restore memory, identity and dignity to nameless faces,



Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film,
by Glenn Kurtz
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Kurtz travels across the United States and visits Canada, England, Poland and Israel; he also visits cemeteries, some in decrepit condition, and delves into archives, basements and attics. He eventually finds seven survivors from Nasielsk, including two who appear in the film as children.

Much of these discoveries could not have been made without the Internet; as poet Paul Simon once wrote, we live in an "age of miracles and wonders," however overshadowed it may be by countervailing darkness. Ultimately, through a combination of diligence and luck, Kurtz succeeds in restoring a vibrant picture of Nasielsk's Jewish community – at least that part of it recalled by a chance group of survivors consulted some 70 years after the devastation.

"Nasielsk survives only in memory," the author writes. "But the Nasielsk that exists in memory now is the chance artifact of those who happened to live longest. The memories themselves are equally artifacts of a ruthless process of selection, what is left over after 75 years of forgetting, suppressing, reworking, and smoothing out through repetition."

Kurtz's narrative is easily a quest, comparable to such memorable works as Theo Richmond's *Konin: A Quest* (1995), Daniel Mendelsohn's *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* (2006) and Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010). An attempt to celebrate the life of a Jewish community obliterated by the Nazis, *Three Minutes in Poland* is as much about the journey as the destination. The story is well written and gripping.

• • •

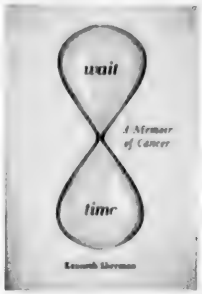
Wait Time: A Memoir of Cancer
by Kenneth Sherman
Wilfrid Laurier University Press

Toronto poet and essayist Kenneth Sherman chronicles another sort of journey – one that began when he was diagnosed with cancer. Sherman has already demonstrated through his various volumes of essays and poetry that he is an astute and perceptive wordsmith, and it may have been therapeutic for him to bring this rare talent into play during this deeply distressing time.

Like Poe's *Descent Into the Maelstrom*, Sherman combines dispassion with horror as he intelligently assesses the morass of doctors, nurses, hospitals, medical machinery, schedules, procedures and bureaucracy into which he has stumbled. Most agonizing of all, however, is the wait time for medical appointments as the deadly poison festers within. Like many a patient, Sherman quickly learns how to use his connections and otherwise work the system to improve the sometimes indifferent level of medical care available to many of us.

Beyond conquering any physical pain (of which there is little), Sherman soon discovers that controlling his own fears and morbid thoughts will also be a central challenge. Knowledge of a potentially deadly disease can have a sharp psychological effect on a person, he observes.

"It suddenly occurs to me that while I have a fairly realistic take on the odds, I, like any cancer patient, am hoping for a



lucky break," he writes. "I am holding onto the notion that I am special – that I, above all the other poor patients who wait with me for their names to be called, deserve a reprieve. One of the big shocks in getting sick is to acknowledge that you are, after all, common flesh. Susceptible and mortal. Of course you've always known that, but knowing and accepting are two different things."

There is also much positive advice that the author shares with those who may be facing a similar health crisis; and yes, there is light at the end of this particular tunnel. ■

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE*
with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system
AND
RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
94 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgrouphc.com

OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.

Two show-biz cousins star in biblical-based *Two by Two*

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Judy Gans and Julie Lennick, cousins with a shared show-biz legacy, have roles in a new production of Richard Rodgers' *Two by Two*, based on the biblical story of Noah's Ark.

Both women have deep roots in the Canadian entertainment industry, with family members who performed on and wrote for radio, television and the stage, beginning in the 1930s.

Lennick's mother, Sylvia, made her most famous appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in May 1958, as a member of Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster's troupe. In a skit called *Rinse the Blood Off My Toga*, Wayne, as a private eye, tries to finger Marcus Brutus, played by Shuster, for the murder of Julius Caesar. Playing the widow, Sylvia cries out, in a Bronx accent, "I told him, Julie don't go." Sylvia's line got a lot of laughs, but she rarely appeared with Wayne and Shuster after that. "She was getting all the laughs, and Wayne and Shuster didn't use her so much," her daughter said.

Lennick was born after her mother rushed to the hospital from a live broadcast of the CBC radio show *At Home with the Lennicks*. Sylvia's husband, Ben, wrote the scripts for the mid-1950s comedy show.

Julie Lennick's parents founded a theatre company in 1930s, which they resurrected in the 1960s, to give themselves and other actors work. Sylvia, who died in 2012, worked for more than a half century.

Julie Lennick, left, and Judy Gans have deep roots in the Canadian entertainment industry.

"Everybody else had parents – the mother stayed home and the father went to work. And I thought, Why can't we be that? Why doesn't my father put on a suit and go to work, get a job?" Lennick said wryly.

She and her cousin grew close as children while they were taking acting classes from Judy's mother (and Sylvia's sister), Geri, in the basement of Judy's house. Lennick decided she wanted to sing after she heard Judy perform in a show, so her parents sent her for lessons with Charles Jordan, singer-songwriter Marc Jordan's father.

Despite their youth, Geri, who had been a student at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York in the 1940s when it was run by legendary acting teacher Sanford Meisner, taught her students method acting, improv and the basics of mime. Now 89, Geri is still active in local theatre. Two of her musicals, based on the stories of Rapunzel and Cinderella, were presented at recent Toronto Fringe Festivals.

Lennick, a community theatre veteran, introduced her cousin to community theatre in the early 1980s. "Once I got into it, it was an amazing journey," Judy Gans said.

The cousins interacted on stage together for the first time as adults in a production of *Grease* in 1990. Since then, Gans and Lennick have appeared on stage together in productions of *Oliver*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Music Man* and *Gypsy*.

In *Two by Two*, presented by the Civic Light-Opera Company, Lennick, who has the role of Noah's wife, comedically spars with her malcontented daughter-in-law, Leah, played by her cousin, Gans.

> *I thought, 'Why can't we be that? Why doesn't my father put on a suit and go to work, get a job?'*

Two by Two, with music by Rodgers and lyrics by Martin Charnin, was first presented on Broadway in 1970. It's a modern retelling of Noah's preparation for the Great Flood and its aftermath and includes contemporary themes, among them the devastation of the environment. The musical's story was based on Clifford Odets' final play, *The Flowering Peach*, which depicted Noah's family as a lower-middle-class Jewish family from the Bronx. ■

The Civic Light-Opera Company's production of Two by Two *features director Joe Cascone as Noah. Along with Gans and Lennick, the cast includes Andrew Long, David Haines, Eric Botosan, Lindsay Burrows and Katie Richardson. For tickets to* Two by Two *at the Zion Cultural Centre from April 6 to 17, visit www.civiclightoperacompany.com or call the box office at 416-755-1717.*

Are you furthering your Jewish Education?
Planning a career in Jewish Education or Jewish Communal Service?

DR. AARON M. NUSSBAUM AWARD

To be eligible for the Award, the candidate must

1. Be a graduate of Robbins Hebrew Academy
2. Have applied to an undergraduate or graduate program which includes a significant Judaic Studies component

Application forms and information available from:

The Dr. Aaron M. Nussbaum Award Committee
Robbins Hebrew Academy
1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto ON M5P 3K3
Phone: 416-224-8737 ext.146
Email: cdoomernik@rhacademy.ca

Deadline: May 6, 2016

ROBBINS HEBREW ACADEMY | CAIS

39th Annual Convention
TOTAL HEALTH
April 8, 9 & 10, 2016
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
MORE THAN 60 OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL HEALTH

Ty Bollinger
Non Toxic Treatments for Cancer
Dr. David Brownstein
A Holistic Approach to Thyroid Disorders
Julie Daniluk
4 Habits that Will Extend Your Life

OVER 200 EXHIBITS & TWO EXHIBIT STAGES: $10
416-924-9800 | info@totalhealthshow.com
www.totalhealthshow.com

COMING SOON:
Look for our annual literary supplement in the April 21 PASSOVER edition of **The CJN**

Purim vs. Halloween: the holiday grudge match

Chaimie and Leizer

With the festival of Purim just past, it's worth analyzing what sort of a role it plays within the landscape of the holidays and rituals of modern secular society. In other words, does Purim put Halloween to shame, or are we a *shande fun di goyim* when it comes to revelry?

Heroes: Does Halloween even have a hero? Who? Jack-O-Lantern? A headless horseman? A seedless pumpkin? There's really no one to truly call a role model for the kids. On the other hand, with Purim you've got two great heroes – Esther, a frickin' Queen (and to get chosen as a Jew in that Iranian court – can you say Oh My Dinejad?) and someone who risks her life for her people (including fasting – I mean, we're talking serious sacrifice here), and of course Uncle Morty. Sure, he didn't go up to old Achashverosh himself, but this guy was like a medieval Mossad with picking up that intel like that. This is a clear two-headed no-brainer vs. a guy without even a head and certainly no *yiddishn kop*.
Winner: ***Purim***

Costumes: Halloween is easy because you can always rely on Shopper's or Pharmaprix, and entire stores literally open up weeks before to get people dressed up. (Of course, when UNICEF asks for clothes for actual needy people, no one's giving, but hey, who are we to judge?) Purim requires a bit more resourcefulness – somebody's got some pipe cleaners here and there, Zaide's got an old shmatte, Bubbie has an old tiara, and boom, you're Kim Kardashian, or Vashti. Or both! (Cotton balls also make for cheap beards, for you Mordechai wannabes.)
Winner: ***Halloween for options. Purim for resourcefulness.***

Haunted Houses: The only thing we have that's close is Hillel House. Meanwhile, the goyim are working on their houses for up to one week turning them into quasi-cemeteries. Whoever is asking how it is that the Jews have gotten ahead should really be asking how can non-Jews recapture their lost productivity on that one week of mindless faux-cemetery construction for the enjoyment of strangers, children and strange children?
Winner: ***Halloween***
Real Winner: ***The Jews***

Horror movies: There isn't a Purim horror movie yet, though by all means there should be, with such juicy potential names as *They Came from Shushan*, *He Who Shall Not Be Named* and – why not – *Nightmare on Chelm Street*.
Winner: ***Halloween***

Music: Halloween has no good songs except maybe *Monster Mash* and *Thriller*. Meantime, we've got some great Purim songs. Wait, do we? Where are the Purim classics? Who was on that? Yossi, you had one job to do…
Winner: ***Tie - both could use a little Irving Berlin treatment.***

Food: Look, the average person will tell you that Halloween is superior, what with the Tootsie Rolls, the unlimited mini chocolate bars, yada yada yada. But let us say this about that: first, the risk of a razor blade in a hamentash is surprisingly low (generally our enemies enjoy holding the blades when wielding them against us – the whole remote blade thing is very inauthentic to them). Second, if you're into opiates, Purim absolutely destroys on this front, providing just enough poppy to make you fail a drug test, but not enough to overdose. Third, if you ate nothing but hamentashen, you would get fat off of food made with love. If you ate nothing but Halloween candy, you would get fat off of food made with partially hydrogenated olive oil. And to the best of our knowledge, the Beatles didn't sing the classic *All You Need is Partially Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil*.
Winner: ***Purim***

Alcohol: In absolute terms, yes, there is literally more alcohol flowing on Halloween than there is on Purim. But on a per *kop*-ita basis (i.e. how much alcohol is in a Jewish head), there is way more *shikur*/*kop* on Purim. After all, the rabbis mandate that you have to drink until you don't know right from wrong, or if you're in Toronto, Wright from Yonge. Hey, we may not follow our rabbis on anything, but on this particular mitzvah, we will solemnly oblige.
Winner: ***Purim***

So there you have it. While Halloween may be good for those interested in a Hallows Evening of ghouls, ghosts and child obesity, we're perfectly happy celebrating dodging real horrors, like, we dunno, state-mandated genocide. L'chaim, to life – literally! ■

Chaimie and Leizer are Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the world's first online Yiddish sitcom YidLife Crisis.

Reena

OPEN YOUR HOME FOR PASSOVER!

Invite individuals with developmental disabilities supported by Reena to participate in your Family Seder or volunteer to lead a Seder at a Reena Home.

@reenafoundation | www.reena.org

Perform a Mitzvah! Contact Arlene Margolese at amargolese@reena.org

Aspaklaria

Aspaklaria Jewish Repertory Theatre presents the North American premiere of

THE ODDS

What happens when [illegible]

SUPPORT ISRAEL. EXPERIENCE SUPERIOR THEATRE. PLAY THE ODDS.

Sunday, April 3 at 8 pm

spotlight

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

RETIRING SALE Public & Dealers Welcome
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $100-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Only $30, Reg. $150-$250, HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small REPAIRS
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

pet

PRICE MATCH
15% OFF
any purchase of $60 or more*
*Valid only at PET VALU Bayview and Laureleaf
Certain conditions apply. Expires April 30, 2016
/PVBayviewLaureleaf
@PetValu_Bayview
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Minimum $50 order
Bayview and Laureleaf Petvalu
Thornhill • 7355 Bayview Avenue • 905-597-6400

Israeli theatre company comes to Toronto

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Though translated to English and adapted to make sense to local audiences, the plays featured by the North American branch of the Aspaklaria Jewish Repertory Theatre Company portray characters that feel somehow Israeli.

"Our actors will tell me that Canadian theatre characters don't behave or respond the way ours do. There's something about the Middle Eastern temperament – the directness, the warmth – that comes across strongly in our writing," said Joseph Fackenheim, 36, artistic director of the Israeli theatre company's new Canadian iteration, which is based in Toronto.

Aspaklaria was founded in Jerusalem in 2001 by Rabbi Hagay Lober and given repertory status by the Israeli Ministry of Culture. Its mandate is to spread Jewish themes and culture in Israel and internationally.

Nine months ago, Aspaklaria's new North American branch set up shop in Toronto with an aim to give local audiences – both Jewish and not – an eye into Israeli and Jewish ways of life.

On April 3, Aspaklaria will hold its inaugural event at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, with a reception followed by the Canadian debut performance of the company's flagship play for the season, *The Odds*.

Written by Ayelet Scheinberg and Rabbi Lober, *The Odds* has been running successfully in Israel for the past six years.

It's a dramatic comedy about a couple's therapist who decides to hold a workshop exclusively for men to work out their relationship problems.

Three men attend, and the play follows the emotional and humorous journey that unfolds as they work with the therapist to unpack their marital issues.

"A few of the characters are Jewish and their journey is very much inflected by their Jewishness. Overall, I think the outlook on relationships presented in the play is very Jewish," explained Fackenheim, who himself is one of Aspaklaria's four company actors, and who plays a part in *The Odds*.

Currently working and rehearsing out of Fackenheim's Toronto home, the company has four professional actors – three of whom, including Fackenheim, are Jewish, and one who isn't – and currently has a repertoire of three plays it's looking to show first in Toronto and eventually, across North America.

All three – in addition to *The Odds*, there's *Dead End*, which will run in Toronto later this year and *Tom* – have been adapted from Israeli scripts, and were well-received in Israel, said Fackenheim, who also directs and produces the shows, and did some of the writing adaptation and translation for *The Odds*.

Aspaklaria founder Rabbi Hagay Lober, right, with Knesset speaker Yuli Edelstein, one of the fans of the Israeli theatre company.

> *There's something about the Middle Eastern temperament that comes across strongly in our writing.*
>
> **Artistic director Joseph Fackenheim**

Aspaklaria's North American branch has no home theatre venue, but will travel "wherever and whenever we're booked," said Fackenheim.

He said that the company's plays have been "localized" in the sense that a scene that originally took place in Israel's Zion Square might be changed to, say, Central Park.

Fackenheim stressed that Aspaklaria wants to appeal to diverse audiences and "hold up a new window on Israeli culture so people in North America can see aspects of Israel they wouldn't otherwise in the media."

The company hopes to eventually commission and write fresh material here.

Fackenheim, who was born in Canada but largely grew up in Israel, is the son of the late Emil Fackenheim, who was a Reform rabbi in Hamilton and subsequently a professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto.

"Part of me is Israeli and part of me is Canadian," he said. "It's important to me that I know Israel from the inside and am able to present its multifaceted outlook to North American audiences," Fackenheim said.

Part of what makes Aspaklaria unique is that it was founded by the Orthodox Rabbi Lober, who attended acting school after receiving ordination in order to improve his sermonizing skills.

The company observes Halachah – no performances are held on Shabbat – and the content is, Fackenheim said, "interesting and scintillating without going to places of sex or vulgarity." This allows them to perform for audiences of any religion.

Further, Fackenheim said, "adherence to certain rules is something that enables us to express ourselves artistically in new and interesting ways. It frees, rather than hinders, us." ■

Tickets for The Odds can be found on the Toronto Centre for the Arts website.

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Rosie Sosnowicz, Councillor Joe Mihevc, Sam Mizrahi, David Speigel, Adam Paul and Eric Petersiel

Janice Prazoff, Rosie Sosnowicz, Erika Rubin, Micki Mizrahi and Yvette Burke

MC Stephen Karr

Changing the face of "Canada's High Street"

The Leo Baeck Day School (TLBDS) put together a unique, engaging event, bringing together leading developers Adam Paul, president and CEO of First Capital Realty, Sam Mizrahi, president of Mizrahi Developments, and David Speigel, president and COO of Metropia. Each presented current projects that are revitalizing and re-imagining Toronto's historic Bloor/Yorkville district. The guests, donors to TLBDS, took full advantage of the opportunity to ask the developers questions about their vision and the area's business opportunities. All enjoyed hearing the powerful message from Eric Petersiel, head of The Leo Baeck Day School, on how their support is making a difference to Jewish education in Canada.

Shopping in Yorkville, count me in!! ■ – *The Socialite*

Mark Benadiba, Ellen Pelchovitz, Eric Petersiel, Simon Benadiba and Mike Fischer

Eli Singer and Eli Mogil

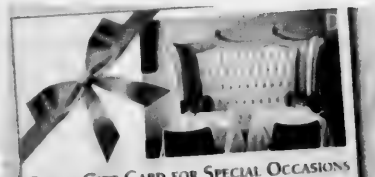
Brian Rakowski, Sam Mizrahi, Ben Chua, Tzen Yi Goh and Jordy Robins

Erika Rubin and Jamie Spinner

Marilyn Benadiba and Perry Waisglass

KEVIN DIAMOND PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca



KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

MARCH 31 - APRIL 7

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, March 31

BOOK REVIEW
Harriet Morris reviews *Dora Bruder* by **Patrick Modiano** and discusses the film *Lacombe Lucien*. Dessert at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, $10.

AUTHOR'S READING
Nora Gold discusses her forthcoming novel, *The Dead Man* and her novel *Fields of Exile*, as part of Spotlight on Israeli Culture, 7 p.m., Toronto Reference Library.

Friday, April 1

OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS
Samira Kanji, president of the Noor Cultural Centre, is the speaker at Temple Kol Ami's Shabbat dinner and services, 6:30 p.m. RSVP jaykowal@gmail.com

Saturday, April 2

WHY SHOULD TANACH MATTER?
Malka Simkovich and **rabbis Marty Lockshin, Joshua Berman, Alex Israel** discuss "Why should Tanach matter to me?" Or Chaim Yeshiva, 9:45 p.m. torahinmotion.org

Sunday, April 3

OPEN UP THE IRON DOOR
Rabbi Avi Weiss discusses his new book *Open Up the Iron Door: Memoirs of a Soviet Jewish Activist*, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $10 for non-members.

STRESS IN JEWISH LAW
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Medical Halachah: stress in Jewish law," 8:45 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

HAGGADAH NIGHT
Rabbis David Grundland, Yisroel Rosenszweig, Mordechai Torczyner and **Jonathan Ziring** discuss the Haggadah, 8:15 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of April 14 is April 4. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

A visit to the Kotel

NOAM ARBEL PHOTO

Last month, Canada Israel Experience sent its first special needs Birthright trip to Israel. The Friends with Special Needs program gave young adults with developmental challenges and selected support staff a chance to tour the country and experience a memorable Birthright Israel adventure.

YIDDISH CLASSES
A beginner plus/intermediate Yiddish class starts today, Beth David Synagogue, 10 a.m. Register at 416-635-2883, ext. 5189.

TANACH STUDY
A day of Tanach study with **Rabbis Joshua Berman, Yosef Carmel, Alex Israel** and others, will be held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 9:20 a.m.- 2:15 p.m. 416-633-5770.

ADVOCACY TRAINING WORKSHOP
Hasbara Fellowships holds an Israel Advocacy Training Workshop, noon-7 p.m., Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. $20/$25. Register at bit.ly/israelday 2016.

OUT OF THE COLD ART SHOWCASE
Beth Sholom/Beth Tzedec Out of the Cold art showcase and sale, with music by **Richard Underhill**, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue.

PARENTING: PUNISH OR PRAISE
Dr. Marcia Zemans leads a roundtable discussion on "Parenting: punish or praise," 11:30 a.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

PRE-PESACH WORKSHOP
Six sessions on Passover will be led by rabbis and cantors, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation.

Monday, April 4

REVIEWING THE HAGGADAH
Hana Werner discusses the Haggadah, April 4, 11, 18, 9:30 -10:45 a.m., Adath Israel Congregation.

UJA SPEAKERS SERIES
Sarah Fulford, editor-in-chief, *Toronto Life Magazine* and **Naomi Zener**, vice-president, VICE Canada, speak with **Elisa Birnbaum**, Design Exchange, 234 Bay St., 6:30 p.m. Register at ujagenesis.com, $18.

LIVING BETWEEN LANGUAGES
Author **Ayelet Tsabari** interviews American-Israel novelist **Reuven Namdar** about language and cultural translation, 7 p.m., Toronto Reference Library.

HAGGADAH NIGHT
Rabbis David Grundland, Noah Cheses, Chaim Strauchler and **Mordechai Torczyner** discuss the Haggadah, 8:15 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

BOOK REVIEW
Cynthia Good discusses the mystery novel *Norwegian by Night*, lunch at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m. $25, Beth Tzedec Congregation. RSVP 416-781-3511.

PRE-PASSOVER TORAH CLASSES
Rabbi Jarod Grover leads pre-Passover Torah classes, April 4, 11, 18, 6:30 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Tuesday, April 5

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
Four experts discuss autism spectrum disorders, including diagnosis, health, sleep and sensory issues, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

WHY BE JEWISH?
Matthew Bronfman discusses his father Edgar's book, *Why be Jewish: An Unorthodox Answer*, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Wednesday, April 6

EATING FOR WELLNESS
Holistic nutritionist **Bonnie Wisener** discusses "Eating to promote digestion, mood and mental clarity," 1:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

PASSOVER WINE TASTING
Mazel Wines presents a Passover wine tasting, 7 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue.

Thursday, April 7

HUMANITARIAN AID
Jessica Cadesky, a humanitarian aid worker who has worked to reduce the risks of gender violence in Africa and Asia discusses her work, 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Tickets, $18-25. Call 416-487-4161.

NASH AND DRASH
Cantor David Edwards and **Klara Bagley** hold a Passover Nash and Drash, noon, Beth Emeth Synagogue. $15, advance tickets only. 416-633-3838.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
- The Bernard Betel Centre is looking for volunteers to deliver meals or visit isolated seniors, call **Cheryl Besner,** 416-225-2112, ext. 127.
- Baycrest is looking for volunteers with experience caring for individuals with dementia to make supportive phone calls to other family caregivers. Call **Eileen,** 416-785-2500, ext. 2250.
- Volunteers aged 13-24 are invited to join Baycrest's summer program. 416-785-2500, ext. 2572.

VENDORS WANTED
Vendors wanted for a pre-Pesach fashion and accessory fair at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, April 10. Call 905-886-3810, ext. 135.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call Shawna Sidney, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com
- Effective parenting: A 4-session group to help parents with children aged 2-10. Starts April 6, 1-3 p.m.
- Widows/ Widowers under 65: A 6-session group for men and women under 65 who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Starts April 12, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Widows/ Widowers over 65: A 6-session group for men and women over 65 who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Starts April 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

JEWISH FOSTER PARENTS
Jewish children need Jewish foster parents. To learn more, call 416-638-7800.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. April 11, **Corrie Sirota** discusses "Grief is a process, not an event," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Social games club, March 31, 11 a.m.; Discuss the novel, *The Children Act,* April 7, 11 a.m.; Passover recipe swap, April 7, 1 p.m.; Passover seder, April 21, 1:30 p.m.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. April 5, **Ralph Wintrob** discusses "Lord Byron and the Jews," 10 a.m.; April 7, "Introduction to social media," 1:30 p.m. Computer classes of all types start April 4. **Sylvia Warsh** starts a 10-session creative writing class April 8, 10:30 a.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama April 13; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; "Down Memory Lane," live entertainment, April 6, 2 p.m.; barber/ hairstylist April 14, 10 a.m.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
- Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society," May 4-25, 1 p.m.
- A ghostly revival: Postwar Yiddish culture in North America with **Rachel Seeling,** April 6-20, 1 p.m.
- Yoga Cares, for young adults with an intellectual disability, starts April 5.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Bridge level 1 starts April 7, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong starts April 6, 10:30 a.m. and April 7, 7-9 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
- *Scots Jews: Identity, Belong and the Future* is on display at all 3 JCCs until April 27.
- **Iain Scott** teaches "Opera appreciation: All in the family," Mondays, to April 11, 1:30 p.m.
- **Guillermo Silva,** Toronto Operetta Theatre, discusses "What is an operetta," March 31, 1:30 p.m.
- Register now for adult volleyball league, children's dance program or basketball academy.
- Opera workshop with **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** sing your favourite opera choruses, Wednesdays to April 13, 1 p.m.; Thursdays to April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Rock in the Red Zone,* with guest speaker, Israeli film buff, **Mike Dacks,** April 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.
- Pottery classes for kids and adults start April 4; Hebrew (and Yiddish) Institute classes for adults start the week of April 10.
- Improv for adults, with Second City, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m.
- American Sign Language Classes, April 6-May 25. Level 1 at 7 p.m., level II at 8:15 p.m. Call ext. 330.
- Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia, starts April 13. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca
- Everybody dance, accessible to all people with **DJ Layah Jane,** April 17, 2:30 p.m.
- Postnatal aquafit, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Babies must be at least 6 months old. Ext. 567.
- Bel Canto concert featuring **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** April 18, 8 p.m.
- Open community choir, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. with **Gillian Stecyk.** No experience or audition required.
- Klezmer ensemble, Tuesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. with **Eric Stein.** Email music@mnjcc.org
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky,** April 6-June 29, 7-9 p.m.
- Bridge, Level 1, starts April 6, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong, starts April 7, 7 p.m.
- Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani,** April 7, 7 p.m.
- Pre-natal yoga starts April 12, 8 p.m. for 8 weeks.
- Family ceramics for ages 4 to 12 with an adult, starts April 3.
- Registration open for Groove School of Dance, cooking lessons and tennis with Jay.
- Screening of the film *Rock in the Red Zone,* April 4, 7:30 p.m. ■

Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
CONSUMER CHOICE AWARD 2016 Toronto's Best Housewares Store
20 YEAR
No Toxic Fumes
The Original GREEN PAN
8" & 10" Thermolon Ceramic Non-Stick Eco-Friendly 2 Piece Frypan Set
Lowest Price In Ontario
39.99 Set
(Compare at $120.99)
Save 69%
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont. One Traffic Light North of Steeles Ave. East of Yonge St.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat-Sun 10-6
BRIDAL REGISTRY

MARRIED WITH KIDS

In defence of homemade mishloach manot

Lauren Kramer

One of my favourite things about Purim is opening the front door to find little gift boxes outside. They're usually very homemade, but that's precisely their charm.

Inside, misshapen hamantashen nestle against each other, their fillings burbling out of their careful folds. There's fruit, a few herbal tea bags, sometimes a small cake and candy thrown haphazardly into the mix. A handwritten little note will say, "Happy Purim!" And the holiday certainly feels like a happy one when you find thoughtful, homemade little gifts at your door. They add a taste of someone else's kitchen to your day and a fun, a whimsical touch to this noisy, messy Jewish holiday. No sooner are the gifts in the kitchen than my kids will bicker over the spoils, specifically over who gets the candy and chocolate cake. Those hamantashen are usually the last to go.

Assembling mishloach manot can be quite a workout. I know because most years I create a few of my own, Googling for innovative additions to my boxes and spending hours on my sewing machine so I can add a homemade dishcloth or pot holder. I love finding innovative, useful containers for the mishloach manot, and fight to get the perfect consistency on my pastry so my hamantashen look like they're intended to. It's a battle I consistently lose, and the words "DO NOT MAKE" are scrawled across most of my recipes for this peculiar pastry. Still, it's Purim, and for tradition's sake, I feel like I have to keep trying.

By the time my mishloach manot are done they're emphatically homemade, but everything about their appearance says, "I took time and effort to put this together."

To me, that's the essence of what a meaningful gift should be. No one who makes mishloach manot in her or his kitchen is striving for a professional gift basket because that's not what it's about. Homemade means personal touches, loving thoughtfulness and imperfections aplenty. Professional, by contrast, means "went to the store and forked over money." Sure, professional looks better – but homemade somehow feels nicer. To me, at any rate.

> *Homemade means personal touches, loving thoughtfulness and imperfections aplenty.*

The Jewish schools in my area are forever fundraising, and over the years, their mishloach manot fundraiser has gathered impetus. It's a smart scheme for the schools: you let them know the names and addresses of the families to whom you want to send Purim gifts. You pay a set amount and they do the rest, assembling hundreds of professional looking baskets that contain store-made hamantashen, a few Hershey's kisses and a ceramic mug or other kitchen accoutrement that will likely gather dust before landing in the trash or the thrift store. For the gift-giver, the only requirement to participate is reading off the digits on their credit card. But recipients get just one little box, no matter how many families decided to send a gift. One box containing not even a whiff of anything homemade. Kind of a raw deal, when you think about it.

So bring back the home-crafted mishloach manot, I say. They don't need to take hours or cost huge amounts to assemble, and they give the gift-giver an opportunity to be creative, to rally the kids for a baking session in the kitchen and to initiate cute themed baskets, from cookies and milk to OJ and muesli. You don't have to be a culinary whiz to do this. The fun is in assembling a collection of goodies, packaging them together and personally delivering them to people you care about.

Professional mishloach manot are like the gift cards or cheques you get on your birthday. They say "money," but not personal effort, deliberation or thoughtfulness. And there's something about those three attributes taken together that makes a recipient feel special, chosen and loved – and not just on Purim. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

To Shirley Goodman, my wife of almost 49 years. Happy 80th birthday. Love, Garry, Jason, Jonathan and Esther. Continue to enjoy good health and happiness.

Mazel tov, Fran & Sy Caine on your 60th anniversary on March 11, from the Caine and Weinstein families.

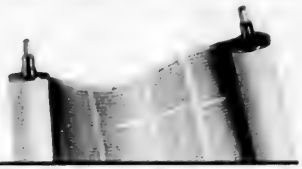
Sharon & Bob Chernuk, Toronto, Ricki & Udi Kochman, Montreal announce the engagement of Rebecca & Noah. Grandparents, Bernat Moldovan, Rivka Kochman and Lil Cooper.

Welcome Logan Ryder Takefman. Parents are Jackie(Gordon) & Rob. Grandparents and great-grandparents, Judi & Don, Mona-Lee & Earl, Vera Selmeci and Judy Friend.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Parshah

Shmini | Leviticus 9:1-11:47



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier explains how the act of teaching can help diminish our pain and anguish
Rabbi Denise Handlarski contemplates the relationship between the sacred and the profane
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen says serving God is not enough -- we must do so with joy

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

What *do* we expect from our leaders? As we observe the presidential contest in the United States, and as we consider leadership in our own country and communities, this is a question we frequently ask ourselves.

In our parshah, Aaron the high priest experiences the tragic loss of two of his sons. Immediately following this, God speaks directly to Aaron and offers not words of solace, but specific instructions.

God prohibits Aaron and other priests from drinking wine before entering the Tent of Meeting. The rabbis have suggested that this warning is a way of informing Aaron about the sin of his sons.

Is this what Aaron really needs to hear right now?

This matter-of-fact law is followed by two points that seem to serve as a directive to Aaron. God says: "For you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane… and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the Lord has imparted to them through Moses" (Leviticus, 10:10-11).

Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, in his 19th-century commentary *Ha'amek Davar*, explains that this instruction was designed to encourage Aaron to teach others. In doing so, Aaron would experience joy and see his anguish and pain diminished.

In tragic situations, seldom are there effective words of comfort. However, God does provide a model of comfort here in giving Aaron direction and purpose at a very difficult time.

Aaron is reminded of his purpose, which is to understand what is holy, what is profane – and, most poignantly, to teach this distinction to others. This act of reaching out – and finding a higher purpose in a painful life – is the ultimate comfort for a bereaved leader. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

In Shmini, Aaron is told that the job of the priests is to "distinguish between the sacred and the profane." We have a weekly way of distinguishing between these if we mark Shabbat. Shabbat is a special, sacred time when we remember to rest, to breathe. At the close of Shabbat, we celebrate Havdallah, meaning separation. It is time to mark the transition between the sacred time of Shabbat and the ordinary time of the week.

Some see Havdallah as more of a joining than a separation – we bring the sacredness into the rest of the week by beginning the week with the lovely rituals of lighting interwoven candles, singing songs and smelling spices. Although distinctions are important, so are connections. There are extraordinary aspects to our ordinary weeks and lives.

This parshah is concerned with purity laws. The rules for kashrut are laid out, and so is the commandment to go to the mikvah (ritual bath). The parshah asks us to consider what we put into our bodies and how we take care of our bodies. For many of us, our thinking about these issues has moved from purity to process, from commandment to consciousness.

We need not follow all of the laws of kashrut to take the invitation to consider the ethics of our eating, for example. The rules for mikvah use concerning women are inherently sexist, but many women have reclaimed the mikvah as a sacred women-only time and space for reflection and relaxation.

There must be a division between the sacred and the everyday for us to be able to distinguish between them. But there is also room to bring a little more of what is sacred to us, and what is highest in our consciousness and heart, into our daily practices. Shmini asks us to contemplate both the separation and the joining. ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

In this week's parshah, we are told how the Jews rejoiced after seeing that their sacrifices were accepted. From this we learn that just serving God is not enough.

We must do it with joy. Joy breaks barriers. I saw this recently at the wedding of my niece from Brazil who married someone from New York. It was my parents' first grandchild to get married. The joy was real and immense. Happy people find it easier to overcome their difficulties.

This Shabbat we bless the month of Nisan, in which we have the festival of Pesach, which involves a lot of work. Cleaning one's home for Pesach is no simple task. Let's try to enjoy it while we're at it!

Besides our children helping us get the home ready, children have their own Pesach preparations. Our sages teach that when the Jews left Egypt, the children were the first to acknowledge God's miracles. To commemorate this, the children always begin the seder night with the Four Questions.

But when children ask the same questions every year, it shouldn't be a matter of rote. Each Pesach should be a new opportunity to discover better answers and reach a deeper understanding of the meaning of Pesach. Just as children come with questions and want to know the answers, parents (and grandparents) are expected to tell the children the answers. The text we use, the Haggadah, comes from the word "Vehigadeta," "and you shall tell your child."

May we have all the answers to all questions, and may we have the ultimate answer to our question of "how much longer must we endure this exile?" with the coming of Mashiach. The letters of the word Mashiach (in Hebrew) are the same as the letters of the word Yismach (he shall rejoice). In the merit of joy alone, we will merit to be redeemed! ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto. yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875 •	Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987 •	Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343 •	Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800 •	Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

SPECTACULAR RESIDENCE – FIFSHIRE RD - $3,995,000
Luxuriously Appointed – No Expense Spared. Elegant Lay-Out. Formal Princ Rms, Spacious Gourmet Kit, Sumptuous Mstr Ste: Sitting Rms, Dbld Sided Fplce, Balc, Ren'd Lower Lvl. Glonous Wrap Around Terrace From Which You Can Enjoy This Exceptional Property. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

BAYVIEW/SHEPPARD – LONGMORE ST. $1,988,000
Demand Location, Splendid Open Concept 4+ Bdrm, Beautiful Kitchen With Centre Island, Breakfast Area + W/O To Deck + Grdn, Gorgeous Mbr W/6pc Ens, Dble Garage. Make Sure You See This One. Orly Levy* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

UNIQUE PROPERTY – JUST $590/SF
Rare Luxurious 4400 Sf P'hse, 3br + Den, Elegant Dbl Door Entry, Marble Foyer Flrs, Coffered Ceiling, W/W Windows Bring In Natural Light, Wonderful Princ Rms For Entertaining, O'sized Gourmet Kit, Sumptuous Master, 5 Balc, Ravine Views, 4 Car Pkg And More. Saul Mernck* & Marilyn Mernck* 416-488-2875

*****BRAND NEW EXCLUSIVE CONDO*****
Live In The Heart Of The City! Fantastic 1Br+Den @ Yonge & Bloor Including Prkg+Lckr. Tastefully Renovated W/Luxury Finishes! Unbeatable Price!! Daniel Milstein* 416-226-1987

LAWRENCE & ALLEN RD. RENO'D 1BR. WHY RENT? OWN THIS!
$224,900. Bright & Open Concept That Is move-In Ready. Steps To Subway, Shopping & Highways. Andre Levy-Bencheton* 416-226-1987

BLOOR & CHRISTIE LARGE 1BR+DEN & BALCONY
$419,900 Steps To Subway, Prkg Incl. This Spacious Condo Won't Last Long! Must Be Seen! Andre Levy-Bencheton* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

THORNHILL – 2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN.
1350 Sq. Ft. Bright Space. Eat-In Kitchen. Hardwood Laminate Floors. Walking Distance To Synagogue. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

PRESTIGIOUS FOREST HILL CODE CONDO
Boutique Building By Blvd & Lifetime developments. 6th Floor Unit Overlooking The Village 750 Sq. Ft. 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath 200 Sq. Ft. Terrace Equipped With Gas Hook Up And Water Bib. Debbie Ekonomou* 416-785-1500

LIVE RIGHT IN FOREST $529,000
Affordable 2 Bdrm Under Renovation, Great Rm W/Cetre Dining Island. Plank Flrs. Sés Appls, Walk To Subway, Pkg Locker. Plank Flrs, S/s Appls, Walk To Subway, Pkg Locker. Valerie Lennox* 416-488-2875

NORTH PROPERTIES

BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED 4BR DETACHED HOME
$1,268,888! Family Friendly Neighbourhood, Close To All Amenities. 3Br In-Law Bsmt Apt W/Own Washer+Dryer&Sep. Entrance. Reno'd Kit W/Brkfst Area+W/O To Deck. Nathalie Gheorghiu* & Shahin Jahanzadeh* 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Luxurious+New Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br, 2+1Br! From $1,610-$5,310! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1909-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$2,500/Mo! Incredible 2B LEASED South/West Corner W/Lae+City Views! Outstanding Facilities! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FOREST HILL – GRAND GEORGIAN RUSSELL HILL RD $13,900
Elegant Refined Residence Ideal For An Executive Family. Splendid Kit, Perfect Bathrooms, Triple 'A' Location $13,900. Available Immed. David Wagman* 416-488-2875

STRATHEARN RD – CEDARVALE $4300 – MAY 1ST
Lovely 3 Bdrm, Updated Kitchen – Marble Counters, Backsplash, Brkfast Bar, Hrdwd On Main + 2nd, L –Lvl Rec Rm + Nanny's Rm + 3 Pce Bath, W/O To Deck And Grdn From Dining Rm. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

TOWER HILL WEST – ST CLAIR/BATHURST CHOOSE BTWN 2 SUITES $3500 & $2200
Wonderful Location: 2 Bdrm Suite $3500 Or 1 Bdrm Suite $2200. Amenities Incl Concierge + Outdoor Pool. Saul Mernck* & Marilyn Mernck* 416-488-2875

350 LONSDALE RD #315 $3000/MO.
Forest Hill Lonsdale House, Reno'd Luxury 2 Bdrm, Parking, Locker, Concierge, Indoor Pool, Walk To Subway + Village Shops. Saul Mernck* 416-488-2875

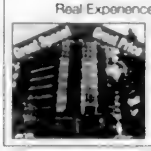
***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

www.LoveMyToronto.com
Freddie Green
416.483.8000
sage

Gorgeous renovated bungalow in Bathurst Manor with cathedral ceiling family room and finished basement with separate entrance. Perfect for downsizers and young families alike. **Asking price $1,180,000**
Co-listed with Renee Winick, Forest Hill Real Estate 416-731-3200

50 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

Elli Davis
#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!
ROYAL LEPAGE
416 921 1112 www.ellidavis.com
800 622 9536 mail@ellidavis.com
Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli



33 Jackes Avenue $2,390,000
Best priced suite in exclusive boutique building at Yonge/St. Clair! Direct elevator, centre hall, appx 2,964 sq ft, 2 bedrooms + den, high ceilings, 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Amenities include valet/visitor parking, 24 hr security, indoor pool, party/exercise rms, car wash. Steps to Summerhill shops, TTC, parks.

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath + solar., hdwd, indry, indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

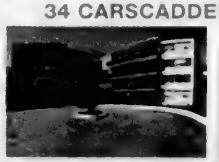
The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ESSIE SHER
Call 416-464-5261
Bayview Sheppard
$438,000.00
Stunning Reno Condo 2 bdr+ 1 wr in low rise building Fantastic open conc. kit. S/S app. Quarts counters .Amazing high end flooring .Stylish washroom En suite storage Superb gardens + pool +parking A1 location
SUTTON GROUP - ADMIRAL REALTY, BROKERAGE
416-739-7200

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD



Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC steps away. 2 Bedroom available.

Spring Special Call for Info.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

Jewish groups, artists question Kushner booking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

But Ari Weisberg, artistic director of Teatron Toronto Jewish Theatre, said that while "I can't say I've read all [of Kushner's] plays – I don't have the patience for that – I will not produce any of his plays."

"I'm not censoring anybody [but] we always [staged] pro-Jewish, pro-Israel plays. That's our mandate," Weisberg said. Staging a play by Kushner would be "contrary to our mandate.

"Plays are not propaganda," he added. "We do bring up challenges and problems."

But he likened Kushner's work to *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, a play about an American activist killed by an Israeli bulldozer in the Gaza Strip in 2003.

In 2006, Toronto's Canadian Stage Company decided not to stage the play, a decision based on the work's merits rather than the political controversy that dogged it, the company said at the time.

"We have concerns about some of the factually incorrect comments that have been attributed to Mr. Kushner," said B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn.

"We would encourage the Koffler Centre to do its due diligence and ensure that in choosing speakers for events, the sensibilities of the greater Jewish community are taken into consideration." ■

> *We have concerns about some of the factually incorrect comments attributed to Mr. Kushner.*
>
> **B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn**

SeeJN | Not all heroes wear capes

These UJA Young Accountants completed more than 55 free tax returns on March 15 to help families who live under the poverty line, clients of JF&CS and JIAS Toronto. From left are Robbie Handelman, Jamie Herman, Henry Korenblum, Adam Scherer, Ali Spinner (with her daughter Robyn) and Stephen Engel.

84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT

Teacher (female) seeking a room in a house or apt. for May 1. Prefer to live with other professionals. Please call: 416-638-6838

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE

Thornhill Woods
8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan

Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.

Interested Physicians call 416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

365 CARPETS

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

395 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

570 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416-782 3302
www.bistrogrande.com

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT.** 416-459-1381

575 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

480 PLUMBING

M.T. Plumbing-New install, plus repairs on all models, unplugging drains - residential. 416-722-5225

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MARCH 31, 2016

Matthew Bronfman on his father's Jewish journey

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Matthew Bronfman, son of the late Canadian-born entrepreneur, philanthropist and Jewish leader Edgar Bronfman, will be in Toronto April 5 to speak at Beth Tzedec Congregation to mark the launch of his father's book, *Why Be Jewish?*

During his appearance, which will take place in conversation with Bernie Farber, Bronfman will discuss the book, which was finished by his father in 2013, just weeks before his death. The book details his father's personal Jewish journey, and despite his father's secularism, calls on disaffected Jewish youth to explore their heritage.

Bronfman spoke to *The CJN* about his father's book and the connection to Judaism that his father embraced later in his life, which did not include a belief in a string-pulling God.

Matthew Bronfman

Your father writes about his connection to Judaism, but makes it clear that his Judaism is not about a blind adherence to Halachah, and he rejects the idea of the traditional, biblical God.

He came to believe in godliness, that we find godliness in acts of human kindness, in tikkun olam, and his study was at the core of that. The more he studied, the more he learned, and the more he learned, the more he came to appreciate the values and the morals and the lifestyle in a way, and he found beauty in it.

It never made him believe in that anthropomorphic God – the guy with the white beard pulling strings. He never believed that if you did something bad, you'd go to hell and that if you were tremendous you were going to heaven. I think one of the things he loved was that on Yom Kippur, when you have to atone, you have to atone to a person. I don't mean to put Catholicism down, but it's not like you say three Hail Marys and you're absolved. This is about human relationships. Even if you look at the Ten Commandments, only the first three are about [a relationship with] man to God. Everything else is man to man. It is about human relations. That is one of the things he came to really love and appreciate about Judaism. One of the things he talked about all the time was that the religion forced you, implored you, to question. We see it in the four questions in the Passover seder. We see it in the way chevrutahs are set up. Everything is about questioning. It is not about blind faith. And over time, as he came to really understand that in a deep way, it gave him an enormous appreciation and love for the traditions and religion. Not in a godly way, but in a way of living.

> *One of the things he talked about all the time was that the religion forced you, implored you, to question.*

When he did start learning more and studying, did he make an effort to instil Jewish values in you and your siblings?

When he was 50, he became acting president of the World Jewish Congress, and I think in 1981, he became president of the WJC. Around that time, maybe it didn't happen until his 60s, he and Rabbi Israel Singer started doing more learning together.

We grew up devoid of religion in the house. We didn't light candles on Friday night, we were not Shabbat observant, no Hebrew school. I think it made a big difference in our lives. There was definitely a void there.

When he started studying, we were too old by that point. He certainly offered to share it. Much later in his life, maybe 65 or 70, I'm not sure when, he started doing a weekly Torah study in his office and whoever was in New York was always invited to join, but it was not required. Remember, he was 30 years older than I am, so if he was 65, I was already 35 years old. It's not like I was a kid in the house, so it was very different. I definitely came to it on my own, as did my brother Adam, but none of the other children did.

Do you see Judaism through the same lens?

I am probably a slightly greater believer that the Torah was in some way shape or form – if not actually written – delivered by God, inspired by something much greater than any human mind could ever have created.

I had a rabbi that I learned with in the early '90s who basically said, in a funny way, it doesn't really matter whether you believe it was written by God or written by the great prophets. These are still our stories from which we learn. As long as you're willing to learn from them, he's not going to argue with you about the author.

What was it that motivated your father to strengthen his connection to Judaism later in life and work toward instilling that same connection in younger Jews?

It was very much an evolutionary, natural process. The more he learned, the more he liked it and understood it and valued it, and realized how much he had missed as a young person, which inspired him to get involved with Hillel – I think he was the first international chair of Hillel – and to spend a huge amount of time on college campuses. His focus was on getting to people when they were younger so that they would have Jewish opportunities that he felt he had missed and he felt strongly about the fact that he didn't instill it in his children.

Can you tell me about your father's commitment to tikkun olam and the idea that people need to take things into their own hands to affect positive change?

I had the opportunity to travel with my dad a fair amount when he did his work with the World Jewish Congress. To see him actually taking action, doing things, it made a huge difference in my life. I think because he didn't believe in the guy with the white beard in the sky, he understood that one had to take action, and he often cited the quote, "We're not instructed to complete the work, but we're certainly not absolved from trying." That was something he lived by. If you're fortunate enough to have economic resources to do good work, you have an obligation. He really believed that.

Do you have an answer to the question, "Why be Jewish?"

I think his answer to it is the right one. If you take the time to study, you will learn what a beautiful and inspiring text we have to learn from and to guide us in terms of how to live our lives and how to live our lives in a more moral and ethical way and take care of those who are less fortunate, and it is all there.

As I said at his second memorial, a smaller one at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem – I said at the time that one of the things I love about Judaism is that all of our heroes, every single one of our heroes, was flawed. From Moses to Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, it doesn't matter. They were human. They were flawed. And my dad was flawed, but he was my hero. It's a living, real text that we can learn from for our everyday lives and learn how to be better and get through tough times and not to be grandiose in the good times.

When my dad was about 75, I was sitting with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, and he was saying nice things about my dad, and you know, I'm very used to that. We've all heard it before. But he said, "No, no, no, Matthew. It's not because your father is a great philanthropist or because your father has done stuff for the World Jewish Congress. I'm talking about the fact that when your father was at an age when most people retired, he started to learn. And it was through his learning that he became the Jewish leader he was. That is why I admire him so much." ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Dreyfus: From Devil's Island to Auschwitz

Backstory

EROL ARAF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

He was an innocent soldier caught in the greatest political convulsion since the French Revolution. Capt. Alfred Dreyfus was wrongly accused of spying for Germany, found guilty of treason in a secret trial, denied the right to examine the evidence against him, stripped of his rank in a humiliating ceremony and shipped to the lethal French penal colony of Devil's Island.

Dreyfus would become the lightning rod for an outpouring of venomous anti-Semitism that foreshadowed calamities to come. But in a revolt of conscience, there gathered under the French Tricolour men and women who seized the mace of honour and led a campaign worthy of the greatness of the soul of the nation. And it resulted in Dreyfus' exoneration 110 years ago in 1906.

In spite of all his trials and tribulations, for Dreyfus and his family, France remained the only country within which their deepest emotions were inextricably anchored. In this, they never wavered. This is precisely why at the age of 48, Dreyfus, although retired from the army, volunteered for combat in World War I as major of artillery. He even fought under Marshal Philippe Petain at Verdun and at the battle of the Chemin des Dames. For his valour, he was promoted to the rank of Officier de la Legion d'honneur in 1918.

His son Pierre also served France in Flanders Fields and received the Croix de Guerre. The family was devastated when Alfred's brother Jacques' sons, Maurice and Charles, fell in the Great War. Their brother Rene survived and became one of the most decorated French "Top Guns" of the war.

Dreyfus died in 1935 and was spared the chagrin and the sorrow of witnessing Vichy's collaboration with the Nazi Germany, during which many members of his family were arrested, handed over to the Gestapo and sent to concentration camps. Had he been alive when the deportation of French Jews started, his Legion d'honneur would not have shielded him from the flames of Nazi infernos.

His wife, Lucy, survived while hiding with the Sisters of Valence but died of a broken heart within months of her return to Paris in 1945, once she realized what had happened to her family. Two wars and her husband's ordeal had proved too much to bear for her mortal coil. The discovery that her favourite granddaughter, Madeleine, had perished in Auschwitz was the final stroke.

> *Dreyfus would become the lightning rod for an outpouring of venomous anti Semitism that foreshadowed calamities to come.*

Jean Pierre Reinach, the only grandson of Mathew Dreyfus, Alfred's brother, died when his parachute failed while attempting to land in France in 1942.

Reinach's brother-in law, Emmanuel Amar, left his wife and two daughters to join the resistance. He was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to Auschwitz together with the Grand Rabbi of Strasbourg in Convoy 62 in 1944.

Rene, the highly decorated flying ace of the World War I, was betrayed by his concierge and killed in Auschwitz. Rachel, Alfred's sister, who led a ferocious campaign for her brother with Marcel Proust, Emil Zola and Anatole France, simply could not bear the anguish of losing her only son, Julien, and died of despair. According to Michael Burns, author of *Dreyfus: A Family Affair, 1789 - 1945* her diary entry for Dec.12, 1941 reads " two German soldiers came to arrest Julien as a hostage. It seems that 3,000 Jews have been rounded up today. Where will they take him?"

Amar's widow, Suzy, managed to survive in a prisoner's camp and would have died were it not for the help of a local priest and the Swiss consul. She waited for the return of her husband in vain. Alice, the widow of Leon Dreyfus, Alfred's elder brother, too, never came back from Auschwitz. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Rose-Cassidy, Paulette Sheryl	March 14, 2016	111 Olde Towne Place
Benzimra, Salomon	March 15, 2016	4 Forest Laneway
Flaumenbaum, Akiva	March 15, 2016	2 Neptune Dr
Rose, Naomi Judith	March 16, 2016	5 Rosehill Ave
Lesel, Helen Sarah	March 16, 2016	8309 West 4th St
Litchen, Howard Allan	March 17, 2016	859 Glencairn Ave
Goldstein, Ben	March 17, 2016	33 Empress Ave
Marks, Hanna	March 17, 2016	360 Ridelle Ave
Devenyi, Joseph Alexander	March 19, 2016	166 Banbury Rd
Jakubovic, Helen	March 19, 2016	3636 Bathurst St
Eisen,Sidney	March 19,2016	3636 Bathurst St
Soreanu, Valeriu David	March 20, 2016	550 Cummer Ave
Mirand, Raisa L	March 20, 2016	Private
Maishlish, Mira	March 20, 2016	98 Rosedale Heights Dr
Fleitman, Izhak	March 21, 2016	Private
Kaplan, Maureen	March 21, 2016	18 Hillcrest Ave

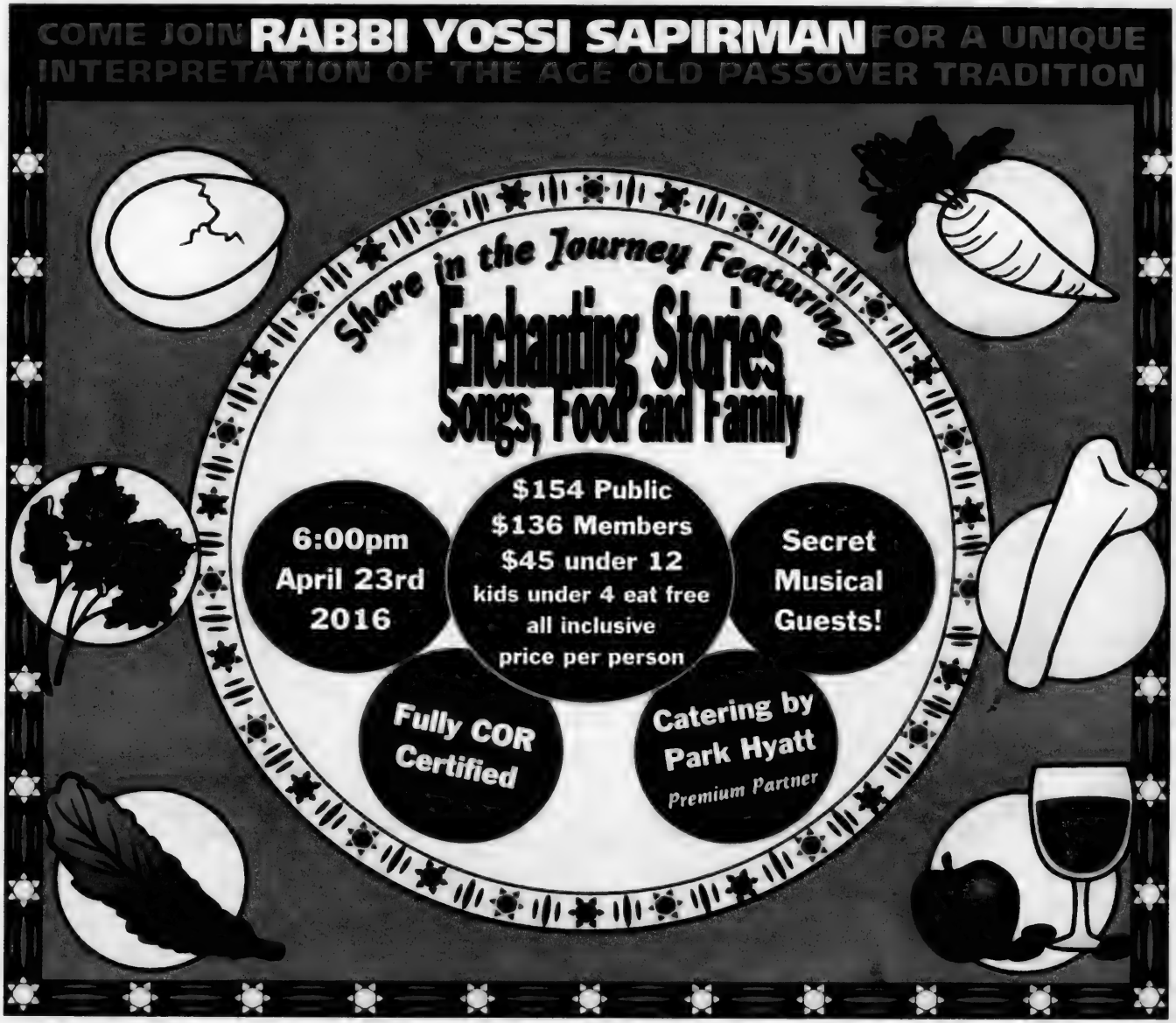
Hebrew Basic

Rachel Weinbaum	Mar 13/16	90 Fisherville Road
Al Davidson	Mar 13/16	397 Front Street West
Emanuel Deemar	Mar 19/16	3705 Bathurst Street
Frank Richstone	Mar 17/16	1500 Steeles Ave. West

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Mary Eisenberg-Weisman	Mar 8/16	7905 Bayview Avenue
H. Thomas Beck	Mar 13/16	331 Riverview Drive
Samuel Leibell	Jan 6/16	91 Jameson Avenue
Ruth Stein	Mar 12/16	126 Baycrest Avenue
Dr. Eric Ruby	Mar 11/16	
Charlotte Ginsberg	Mar 12/16	1052 Dundas Street, West
Donna Simcoe	Mar 14/16	41 Hefhill Court
Reuben Hasson	Mar 15/16	25 Brunswick Avenue
Rita Becker	Mar 16/16	1035 Eglinton Ave, West
George Tischler	Mar 16/16	76 Fifeshire Road
Stella Rosilio	Mar 17/16	2900 Bathurst Street
Levana Schwartz	Mar 18/16	10 Bellair Street

Beth Torah's Best Passover Seder Ever!



Beth Torah Congregation
קהילת בית תורה

Call (416) 782 4495 ext. 27 or email admin@bethtorah.ca
For Tickets to a Magical and Unforgettable Experience!

Beth Torah Congregation 47 Glenbrook Avenue Toronto, Ontario M6B 2L7
phone (416) 782 4495 **bethtorah.ca** (416) 782 4496 fax

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

APRIL 7, 2016 • 28 ADAR II, 5776

$2.00 • 60 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for 5 standard Stays

Inside

Fighting child sexual abuse in the Jewish community

It's time to tackle a rampant problem, panel says. **PAGE 12**

I'm sorry for my silence. **PAGE 10**

'Oh my God... My mother's in the video!'

Daughter spots her teenaged survivor mom in YouTube trailer for Shoah film. **PAGE 22**

Tazria

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:33 p.m.	8:38 p.m.
Montreal	7:14 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Ottawa	7:22 p.m.	8:28 p.m.
Toronto	7:35 p.m.	8:39 p.m.
Winnipeg	7:54 p.m.	9:05 p.m.
Calgary	8:03 p.m.	9:16 p.m.
Vancouver	7:37 p.m.	8:47 p.m.

When art and politics collide

Across Canada, organizations are finding out that choosing the right speaker or performer for a Jewish event can be a delicate task. **PAGE 8**

Is Grade 8 enough Jewish education?

OPINION: Three ways Jewish high schools can make a big difference for your kids. **PAGE 19**

How to support Jews at York U

Abandoning campus won't solve anti-Semitism, Jewish studies professors say. **PAGE 7**

A harmonica wiz meets his mentor

Roni Eytan relishes the chance to share stage with a master at Israeli Jazz Showcase. **PAGE 47**

RSC ROALD DAHL Matilda THE MUSICAL BEGINS JULY 5 416.872.1212 mirvish.com

The world's first Jewish tartan, and Van Damme's 'spiritual' visit to Jerusalem

Scottish Jews get their own tartan

The first Jewish person recorded to live in Scotland may have arrived in 1691, but the country's Jewish community only last week got an official "kosher tartan" designed by Rabbi Mendel Jacobs – the only Scottish-born rabbi living in the country. "For over 300 years Scots Jews have waited for their own tartan and now here it is," he said. The tartan features blue and white to represent both the Scottish and Israeli flags, red for the traditional kiddush wine and gold to represent the Ark in the biblical Tabernacle. It has been officially approved and registered by the Scottish Tartans Authority.

Aye! We finally got our own tartan, matey!

Van Damme seeks spiritual guidance

Action star Jean-Claude Van Damme was in Israel last week looking for some "spiritual guidance" in the aftermath of the recent attacks in his hometown of Brussels, Rabbi Eyal Reiss told reporters. Van Damme reportedly visited a kabbalah centre in Safed after touring Jerusalem, where he posted a photo of himself to social media accompanied by the caption, "Shalom from Jerusalem, Israel!" However, after several anti-Israel comments Van Damme changed the caption to "Hello from Jerusalem."

The Associated Nazi Press?

German historian Harriet Scharnberg claims in a new study that the *Associated Press* formally co-operated with Hitler's Nazi regime. According to Scharnberg, the *AP* abided by the *Schriftleitergesetz* (Editor's Law), agreeing not to publish any material "calculated to weaken the strength of the Reich abroad or at home." The newswire service also hired reporters and photographers who worked for the Nazi propaganda ministry, Scharnberg alleges, noting that the *AP* was the only international news agency allowed to operate in Germany until the United States entered World War II in 1941. An *AP* spokesperson told the *Guardian*, "As we continue to research this matter, *AP* rejects any notion that it deliberately 'collaborated' with the Nazi regime." ■

Gematria

140,000

The number of followers Hamas claims followed its Arabic-language Twitter account before it was shut down last week.

1,400

The U.S. dollar amount German airline Lufthansa was ordered to pay to a Brazilian Jewish passenger for "moral damage" after failing to provide him with the kosher meal he had requested.

Quotable

"Botha asked me how I could speak in the same breath about Sharansky... and Mandela. I said because they're both fighting for freedom and human rights."

— Irwin Cotler, speaking at a gala event in his honour on March 31 in Toronto. See p. 14.

Inside today's edition

Letters 3	Perspectives 7	News 12	Jewish Life 43
Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Cover Story 8	International 29	Parshah 56
Commentary 6	Opinion 10	Passover Food 34	Backstory 59

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

מצבות המפעל

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
UNIT #21

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Combating alcohol abuse

It was wonderful to read the Rabbi to Rabbi column's discussion of alcohol use and misuse in the Jewish community ("Is it OK to get drunk on Purim?" March 17).

As a social worker and certified addiction counsellor, I have had the privilege of working as a therapist and consultant on addictions in the Jewish community of Toronto for many years. I have seen our treatment of people who struggle with alcohol abuse move from isolation to connection and then to greater awareness in synagogue ritual and observances in our homes.

However, in noting that "religiously sanctioned alcoholism" still exists, the rabbis point out that there is much still to do. For some people, abstinence is the only safety net where alcohol is involved. They do not need to be ashamed.

The rabbis are correct in noting that we need to open up "education and moderation," but that is not enough. We need to do even more to support abstinence from alcohol as a viable choice and to include the risks associated with drinking in all educational efforts. Sadly, many Jewish alcoholics note that their invitation to problem drinking came at a seder or at Purim or at a kiddush.

I hope that with our growing sophistication and knowledge we increasingly will offer both choices and education that encourage our celebrations to be joyful in the fullest sense, that remove shame, and that allow all of us to be both safe and healthy.

Rochelle Thompson
Toronto

Canada's role at the UN

The United Nations Human Rights Council recently appointed Canadian anti-Israel activist Michael Lynk as its special rapporteur on the issue of human rights in the Palestinian territories ("Dion asks UN to review nomination of anti-Israel prof," March 31).

Ironically, Lynk's appointment came one week after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's intention to seek a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Canada's relationship with the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other international agencies should be conditioned on the fundamental reform and de-politicization of those institutions, which have for decades allowed their important work to be hijacked by forces antithetical to the legitimacy, or, indeed existence, of a Jewish state.

David H. Goldberg
Toronto

Widening the debate

I could scarcely believe my eyes when I read Mira Sucharov's column that she actually believes the goals of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement are ending the occupation, instilling equality among Israeli citizens and allowing refugee return, rather than singling out Israel for the demonization, discrimination and destruction of the Jewish state. ("It's time to widen the debate on Israel and Palestine," March 24).

I certainly hope that she read Mordechai Ben-Dat's brilliant article on BDS right below hers ("The facts about Israel that BDS-ers don't want you to know").

Shelley Rothman-Benhaim
Montreal

Columnist Mira Sucharov urges "the Jewish establishment to take seriously the perspective of those who oppose Zionism on intellectual and philosophical grounds."

In sum, she wishes to create a playpen for left-wing liberals to display their intellectual prowess by dissecting Israel from every direction in finding fault.

The idea that directing their attention to the plight of the truly underfed and suppressed peoples of the world would prove of greater human value is not their meat.

How mendacious it is to suggest that the separation barrier was not an act of self-defence but a desire to hem in Palestinians.

Lofty phrases such as "political discourse occurs in silos, attitudes tend to harden," are nothing but empty words.

The mainstream Jewish community is open to constructive dialogue. It is left-wing attempts to undermine Israel that are not welcome.

Sam Mitnick
Cote St. Luc, Que.

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

Let us do the cooking.

Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!

Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to respect her values."

We needed a funeral that was economical. However, we didn't want to lose the Jewish traditions that were so important in our mother's life. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged a service that was fully observant. She would be proud knowing how we honoured her wishes.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Purim, Pesach and the president

Donald Trump's presidential run mirrors the erosion of civility in society at large, and in the Jewish community too

RABBI N. DANIEL KOROBKIN
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI LISA GRUSHCOW
TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Korobkin: As an American, I am watching with great interest and consternation as the election of a new president gets closer. I am alarmed at the surprising popularity of Donald Trump. Is it understandable that a large number of Americans have become disenchanted by the status quo, by the career politicians and all their double-speak? Yes, and that is part of Trump's appeal of this brash and aggressive anti-politician.

I'm quite concerned about what a Trump presidency may mean to the fabric of our society. We've seen a frightening erosion of civility in the public sphere over the last few years and Trump seems to be the living incarnation of this pent-up fury.

We're witnessing the same kind of rhetoric and blind allegiance to a charismatic leader that appeared in the 20th century with various despots, and these regimes never ended well for the common citizen. And yet, perhaps what America needs now is a strong leader who has the necessary vision and determination to secure the borders and destroy terrorism once and for all.

Rabbi Grushcow: Perhaps not surprisingly, you and I are not on exactly the same page in our political beliefs. But, like you, I am very concerned about the Trump campaign, and how easily charisma can turn into demagoguery. I am especially disheartened by what happened at the AIPAC convention, where thousands of Jews stood up and cheered as a candidate insulted a sitting president.

How have we reached this point, where those who support Israel are assumed to be entirely right wing? And is our memory so short that we don't relate to those minority groups Trump stereotypes and insults?

We live in difficult times, but that's true in every generation. The important question always is, how do we respond? Purim teaches us the importance of mustering our courage – as well as our sense of humour – as we work to undermine tyrants. Pesach reminds us of the Jewish conviction that we will move from slavery to freedom, and degradation to praise.

In our Reform prayer book, there is a line that reads, "We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds." The challenge is to live – and act, and vote – according to our hopes, rather than being drawn in by those who play to our fears.

Rabbi Korobkin: Part of Trump's attraction is that he is playing to people's fears, but it's not that simple. Terrorism is real, and it's happening all around us. The Islamic State (ISIS) is getting stronger by the day, and both the current U.S. president and the Canadian prime minister seem to be ignoring, or at least playing down, this very real threat.

It's great to live by our hopes, but we need to realize that evil still exists in the world and to fight that evil with every fibre of our being. And remember: in order to defeat evil, the Jews fought and killed Haman and thousands of others anti-Semites in Persia.

Americans have seen less than satisfactory results from its current leaders. What impels so many to give Trump a second look is his resolve to make sure that evil does not triumph.

Rabbi Grushcow: For me, the great lesson of the Purim story is not the slaughter of the non-Jews at the end, which I think simply points to the incompetence of the king and the over-the-top nature of the story. Rather, I am drawn to the scene in Chapter 4 where Esther decides to risk her position as queen, and even her life. She is willing to use every resource she has to change the course of history.

There's no denying that ego is often a driving force behind leadership, but it should not be the primary force. I want our leaders to be those who feel called to serve, who are willing to risk their own safety and comfort for the sake of the greater good. I also believe that fighting terror will require a lot more than one or two good leaders.

It is not just political candidates but each of us who should ask ourselves what Mordechai asked Esther: "Who knows, maybe you came to your position for a time like this?" ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 14 (2,240)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949

Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625 2933 E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,245 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,634 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
July 14, 2015

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

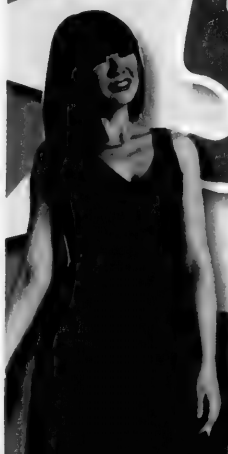
The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

FABRICLAND

48th Birthday Savings!

save up to **50% off** our reg. prices on selected merchandise

And be sure to enter our 48th Birthday Draw for a chance to share in over $195,000 worth of prizes!



Huge Selection of RAYON PRINTS & SOLIDS Now $10 m
as featured in McCall's 7167

...And during our **48th Birthday Sale**
Sewciety Members Save

40% off our regular prices
on almost anything else not already on sale!
April 2-24, 2016. Some exclusions apply. See flyer for details!

All About Denim
Spring 2016 Fashion Collection
40% off our reg. price
as featured in McCall's 7330 above, Tencel Shirting

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus)
NOW OPEN! Fabricland in RioCan Marketplace - 2181 Steeles W. (W. of Dufferin, E. of Alness)
OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU. www.fabricland.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor, The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Good citizenship

ALEX DWORKIN CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES (FORMERLY CJCCC NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

We don't know anything further about this National Council of Jewish Women event in Vancouver. Maybe our readers can enlighten us? Let us know.

SeeJN | YEDI partners with Ariel University

At a March 15 press conference in Toronto, Ariel University vice-president Eldad Halachmi announced a new partnership that includes sharing York Entrepreneurship Development Institute's (YEDI) methodology with the Israeli university. YEDI is a non-profit university-linked accelerator that provides free business education and mentorship to entrepreneurs from any sector or industry. From left are Thornhill MPP Gila Martow, Halachmi, YEDI president Marat Ressin, Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman, chief rabbi of Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) Ontario, and Igor Korenzvit, chairman of the board of governors of JRCC Ontario.

From Yoni's Desk

Hebron shooting raises serious questions

It has now been two weeks since the publication of a video showing an Israeli soldier mortally shooting a Palestinian stabber in Hebron. The footage has been seized upon by many who accuse the Israeli army of serial transgressions against Palestinians and Arab-Israelis.

Those allegations are patently unfair to Israeli soldiers, who are tasked with fighting terror in a moral manner and whose actions are constantly, and uniquely, placed under the microscope.

And yet, this terrible incident raises some important questions: should the soldier be charged with manslaughter, or does he deserve leniency because he is "one of our own," a defender of Israel? And does the fact that the video was filmed by a person affiliated with the controversial Israeli organization B'Tselem, which seeks to document allegations of human rights abuses in the West Bank and Gaza, make a difference?

In the weeks since this awful episode, Israelis and their leaders have debated these very questions. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, along with Moshe Ya'alon, the defence minister, have spoken in favour of trying the soldier, while Education Minister Naftali Bennet and Yisrael Beitenu Leader Avigdor Liberman have suggested the soldier be set free, even as the evidence strongly suggests he did not follow protocol for subduing a terrorist.

This incident also begs another question: can a Palestinian assailant be considered both a terrorist and a victim at the same time? After all, the story begins with the stabbing of an Israeli, an all-too-familiar act for which there can be no justification, and there are conflicting reports that the Israeli shooter may have been concerned that the stabber was wearing an explosive vest. Still, and as difficult as it may be, the two acts should be separated. Without a doubt, that is a difficult binary to comprehend, but it appears to be an accurate depiction of events.

As for B'Tselem, it may be fair to question why the video-taker happened to be in that precise spot at that exact moment. But then again, it is a rarity these days when a controversial incident is *not* caught on camera. And while the motivations and reporting of B'Tselem may be questionable, the veracity of this particular footage does not seem to be in doubt. There are two sides to every story, but in this case the courts will ultimately be left to decide whether or not the camera holds the truth.

• • •

Meanwhile, another scandal is brewing in Israel after separate reports emerged that two prominent politicians – Interior Minister Aryeh Deri and Zionist Union leader Isaac Herzog – are being investigated for financial improprieties. (Deri went to prison for 22 months in 2000 after being convicted of taking bribes during an earlier stint as interior minister.)

Both men have denied the allegations, but these revelations follow a disturbing trend of Israeli politicians behaving badly.

As former prime minister Ehud Olmert, convicted of bribery and breach of trust, and ex-president Moshe Katsav, found guilty of rape and obstruction of justice, serve jail time for their crimes, it is hard not to be skeptical of the political establishment. Israeli politicians should be fighting efforts to destabilize Israel, not contributing to them. ■ — YONI

OPEN LETTER

We need to support York University's Jewish community

York University gets a lot of attention in the Jewish press. We, professors of Jewish Studies at York, take this as a reflection of the community's care and concern for our students and their education, the university, Jewish life, and Jewish studies. Recent developments have led some to call on the community to cut itself off from York. We have reached the opposite conclusion: our campus matters. It's time to thoughtfully support the York Jewish community.

As professors, we strive to cultivate an educational space where our students are enriched by deep and informed encounters, so that they will learn from and think critically about the social and political worlds of the past and present. We introduce our extraordinarily diverse student body – a microcosm of Canada itself – to a wide range of Jewish subjects, values, and ideas, including history, literature, philosophy, religion, education, culture, and sociology, as well as the Bible, Zionism, the Holocaust, Yiddish, Hebrew, Canadian Jewry, and Israel.

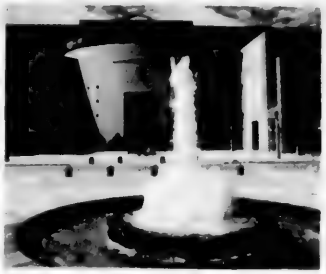
For many of our students, these courses provide their only exposure to Jews and Judaism beyond pop culture. As publicly engaged scholars, we serve as a community resource, teaching, programming, writing, and lecturing all over the world. And as humanists, historians, social scientists, and educators, we know that racisms – including anti-Semitism – result from not recognizing, knowing or genuinely encountering the humanity of the "other."

The solution to anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on campus surely is not to abandon campus. Rather, it is to double down on deep engagement with history and ideas, and to promote rich, real exchanges about ideas that matter.

York is a world-class research institution with a historic, material, and continuing commitment to Jewish studies, education, and life. We continue to work with the administration to improve the atmosphere on campus and bolster Jewish studies. That said, one issue of concern on campus is the York University Faculty Association's (YUFA) recent endorsement of a student-initiated #YUDivest campaign calling on York's board of governors to "permanently divest from weapons manufacturers."

We believe that the most important development amidst all of this is that YUFA actively and publicly distanced itself from the anti-Israel BDS sentiments (boycott, divestment, sanctions) associated with the original motion. The preamble to YUFA's motion states "The #YUDivest campaign does not advocate boycotts, divestment or sanctions against any state. Moreover, it proposes the elimination of all investments in munitions manufacturers [...] not those associated with any single country." And: "We are also endorsing only the stated principles and causes of this campaign, not those that may be held or pursued by one or more of the many organizations that have also endorsed it or are associated with it."

Yes, the pretext and subtext of this motion were clearly – albeit covertly – anchored in BDS activism. Yes, a distressing ambiguity lingers – to what extent does the motion mean something other than what it says? Nevertheless, over the past few weeks, York's senior administration and YUFA's president and executive have all resisted anti-Israel agitation, acting on their good consciences, and thanks to the engagement of Jewish and non-Jewish students, faculty, and community partners. We continue to work to ensure that YUFA will never endorse BDS. Despite the obvious and reasonable anxiety that has accompanied this debate, we believe that this preamble is a win for those who care about Jewish life at York. Successes will continue to come from engagement in our community – not retreat from it.



York University's Vari Hall

There has also been much discussion of late about the presence of a painting in the Student Centre. To some, the painting symbolizes anti-Zionist activism and anti-Semitic sentiment deep within York's culture. To others, it stands as a test case of free speech, academic freedom, and student governmental autonomy. Media attention has only increased this painting's symbolic potency. We support York President Mamdouh Shoukri's vision of a campus that is inclusive and safe. We also aim to foster rigorous debate and freedom of expression. At the same time, the painting in question has marginalized many Jewish students. We imagine that the student body responsible for the Student Centre would already have removed a painting that distressed any other minority group.

The painting affair and the armament divestment motion alike reveal both how high and how low the stakes are on matters of campus politics. The stakes are low because the vast majority of the York community is not especially invested in debating the politics of the Middle East. Much of our student body and faculty tune out the political noise surrounding them. Beyond our own local communities, motions and paintings like these have negligible impact. Yet the stakes are high because the contours of this debate shape our campus community and culture and have sown unwelcome divisiveness. The stakes are also high because the opinions students form and the knowledge they gain shape their future political lives. We take these high stakes very seriously. They speak precisely to why Jews and Jewish studies on campus are so important.

The solution is not to give up, divest from, abandon, or add fuel to the fire at York. It is to invest in Jewish students, Jewish life, and Jewish Studies. We invite everyone to our campus events, lectures, and to audit our classes. Come and engage the richness of Jewish life and learning at York University.

To learn more about what we do, visit cjs.blog.yorku.ca ■

Signed,

Ahouva Shulman
Belarie Hyman Zatzman
Brian Katz
Carl Ehrlich
Carol Zemel
David Koffman
Judith Cohen
Judith Shapero
Kalman Weiser
Laura Wiseman
Linda Lipsky
Martin Lockshin
Maynard Maidman
Menachem Feuer
Michael Brown
Randal Schnoor
Ruby Newman
Sara Horowitz
Shelley Hornstein
Yedida Eisenstat

STOP CHASING YIELD
AND START CATCHING IT.

Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

YEAR	NET RETURN	YEAR	NET RETURN
2006	10.3%	2011	8.2%
2007	10.5%	2012	7.7%
2008	9.9%	2013	7.4%
2009	8.7%	2014	7.8%
2010	8.7%	2015	8.2%

With a 50-year history of capital preservation and consistent returns, our commercial mortgage fund is ideal for accredited investors, foundations, endowments and pension funds seeking a low-volatility asset that performs like anything but. To discuss your investment of $150,000 or more:
Dianna Price diannaprice@romspen.com | 416 928 5105

Results from January 1, 1946, to January 16, 2016, are those of a pool of individually syndicated mortgages managed by the manager of Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund (the "Fund"). The indicated rates of return are historical returns calculated on a cash-on-cash basis, after fees, and the annual compounded net returns assume a monthly reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not take into account income taxes, changes in unit values, third-party organizers or redemption charges that would have reduced returns. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy units of the Fund, which are offered to investors who meet eligibility requirements under applicable securities laws. Fund units are offered only by offering memorandum, which contains important information about the Fund's fees, objectives, and risk factors, and which should be read before investing. Consult your financial advisor. The Fund's returns are not guaranteed, unit values may change, and past performance may not be repeated.

ROMSPEN

Finding a speaker can be a delicate task

Across Canada, Jewish organizations have been forced to backtrack and disinvite artists amid charges that they are too divisive

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

The directors of Toronto's Koffler Centre of the Arts were astonished when their guest speaker for a May event, U.S. playwright Tony Kushner, was harshly criticized for his statements about Israel. Last month, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto went so far as to disassociate itself from the event.

"We weren't and we aren't looking for any political discussion in regards to the issues that the UJA's concerned with," said Cathy Jonasson, executive director of the Koffler Centre.

"The dialogue we're interested in is primarily in the area of culture. When we stray into politics, we aren't legitimate as a cultural organization."

The controversy in Toronto is not unique. Across the country, Jewish organizations have been forced to backtrack, disinvite and sometimes defend artists and speakers when charges are made that they are too divisive or their remarks put them beyond communal norms.

Jewish organizations face the delicate task of finding prominent speakers who will not offend sponsors but are interesting enough to attract patrons.

In Kushner's case, separating his work, which includes a two-part epic on the AIDS epidemic, *Angels in America*, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award, from his politics, is not easy.

The issue that concerned UJA was the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS) and which side of that divide Kushner sits on.

"He's straightforward on the issue. He doesn't support BDS. He does support Israel and you obviously take his word," Jonasson said in an interview. "We would have thought that issue was over and done with."

Evidently, it wasn't. The Toronto federation, which was listed as one of the Koffler Centre's institutional supporters, felt compelled to remove its name from advertising for the event.

"The speaker is associated with an organization that clearly supports BDS," said Steven Shulman, federation's campaign director and legal counsel. "There's lots of room for diversity, but there are certain lines. BDS is one of those lines we wouldn't want to affiliate ourselves with."

Tony Kushner

Achinoam Nini

Kushner is a member of the advisory board of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which has endorsed BDS. He has, however, stated that he does not support a boycott of Israel.

In a letter published in the *New York Jewish Week* newspaper in 2011, when a debate arose as to whether City University of New York would grant him an honorary degree, Kushner wrote: "I am on the advisory board of Jewish Voice for Peace and have remained there even though I disagree with the organization about a number of issues, including the boycott. I remain affiliated because the men and women of JVP are courageous, committed people who work very hard serving the interests of peace and justice and the Jewish people and I'm honoured by my association with them."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver also generated headlines in February when it invited renowned Israeli singer Achinoam Nini (known as Noa) to perform at community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

Critics pointed to Noa's vocal support of B'Tselem, an organization that monitors human rights in the West Bank, and Breaking the Silence, a left-wing NGO that criticizes the Israel Defence Forces.

JNF Canada, which had been a sponsor, backed out after hearing from its constituency, "many of whom had expressed discomfort with the artist's views and organizational affiliations," according to a statement issued at the time.

"Any artist who chooses to publicly intertwine their art with their politics is potentially opening themselves up to controversy," Josh Cooper, JNF's CEO, said in a statement to *The CJN*.

The Israeli Embassy and the Consulate General of Israel for Ontario and Western Canada in Toronto have since stepped in as sponsors.

The debate over whether Noa was an appropriate choice for Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities highlights the diversity among Canadian Jews when it comes to defining what support for Israel looks like.

"We do not all share the same political perspectives, and probably never will. But we do share the democratic values that allow ourselves and our neighbours to express them," said Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver CEO Ezra Shanken, in a statement to *The CJN*.

Noa has denied being a supporter of BDS, which is an important distinction, Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs pointed out.

"Despite her passionate views and critical orientation to the current Israeli government, Achinoam Nini is clearly and demonstrably within the tent of the Zionist family. And, despite his passionate views, Tony Kushner has allowed his name and standing to be leveraged for purposes that are fundamentally inconsistent with the principles of the normative, pro-Israel community," Fogel said in a statement to *The CJN*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

aufgang travel
65+ Years of Experience
Start creating your memorable moment today.

Specializing in:
Faith Based Programs
Jewish Heritage Tours
Special Needs Arrangements
Special Interest Tours
Family Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
World Tours

Contact us for more information
1-800-789-7117, Ext. 729
Janice@aufgangtravel.com
www.aufgangtravel.com
Ontario Reg. # 50012754
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON, L4J 3M4

SIM CARD RENTALS FOR TOURISTS
555 MOBILITY 1-866-818-8886
Need a cell phone or SIM card for your trip to Israel
GET 1 DAY FREE, if you book travel arrangements with Aufgang Travel. Only $6/Day USD plus VAT

WALK with Israel RUN

walkwithisrael.com

runwithisrael.com

Whether you choose to Walk or Run with Israel, now is the time to demonstrate your love, support and solidarity with Israel. Register today and join our community on Sunday, May 29th to let the people of Israel know that they are never alone!

Sunday May 29

$50 REGISTRATION UNTIL MAY 1

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

UJA's WALK with ISRAEL

RIOCAN

UJA's RUN with ISRAEL

yogen früz

I'm sorry for my silence

Avrum Rosensweig

When I was 16 years old and had just received my learner's permit to drive, I was asked by a graduate student at my yeshiva if I'd like to drive his automobile. Like all teens with this newfound power, I jumped at the opportunity. The student sat in the passenger seat.

At some point during the drive, the owner of the car put his hand on my lap, saying he wanted to be close to the steering wheel in case I lost control. I accepted his explanation. A few minutes later his hand moved up to my groin. I stopped the car abruptly, turned to him and yelled: "If you don't move your *&%^4 hand now, I'm going to beat the #+=% out of you." He did.

I never reported this incident to the yeshiva authorities. I didn't because I thought I had dealt with it properly and that was the end of it. I didn't consider I had been sexually accosted at all. It seemed to me that what the yeshiva student had done to me was a momentary act of physical trespassing, almost insignificant, and to make a big fuss over it would simply be dramatizing the issue.

The problem with my silence, however, was that this person went on to sexually abuse a number of other Jewish students, and years later was arrested, charged with sexual assault, found guilty and sentenced to home arrest. Is it possible I could have partially prevented harm to others?

Recently, two Jewish educators who taught and supervised in the Canadian Jewish school system were arrested on similar charges. While they had both been fired from their respective schools, it seems that those who were aware of the men's behaviour remained quiet.

I understand why silence is often the choice of those in the know for two reasons: coming forward might ostracize the person involved from the community, and, in addition, there is a Jewish imperative of not turning a fellow Jew into the authorities. However, silence in this case allowed these two teachers to move on to other schools and continue acting out their illness.

> *We have begun to speak out about the effects of sexual molestation on children and teens*

The positive news is the Jewish world is going through somewhat of a reformation in this area. We are beginning to recognize and accept that there are Jewish teachers, rabbis, rebbes, tutors, etc., who do molest their students, our children. Organizations and committees are cropping up in the Jewish world whose mandate it is to offer families and children a safe place where they can express the details of sexual abuse perpetrated against them and receive help. The culture of shuttling off teachers who sexually abuse students to another school and/or Israel is slowly starting to change. We have begun to speak out about the effects of sexual molestation on children and teens, such as living a life of depression or, in some cases, suicide.

As we go through these changes, we must take every step possible to help innocent young people in the Jewish community who have been harmed by individuals, schools and organizations meant to protect them, for example, by budgeting for their healing. Similarly, we must offer help to the perpetrators of sexual assault so they can learn how to stop their sexual deviance.

And of equal importance, our leadership must aggressively and authentically offer apologies over and over to those who have suffered terribly because of our silence. Our rabbis, principals, teachers and anyone who knew better, must ask forgiveness of those children they did not protect and often sentenced to a life of sadness and mistrust of the Jewish world and those in charge.

I'm sorry for my silence. ■

Avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

What if Goliath attacks?

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

In the years 1945 to 1947, Marie Syrkin travelled to the displaced persons camps in Europe to meet with Holocaust survivors, and then to Israel to meet with the leadership of the Yishuv. There was enormous fear in the Yishuv – they knew a state was forthcoming in the near future, but worried that the neighbouring Arab countries would succeed in battle and push the Jewish inhabitants into the sea.

In those anxious days of 1947, Syrkin penned a poem titled *David*, which reads in part: "Suppose, this time, Goliath should not fail; suppose, this time, the sling should not avail… suppose the tale should have a different end…"

This haunting poem asks a frightening question: what if Goliath won?

While we can speculate about tragic counterfactuals, thankfully, Goliath did not win. However, the question is as relevant as ever. Israel, despite its military edge, still faces existential threats from multiple aggressors including Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah. We still must ask ourselves: "What if Goliath attacked and we did not help David?"

Jews have a mixed record on this question. In the 1940s, North American Jews in the United States did not do nearly enough during the Shoah. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, in his book *Were We Our Brothers' Keepers?* reviews the halfhearted actions of the American Jewish community. At the end, he concludes: "The Final Solution may have been unstoppable by American Jewry, but it should have been unbearable for them. And it wasn't."

During the Holocaust, we were not our brothers' keepers.

Yet 20 years later, our community got it right. The activists of the Soviet Jewry movement insisted on being their brothers' keepers. They remembered the community's failure during the Shoah, and refused to repeat it. Yaakov Birnbaum, the founding father of the Soviet Jewry movement, spoke at the initial meeting of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry on April 27, 1964. In a speech that launched a historic campaign to release millions of Soviet Jews, Birnbaum declared, "We, who condemn silence and inaction during the Nazi Holocaust, dare we keep silent now?"

Because of Birnbaum's exhortations, American Jews were not silent. Twenty-five years later, American Jews would finally learn to be their brothers' keepers.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" has often guided the policies of the State of Israel. Rabbi Sharon Shalom (an Ethiopian rabbi) related a wonderful anecdote when he spoke at our synagogue in Montreal last year.

In the early 1980s, he was rescued by the Mossad from a refugee camp in the Sudan. He was a child of eight, and Israel was smuggling Beta Israel children to Israel by spiriting them in the middle of the night to a beach, where they were carried onto a waiting boat that took them to Sinai.

Rabbi Shalom remembers being picked up and hugged by a big Israeli commando, who carried him to the boat. As he carried the child, the commando had tears streaming down his eyes. The rabbi remembers that, as a young boy, he couldn't understand why the big, strong soldier would be crying; after all, what did he have to be afraid of? Now, of course, Rabbi Shalom understands. The soldier was crying because he was picking up his younger brother and saving him from danger.

We, too, must help our brothers in Israel. Last week, I attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) policy convention with 18,000 other supporters of Israel. (It's disappointing a similar gathering does not take place in Ottawa.) For three days, a convention like no other unfolded. Yes, there were speeches from presidential candidates, an important part of AIPAC's mission to lobby on behalf of Israel. But there were also informative and inspiring presentations.

Above all, there was the shared determination of 18,000 supporters of Israel. Their very presence declared: we are our brothers' keepers.

And if Goliath attacks again, we will be there for Israel. ■

A timid hero

Rabbi Dow Marmur

Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo has much in common with the late Rabbi David Hartman. Rabbi Cardozo was, as Rabbi Hartman was, ordained in an Orthodox yeshiva. Both immigrated to Israel in the belief that only there can Orthodoxy, indeed Judaism, renew itself and remain relevant. Both created institutions in Jerusalem to promote their ideas: the Shalom Hartman Institute and the David Cardozo Academy.

But despite their Orthodox training and way of life, the Israeli religious establishment has shunned them because they've challenged the rigidity of the Israeli rabbinate.

But Rabbi Cardozo seems to be less of a pluralist. Whereas the Hartman Institute welcomes students, fellows and teachers from across the Jewish spectrum, the lecturers listed in the Cardozo Academy are all Orthodox, albeit often somewhat on the fringe.

I heard Rabbi Cardozo declare recently that Conservative and Reform Judaism isn't for him. But the way he described his own religious outlook, he is decidedly not for Orthodox Judaism. Not surprisingly, therefore, as he told the audience, he's no longer invited to speak, even in the Orthodox synagogue where he's a regular worshipper.

He seems to bear the isolation and the implied humiliation with dignity. The film that was made about his life has the title of his brief autobiography, *Lonely but not alone*, which, incidentally, is also the title of the memoir of the late Queen Wilhelmina of his native Netherlands. His loneliness is obvious, but other than in the circle of his family and personal friends, he may also be quite alone, as he's apparently excluded from the company of his Orthodox colleagues.

This he shares with the late Rabbi Louis Jacobs, the most erudite and kindest Jewish scholar it was my privilege to know. He was *de facto* excommunicated from the Orthodox establishment in his native Britain. An Orthodox synagogue even refused to call him to the Torah in connection with a family celebration.

But unlike his Israeli maverick colleagues, Rabbi Jacobs made common cause, albeit somewhat reluctantly, with the Conservative (Masorti) movement. The New London Synagogue that was formed around him became the mother congregation of the other Masorti synagogues that have since been formed in the United Kingdom.

Rabbi Jacobs, like Rabbi Hartman, seems to have realized that you can't be a religious reformer without being open to all manifestations of Judaism. Thus, he taught for many years at the Leo Baeck College in London that trains non-Orthodox rabbis. He may have realized that it's not enough to argue from within that Jewish law has to change for Orthodox Judaism to become relevant. Practical – also political and organizational – steps must be taken outside the Orthodox framework.

Rabbi Cardozo seems to prefer to stay inside the Orthodox tent as a maverick rather than to accept, perhaps even celebrate, his outsider status. He appeals to his Orthodox colleagues to have courage to adapt Halachah to contemporary conditions, as he did, for example, in an article last year in the *Jerusalem Post* magazine, but like other internal critics of the Orthodox rabbinate in Israel and elsewhere, he fails to accept that the effort is quixotic.

It makes him something of a timid hero, a term used by my teacher, the late Rabbi Ignaz Maybaum, about Rabbi Jacobs, perhaps too harshly. The same can be said, apparently with greater certainty, about Rabbi Cardozo. For all the heroic and erudite efforts he's making to bring about reforms from within, it's only people outside who seem to heed his words. The Israeli Orthodox establishment wields too much political power to tolerate internal challenges.

Rabbi Cardozo may get mild applause from maladjusted Orthodox Jews for his views, as he did when I heard him speak in Jerusalem, but in the end, he'll only see results if he joins forces with other religious, not just Orthodox, women and men who care enough about Judaism not to allow it to be hijacked by extremists. ■

The Rushdie affair and the outsourcing of murder

Sheryl Saperia

The recent attacks in Brussels, for which ISIS took credit, reminded the West that no country is immune from Islamist terrorism. All democratic nations must match action to rhetoric in decisively defeating the sadistic group.

Yet Iran, which has the advantages of a nation-state alongside the revolutionary zeal of a terrorist organization, continues to pose a more serious threat to global security. Long before ISIS and Al Qaeda butchered their way onto the international scene and utilized social media to attract recruits, Iran had pioneered the outsourcing of terrorism to the global extremist community.

In 1988, Salman Rushdie published *The Satanic Verses*, a novel that garnered literary praise but that many Muslims perceived as blasphemous. As controversy spread with riots and book burnings, the book was banned in several countries. The Rushdie affair peaked in 1989, when Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, broadcast this edict on radio: "I am informing all brave Muslims of the world that the author of *The Satanic Verses*, a text written, edited and published against Islam, the Prophet of Islam and the Qur'an, along with all the editors and publishers aware of its contents, are condemned to death. I call on all valiant Muslims, wherever they may be in the world, to kill them without delay, so that no one will dare insult the sacred beliefs of Muslims henceforth."

Islamists lined up to volunteer. Rushdie went into hiding for several years, and has managed to stay alive. Others involved with the book were not as fortunate. In 1991, the Japanese translator was stabbed to death, and the Italian translator survived a stabbing. In 1993, the Norwegian publisher was shot three times, and the Turkish translator survived an arson attack in which 37 were killed.

Just last month, as further proof of the fatwa's ongoing authority, 40 state-run media outlets in Iran contributed an additional $600,000 to the bounty offered for Rushdie's assassination. The total amount now on offer is in the millions of dollars.

The edict's recent and gratuitous revival, despite Tehran's ostensible rehabilitation under the international nuclear agreement, is symptomatic of a well-established and deliberate Iranian policy to demonstrate dominance over an enemy it despises – the West. It is meant to communicate that no deal will mitigate the Islamic revolutionary ideals upon which the Iranian theocracy was founded.

The free speech organization PEN has rightly urged democratic governments to insist that Iran nullify the fatwa once and for all. A letter signed by over 100 writers and academics calls on the West to "unequivocally condemn the regime's fatwa and bounty, demand their immediate cancellation, prioritize human rights and free expression, and side with freethinkers rather than appeasing a theocratic regime."

As a champion of the United Nations and our national charter, both of which enshrine the right to freedom of expression, the Canadian government is well suited to lead on this issue.

Canada should immediately deny accreditation to any Iranian media outlets that contributed to the bounty, and even consider designating them as terrorist groups. Consider the relevant portions of the Criminal Code definition of terrorist activity: committing an act for a political, religious or ideological purpose, with the intention of intimidating the public or compelling a person, a government or an organization to do or to refrain from doing any act that intentionally endangers a person's life.

Canada recently joined the United States, European nations and Japan in speaking out against Chinese human rights abuses and regional aggression. If the West can publicly condemn such an economic powerhouse, surely it can apply pressure on Tehran, which needs western business.

The return of the Rushdie edict presents the West with an opportunity to stand up for its own democratic principles and against a regime that has met every open hand extended to it with a clenched fist. ■

Sheryl Saperia is director of policy for Canada at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

News

Child sexual abuse in community rampant, audience told

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Jews must put aside fear of shaming their community, their families and themselves, as well as perceived prohibitions of turning to secular authorities, to fight a growing wave of child sexual abuse, speakers told an audience at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Speakers addressing a packed sanctuary on March 31 made blunt, often harrowing assessments of childhood sexual abuse in Jewish communities, saying the problem is rampant and is too often ignored or denied outright.

There was a large Orthodox contingent in attendance, and speakers stressed that Orthodox and chassidic communities offer much resistance to dealing with the sexual abuse of children. It is time to end the silence, they said.

MC Benny Forer, a graduate of Ner Israel Yeshiva north of Toronto, and now a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles, recounted how his best friend had been sexually abused and killed himself on Yom Kippur in 1993.

There is an "astonishing" amount of sexual abuse in Jewish circles, Forer said. "We have to stand up and say this is unacceptable."

The session was organized by Jewish Community Watch (JCW), a five-year-old New York-based group that raises awareness of child sexual abuse, exposes abusers, and offers programs, referrals and services for victims and their families.

The organization gained recognition "throughout many Orthodox Jewish communities all over the world," it states on its website. "The team has championed, through the backlash and resistance of a grandfather culture concerned more for the image of the community than the lives of the victims, to ensure that every Jewish victim of [abuse] has a place to be heard and to be validated."

Orthodox Jews must not allow halachic terms to cover their unwillingness to face up to the issue, said Rabbi Yosef Blau, a mashgiach ruchani (spiritual adviser) at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

The term *mesira*, one who hands over a Jew to outside authorities and "is understood to describe a terrible individual, is misused," Rabbi Blau said.

There are also "important exceptions" to lashon hara (hateful speech), he added.

Halachah indicates "very clearly" that when there is a danger to the community and internal mechanisms fail, Jews are "permitted, even "obligated" to go to secular authorities "to ensure that people are protected," Rabbi Blau said.

"We can't allow justifications and rationalizations to get in the way."

If a school where an abuser has taught, or a parent with knowledge of an abusive teacher does not pass along information about him, "each one of those bears responsibility for the abuse that's going to follow," Rabbi Blau said.

Det.-Const. Joel Manherz of the Toronto Police Service Sex Crimes Unit's Child Exploitation Section took the audience through the mechanics of laying a police complaint.

Meyer Seewald

Manherz is assigned to the case of Stephen Joseph Schacter, a former teacher at two Toronto-area Jewish day schools, who is facing several sex crime charges involving minors, based on witnesses having come forward.

"Finding the courage to come forward doesn't mean finding the fortitude to call police," Manherz said. "It means being resolute in your actions and words. It means being prepared for the possibility that people may know you have come forward with the intention of making your community a better and safer place to live."

When it comes to giving evidence, "you are in control."

He said that under Canadian law, there is no statute of limitations for prosecuting sex crimes involving children, and that teachers and clergy may be prosecuted themselves for failing to report such actions.

The evening also heard from the Orthodox father of a child who had been abused by his counsellor at a Jewish summer camp in New York state. The child came forward with the allegations three years after they happened, following bouts of depression and rebellious behaviour.

The effect on families of abused children can be devastating, the father said. "We need to be better educated," he said. "We cannot rely on anyone else."

In a stirring address, Meyer Seewald, who co-founded JCW with his brother Shneur in 2011, said the only way to combat child sexual abuse is first to admit it happens in the Jewish community.

Despite "much opposition" from rabbis, Seewald, himself a survivor of sexual abuse, said he can "almost guarantee" that every rabbi knows of at least one case of abuse. Sexual abuse "is our dark little secret. It's only a matter of time before it explodes in our face."

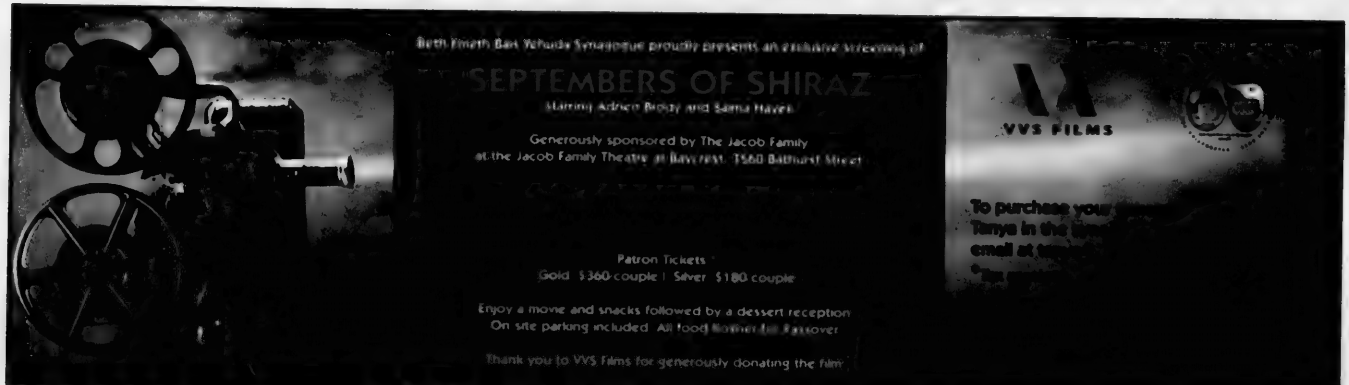
Statistics show that between one in three and one in five girls, and one in five and one in six boys are victimized by sexual abuse, Seewald noted, and the most common form is incest.

JCW now has 12 full-time employees and spends up to $40,000 a month defraying the cost of therapy for victims.

"We have a huge problem," he said. "A day does not go by that I am not personally contacted by a victim."

But, "we will find you and you will be exposed," he pledged to abusers, "and that goes for those covering up the abuse."

To applause and cheers, he said the previous administration at Toronto's Eitz Chaim Schools, where Schacter once taught, should be held accountable for his actions. ■


Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue proudly presents an exclusive screening of
SEPTEMBERS OF SHIRAZ
starring Adrien Brody and Salma Hayek
Generously sponsored by The Jacob Family
at the Jacob Family Theatre at Bayt Emet, 7560 Bathurst Street
Patron Tickets
Gold $360 couple | Silver $180 couple
Enjoy a movie and snacks followed by a dessert reception
On site parking included. All food
Thank you to VVS Films for generously donating the film
VVS FILMS

NEWS RELEASE.....NEW YORK.....TORONTO

foodfest
A PROUD CANADIAN BRAND 1977
www.foodfestamerica.com

Manischewitz

Manischewitz, America's #1 Kosher Food Manufacturer and Foodfest International, Canada's Largest Kosher Food Distributor are proud to make the following important announcements:

Manischewitz recently awarded **Foodfest** the distribution of their specialty brands in Canada including: *Manischewitz, Rokeach, Mrs. Adlers, Croyden House, Jason, Goodman's, Mishpacha, Season, Carmel, Tradition, Mother's and Asian Harvest.*

Manischewitz will be launching a **NEW LINE** of refrigerated and frozen products in Canada just in time for Passover and all year round. These premium, high quality perishable products to be distributed by Foodfest include:

- **Manischewitz Garden Fresh Half Sour Pickles,**
- **Manischewitz Crunchy Garden Fresh Full Sour Pickles**
- **Manischewitz Red and White YOM TOV Horseradish**
- **Manischewitz Marinated Herring with onions, Marinated Herring with Ginger, Marinated Herring with Dill and Marinated Herring European-style**
- **Manischewitz Scottish-style smoked Salmon / Lox**

Manischewitz and **Welch's** have teamed up to offer consumers in Canada 100% Grape Juice Kosher for Passover and all year round. Welch's Manischewitz Grape Juice is blended from a selection of the finest, fresh-pressed Concord Grapes. Welch's Manischewitz Grape Juice, distributed exclusively by Foodfest, is a nutritious and wholesome option for consumers that has no artificial ingredients, no artificial flavors, no artificial colors, no artificial preservatives and is sulfite free.

David Sugarman, President and CEO of Manischewitz and Henry Ender CEO of Foodfest International are absolutely thrilled to make this joint announcement. Mr. Ender says, "With this special partnership we will bring consumers the best quality products at the lowest possible prices in Canada". Mr Sugarman states, "Manischewitz leads the way with a wide variety of healthy and nutritious products and we are delighted that Foodfest International will help expand our global reach in the Canadian market."

Manischewitz Brands distributed by Foodfest International will be available at *Loblaws, No Frills, Fortinos, Value Marts, Maxi, Metro, Freshco, Sobey's, Walmart, Canada Safeway, IGA, Longos, Coppa's, Pusateri's and Kosher City.*

Come kibbitz with me!

SAUL SILVERSTEIN,
AT CHARTWELL SINCE APRIL 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence

784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. 289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

Irwin Cotler links pursuit of justice and Jewish values

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Ontario MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris, left, interviews Irwin Cotler. GMAX PHOTOGRAPHY

At a gala event at which he was honoured, Irwin Cotler emphasized the connection between his Jewish values and his lifelong commitment to the pursuit of justice.

Cotler, an international human rights lawyer as well as former Quebec MP, minister of justice and attorney general of Canada, stressed that his devotion to fighting for the release of political prisoners in a number of global conflict zones has been underpinned by Jewish teachings.

"The release of political prisoners in Jewish tradition is such an overriding commandment that you're allowed to breach the Sabbath if you bring about their liberation," he said, to great applause at the event hosted by The Pearson Centre for Progressive Policy.

Called "The Pursuing Justice Gala," the March 31 event at the Omni King Edward hotel marked the official launch of The Pearson Centre's new Pursuing Justice Project, which will focus on advancing justice, diversity and inclusion in Canada by convening forums with what the centre calls "key opinion leaders" and stakeholders, as well as conducting seminars and research.

The Pearson Centre is a centrist think-tank that addresses policy issues related to justice, democratic participation and health and social services. Its stated goal is to engage Canadians in dialogue about a progressive future for Canada.

Following a reception, introductory speeches were given by Liberal MPs Jim Carr and Catherine McKenna, former prime ministers John Turner and Paul Martin and Liberal MPP Madeleine Meilleur.

Indira Naidoo-Harris, Liberal MPP for Halton, Ont., served as the night's moderator, directing a conversation with Cotler, who was the evening's keynote speaker.

The various speakers lauded Cotler for fighting for human rights and freedom on a global scale; he is notable for having served as counsel to a number of high-profile political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Jacobo Timerman in Latin America and, in the former Soviet Union, Natan Sharansky, a Jewish activist who later become an Israeli politician.

Cotler said both Mandela and Sharansky embodied "the hope and inspiration…of two of the great human rights struggles of the second half of the 20th century."

Both were heroic figures who stood for freedom, equality, democracy and peace and transformed, respectively, "the face of South Africa and the former Soviet Union," Cotler noted.

He added: "I shudder to think what might've happened if they had not been freed."

He described visiting South Africa in 1981 as a guest of the anti-apartheid movement; he was, at that time, working as a lawyer on behalf of Sharansky.

He said he gave a speech to a group of South African law students with the message, "If Sharansky [should be freed], why not Mandela?"

Immediately following the talk, Cotler was arrested, he said, and brought to speak to South Africa's then foreign minister Roelof Frederik Botha.

"Botha asked me how I could speak in the same breath about Sharansky, who was fighting against Communism and Mandela [who was a Communist]. I said, because they're both fighting for freedom and human rights," Cotler recalled.

He said he told Botha that apartheid was a racist philosophy and a "racist, illegal regime" and that he planned to "fight until it's dismantled."

Cotler was subsequently released, and said that several years ago he heard from Botha, who ended up becoming an opponent of apartheid and the first prime minister in the South African government to call for Mandela's release.

"The model here is that, at the end of the day, anyone can be taught to pursue justice," Cotler said.

Cotler went on to speak about the importance of Canada recognizing the rights of its Aboriginal people and fighting for Aboriginal justice at all costs.

Further, he said that the pursuit of justice and human rights must serve as the organizing principal of Canada's policymaking, and emphasized the dangers of "indifference and inaction in the face of mass atrocity."

He noted that this year marks the 22nd anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, and that what was particularly horrifying about the event was that it was preventable.

"Nobody could say we didn't know. We knew but we didn't act. Just like with Darfur."

These historical lessons, Cotler said, must be applied by Canada to the current global refugee crisis. ■

MP denies allegations he supports anti-Israel views

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

During the last federal election campaign, Media Action Group, an organization that fights anti-Semitism, sent out an email referencing an online story that suggested the Liberal party was being infiltrated by Islamists. Omar Alghabra's name came up in the report, and not in a good way.

Alghabra went on to be elected MP for Mississauga Centre and later was named secretary of state for consular affairs, prompting more concern from some.

Last weekend, Alghabra was a guest of Solel Congregation in Mississauga, located just outside his riding, and JSpace Canada, a progressive Zionist organization.

In introducing Alghabra, JSpace spokesperson and co-ordinating committee member Karen Mock said critics had taken "potshots" at Alghabra and that the commentary over his appointment was "almost hysterical."

"That's not the Omar Alghabra that I know," she said.

Addressing the congregation, where he has visited various times to support interfaith projects in the area, Alghabra presented a picture of himself as an immigrant success story. A native of Syria who grew up in Saudi Arabia, he travelled to Canada on his own at age 19 to study engineering. During his early days in the country, he worked at a doughnut shop, meeting people from varied backgrounds. It was, he said, "the best political education."

In Syria and Saudi Arabia, he continued, he had been part of the majority Sunni Muslim culture. People celebrated the same holidays and life was simple. The world appeared as black and white, right and wrong. There were also widespread "stereotypes of minorities."

Today, he said, he looks back and realizes "how ignorant I was growing up" as well as sheltered and unfamiliar with the diversity of people. For that change in perspective, he thanked Canada.

Because of his background, he feels a responsibility to help "Jews and Arabs work together to advance the well-being of both and send a message to the Israelis and the Palestinians how we can work together to advance a common agenda."

In a question and answer period, Mock got the ball rolling by asking Alghabra his views on establishing peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Alghabra responded by stating unequivocally that "the targeting of civilians is unacceptable and should not be tolerated."

Omar Alghabra

Terrorism should not be romanticized or justified, "whatever the grievances people have... There are legitimate grievances and disputes over there that have to be dealt with," he said, adding Canada could play a role in bringing the two sides together.

Later, Alghabra expressed support for a two-state solution and said when people don't see steps taken toward peace, their "lack of hope and [lack of] progress on the ground make it easy for [them] to be seduced by the voice of radicalism."

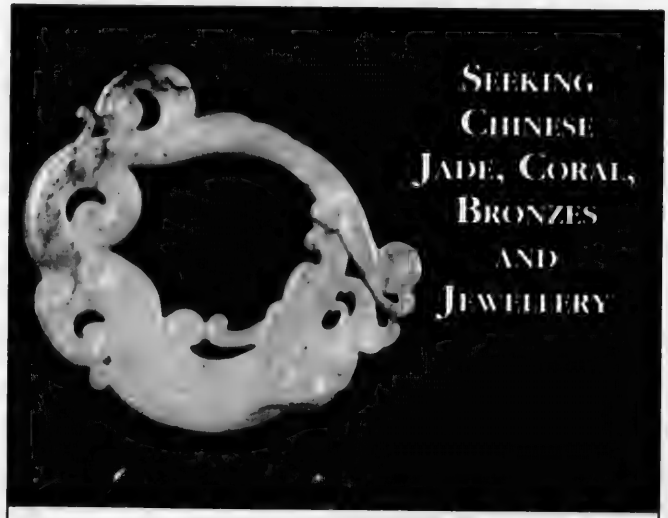
In a brief interview with *The CJN* following his address, Alghabra was asked to comment on some of the allegations contained in the pre-election emailing. Asked if he supported sharia (Islamic law) in Ontario, as was suggested at the time, Alghabra said he had supported same sex marriage and women's right to choose, suggesting those positions were hardly compatible with an Islamic agenda

Asked if he thought Hamas and Hezbollah were terrorist organizations, he referred to a recent parliamentary debate on the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement.

During the Feb. 18 debate, Alghabra was asked that question, to which he replied: "Our government put Hamas on a terrorist list. We believe Hamas is a terrorist organization until it gives up terrorist activities and joins us in our call for peaceful dialogue and consultations to reach a peaceful resolution to the two-state outcome that we would like to achieve."

In the same debate, Alghabra offered his views on BDS, saying not all advocates of BDS are motivated by anti-Semitism, though some are. He said some students see it as a non-violent way to express their views and that he did not believe in infringing on their right to express themselves.

He added, "It is important to respect the right of Israel to exist and the right of Palestinians to have their own independent nation. We can help achieve this by encouraging engagement, dialogue, and respect for all." ■



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS

SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM $389 (with taxes $690)

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
	Apr. 19 – May 01	July 03-14
		July 24 – Aug. 04
	Winter Break	Aug. 07-18
	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017	Aug. 21 – Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS

WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• ***FREE*** – **Exclusive** $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• **We do all the work!** We can design an exclusive itinerary with your **budget** and **preferences!**
• **Preferred rooms** in every hotel **for less!!**
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY

UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 7, 2016

Wonderland turns down bid for kosher food cart

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

For the second year in a row, Canada's Wonderland has turned down a bid for a kosher food cart in the amusement park located north of Toronto.

Isaac Kraus, who had been negotiating for a kosher hot dog cart that would also provide cold cut sandwiches, hamburgers, falafels, salads and other foods, received an email on March 16 from Wonderland vice-president and general manager Norm Pirtovshek, turning him down.

"At this time, we have no requirement for another supplier of kosher product," Pirtovshek stated. "Based on consumer demand, the product offering we have at this time fills the need of our guests."

Kraus said Pirtovshek was referring to Wonderland carrying pre-packaged dairy sandwiches provided by Tov-Li, to be made available at various restaurants in the park. However, his proposal was to sell meat meals at a dedicated cart.

Kraus said he is disappointed at Wonderland's decision, especially since he was led to believe early in the negotiation process that the theme park was receptive to his proposal.

Isaac Kraus and his kosher hot dog cart.

Kraus said he had met with Brian Kerr, the park's food manager, who was eager to hear his ideas. But that was last summer, not long after Wonderland turned down Howie T's bid to offer kosher meat meals. Howie Rosenberg, who runs Howie T's, had been providing kosher meals at Wonderland for two years before being told in 2015, shortly before the summer season began, that his services were no longer required.

Kraus attempted to step into the void, offering to open a cart in mid-August. He said he was told at the time it was too late for the 2015 season, but he should apply for 2016.

Negotiations continued in the fall and early winter. At first, talk was about Kraus obtaining a kiosk, but Wonderland wanted him to agree to install a new burner and pay 50 per cent of his gross take. Kraus agreed to both. However, as time went on, Wonderland indicated that a kiosk was not available and negotiations turned to a food cart instead. Still, Kraus said, he was willing to accommodate the park.

Over the winter, talks bogged down. Kraus found his calls to Wonderland went unanswered. Meetings were re-scheduled. Then on Feb. 16, he received an email from Brian Kerr, the park's director of food operations, stating: "Unfortunately we've been unable to take on any new concessionaires as our space hasn't become available as we first thought."

When Kraus complained to Pirtovshek, saying a food cart takes up very little space, Wonderland's general manager responded with the March 16 email saying there was insufficient demand.

Coincidentally, Rosenberg went through a similar negotiating experience the year before. Rosenberg operated Howie T's food cart at Wonderland for two years before he was told in the spring of 2015 that his services were no longer required.

At the time, a Wonderland spokesperson told *The CJN* the decision was made because of "lack of demand and minimal sales."

Kraus, who operated a successful kosher food cart in Wonderland until 1997, and later in Niagara Falls for several years, is puzzled. "When I first started with them, they had Tov-Li. Why negotiate with me for six months? They already had Tov-Li."

Kraus believes Wonderland does not appreciate the benefits of a dedicated kosher spot in the park. The cart will attract people who otherwise wouldn't visit Wonderland, he said.

Asked to comment about Kraus' concerns, Soulla Lindo, Wonderland's manager of public relations and communications, said Tov-Li is currently providing kosher meals at the Backlot Cafe and Action Zone.

There was no way to hook up a food cart to water and electricity services, she said, though Kraus maintains his cart is self-contained.

"We've done it in the past," Lindo said. "We've gone down this route and offered kosher food items and the sales weren't there."

Kraus believes the business is there. For kosher consumers, he said, "hot dogs are a treat in itself. For the Orthodox, it's a huge deal." ■

TD Wealth

Discover "Tax-Smart Investing"

"Before meeting Michael I was paying too much in tax. Michael used his special knowledge and experience as an investment advisor with a tax legal background to arrange my portfolio so that I paid much less tax and kept more in my pocket. Thank you Michael for all of your help." – Gary Teicht

Most investors worry about the total return on their retirement portfolio. But the biggest cost of a portfolio is usually the tax bill. In fact, at the highest tax bracket, every tax dollar you save is equivalent to more than two dollars earned by you. That's why we urge you to contact Michael and his team today at **416 308 9084** or **Michael.Marcovitz@td.com** to see whether you qualify for a free, no obligation tax smart-evaluation of your retirement plan.

Michael Marcovitz MBA, LL.B.
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
michaelmarcovitz.com

The Marcovitz Group

The Marcovitz Group consists of Michael Marcovitz, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor, Jason Edmunds, Client Service Associate, Jane Ly, Assistant Investment Advisor, and Laura Coutu, Client Service Associate. The Marcovitz Group is a part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. – Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund. © The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. MAR2016EPL

WORLD RENOWNED SPEAKERS & EVENTS COMING TO ADATH ISRAEL

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY JIHAD GOES GLOBAL

OFER BAVLY
Director General JUF
(Jewish United Fund of Chicago)
Former Consul General of Israel to Florida

Moderator JEFF SPRINGER
Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Monday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
$15 in advance | $20 at the door

Scholar in Residence Program
Rabbi Tzvi Marx

Navigating Double Loyalty to Israel and to Humanity under the Shadow of Terror in the 21st Century

Rabbi Tzvi Marx was director of education of the Shalom Hartman Institute of [illegible]

Sunday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
No charge

A Mother's Day Event

ASTRITH BALTSAN

The Unbelievable Story of *Hatikvah*
A unique multi-media program

"Wonderful Performance!" Zubin Mehta
"Gigantic Achievement!" Shimon Peres
"Jaws dropped and tears ran as Baltsan delved into the surprising history. Captivating!" NY Jewish Week

Sunday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.
$20 in advance | $25 at the door

Adath Israel Sponsorship Partners for the Mother's Day Event:

This event was inspired by the UJA ShinShinim trip to Israel.

Acknowledging 'Sefirah' (Counting of the Omer) this presentation will include the historical musical background of Hatikvah with piano accompaniment to further educate and explore the deeper meaning of Israel's National Anthem.

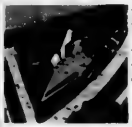
The Ramban; [Maimonides] Has the world changed in the last 1000 years

Hon. Harvey Spiegel, Q.C.

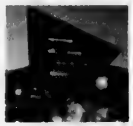
Thursday, May 12, 11:00 a.m.
$10 in advance | $15 at the door

An Audio-visual Presentation and Discussion
Daniel Libeskind

World Renown Architect



Architect, artist, professor and set designer of Polish Jewish descent. Over the years he has designed many Jewish institutions, including:



The Jewish Museum Berlin
Contemporary Jewish Museum - San Francisco
National Holocaust Museum Ottawa
Amsterdam Holocaust Memorial
Danish Jewish Museum

Tuesday, May 3
7:30 p.m.
$15 in advance
$20 at the door

NAVIGATING YOUR INVE$TMENT$ THROUGH THE NEGATIVITY

DAVID ROSENBERG
Chief Economist & Strategist - Gluskin Sheff
Former Chief North American Economist at Merrill Lynch in New York

Moderator
AMANDA LANG
Business Journalist, TV Anchor, Author for Bloomberg News

Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.
$15 in advance | $20 at the door

ADMIT ONE

Refreshments served at all events
Register online **www.adathisrael.com**

416.635.5340 x 308 or louise@adathisrael.com

Adath Israel Congregation | **37 Southbourne Avenue • Toronto, Ontario • M3H 1A4**

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 7, 2016

Rabbi Weiss recalls days as advocate for Soviet Jewry

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Rabbi Avi Weiss is no stranger to highly charged political causes. He was thrown out of the Auschwitz death camp in 1989 for protesting the presence there of a Carmelite convent; in 1985 he lambasted then-president Ronald Reagan for visiting a German military cemetery that held the graves of SS troops; he's advocated for the release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard; and he's supported a U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing same sex couples to marry.

But of all the causes he has promoted, it is the one to support freedom for Soviet Jews that tugs closest to his heartstrings.

"It was a humble hero movement," Rabbi Weiss said.

Rabbi Weiss was a young man when he first took to the streets to push for freedom for Soviet Jews. It was 1964, at the height of the U.S. civil rights movement, when Rabbi Weiss first got involved as a leader with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Now 71, Rabbi Weiss is author of *Open Up the Iron Door: Memoirs of a Soviet Jewry Activist*, a book he wrote in 2015. He was scheduled to reminisce about his activist days at a public lecture at Beth Tikvah Congregation on April 3.

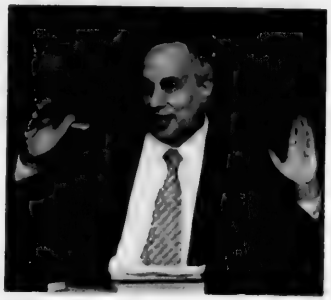
Beth Tikvah is intimately connected to the movement for Soviet Jews, Rabbi Weiss explained on the phone from New York before the event. Avital Sharansky, wife of then "Refusenik" Natan Sharansky, spoke there on several occasions. Her relative, Stan Solomon, is a member of the shul and was very active in the movement, Rabbi Weiss noted.

Back in the day, young activists butted heads with members of the Jewish establishment during discussions over the extent of the pressure the United States should exercise in promoting Soviet emigration .

"We were young, hard-hitting, raised in the shadow of the Shoah," Rabbi Weiss explained.

In the early 1970s, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment was a hot topic in the United States. It tied trade to Soviet emigration and it divided young activists from many establishment Jews, who feared the Nixon administration's efforts at detente would be hampered by confronting the Soviet Union.

Going back even before Jackson-Vanik was being debated, Rabbi Weiss said the movement for Soviet Jews resulted from "a confluence of several factors. I think Jews, 20 years after the Holocaust, began to stand up and the clarion call was, 'never again.'"



Rabbi Avi Weiss FILE PHOTO

At the same time, the civil rights movement was in full bloom and many young people were influenced by Rev. Martin Luther King, who himself spoke out in support of Soviet Jews.

You can add to the mix Israel's remarkable victory in the 1967 Six Day War, which "instilled pride in Jews, to stand up," he said.

It took many years before the doors of the Soviet Union were flung open and in 1985, recalled Rabbi Weiss, he and others, including Moshe Ronen – at the time a student activist who would go on to become president of Canadian Jewish Congress – were arrested in Geneva during the first Reagan/Mikhail Gorbachev summit over a sit-in at the Aeroflot Soviet national airline's offices.

He spent two days in a maximum security prison for the act – just one of 50 times he's been arrested for his activism, 36 of them connected to the Soviet Jewry movement.

With the perspective of years, Rabbi Weiss now says, "there are certain things I did that I regret."

Despite his disagreements with the establishment, he believes both were working towards the same goal.

There was "a cacophony, [we were] at each other's throats," he said. "In the end, we were a symphony. We needed the activists. We needed the establishment."

"It took the activists to push the establishment to be more aggressive on this," he said. "It's the way it works. Movements start on the fringe."

Looking back, Rabbi Weiss believes advocacy for Soviet Jewry was something momentous.

"It was the most important Jewish human rights movement since the Holocaust," he said. ■

FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

LET THIS BE...
YOUR YEAR!
Live Life to the Fullest at Four Elms!

THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF RICHARD RODGERS
Wednesday, April 20th , 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Dr. Mike Daley will have you tapping your toes and singing along as he chronicles the life of Richard Rodgers through the amazing music of Rodgers and Hart and Rodgers and Hammerstein. An event not to be missed! Please RSVP

Verve INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING

905-738-0905 | 3500 STEELES AVE. WEST, THORNHILL, ON | www.verveseniorliving.com

GUEST VOICE

Have you had enough Jewish studies by Grade 8?

Rabbi Lee Buckman

As head of school at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, I frequently speak about the importance of a Jewish high school education and why I love what I do. It centres around three factors.

First, a Jewish high school education plays a vital role in solidifying a teenager's Jewish identity. Adolescence is such a turbulent period of life that teenagers often reject, challenge, question and doubt some of the most sacred family values and norms. This is even true for children who have had an elementary Jewish day school education – one week of adolescence can wipe out a lot of tuition dollars quite speedily.

What Jewish high schools do is maximize the investment that parents and teachers have made during the early years of life and help students emerge Jewishly whole and strong.

Second, the big, complex questions are discussed and debated in high school. In elementary school, children gain a foundation in Hebrew, Jewish history and Jewish texts. The deeper questions lie ahead. I often hear some parents say that their children don't want to continue their Jewish studies after their bar or bat mitzvah. Sometimes I hear middle school students say that they already know "enough" Hebrew and Judaics.

I'm not sure why so many parents accept that argument. If a Grade 8 child were to say, "I know enough math already," we would roll our eyes and say, "That's why I am the parent!" The same should be our response when 13- or 14-year-olds say to us that they know enough about their heritage or Israel and don't need to continue their Jewish educational journey. There are a lot of understandable reasons for why parents may not choose Jewish high school for their child. "Knowing enough," however, is not one of them.

Third, a Jewish high school education prepares students to feel comfortable in their own Jewish skin when they face the "real world" outside the Jewish bubble. Some parents will be surprised to hear this because they think that Jewish day school only solidifies the bubble. They believe that only public schools or non-Jewish private schools prepare their child for the "real world."

> *A Jewish high school education plays a vital role in solidifying a teenager's Jewish identity*

Skeptics will say: "How will my child ever be able to deal with the open, diverse world of the university if he or she is sheltered in a day school all his or her life?"

The most perceptive response I've heard to this question comes from a former high school student of mine. "When I get to the university, I will have developed such a strong sense of who I am as a Jew that I will be able to contribute to that diversity," he said. "And that's only because of my Jewish day school education." Out of the mouths of babes comes the most powerful advice to us adults.

So, has your child had enough Jewish studies by Grade 8? Hopefully you will agree, absolutely not. Every day that I walk through our school doors, I see firsthand the path to passionate and committed Jewish adulthood being shaped – each student strengthening a Jewish future for all of us. ■

Rabbi Lee Buckman is head of school at TanenbaumCHAT.

Mom has Alzheimer's and our weekend caregiver didn't show up...again.
One Kenton Place offers 24 hour worry-free specialized dementia care.
One
KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One.
• Activity based programming
• Personalized care plans for every need
• New state-of-the-art dedicated facility
Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto
COR

Thornhill's finest retirement community. Home to Thornhill's finest.

So, who are Thornhill's finest? They are the parents who raised their families here, and built the GTA into Canada's most vibrant Jewish community. Best of all, they continue to volunteer throughout the community – making it a truly special place to live.

It's people like this who inspire us daily at VIVA to fulfil our simple purpose: *Making Today Great!* From our warm and caring Team, to our delicious and healthy dining, modern amenities, inspiring activities and so much more, we look forward to becoming home to more of Thornhill's finest.

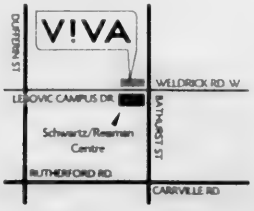
Jewish Cuisine | Independent and Assisted Living

Second Person Free!*
Plus, get an extra 10% off.*

Benefits of Retirement Living Presentation
Wednesday, April 13th, 2:30pm-4:00pm
Learn about independent living and assisted living with Wellness Manager, Maria Chipongian.

Call Wendy Teperman at 905.417.8585 to RSVP today!

VIVA Retirement Communities
THORNHILL WOODS
Making Today Great!
9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

Lawyer looking for local victims of international terror

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Toronto lawyer Leo Adler wants to bring those who violate international humanitarian law by their terrorist campaigns against Israel to justice.

Adler, Canadian counsel for The Lawfare Project, believes these human rights violators – more specifically, those who ordered and carried out terrorist attacks – can be, and should be, prosecuted for their breaches of international law, right here in Canada.

To do so, however, would require several difficult and problematic hurdles be cleared, starting with the most basic: finding a Canadian who was a victim of Palestinian terrorism. That would start the ball rolling, leading ultimately, he hopes, to a criminal prosecution of a terrorist perpetrator.

Adler is appealing to victims to come forward. "We would hold their hands through the process," he said.

Fighting terrorism on a legal battleground is one of many tactics promoted south of the border by The Lawfare Project.

The New York-based NGO describes itself as "a legal think tank that facilitates litigation and other legal actions to protect the civil and human rights of the pro-human rights and counter-terrorism communities, halt the funding of terrorism, and combat the persistent abuses of U.S. and international legal systems by those who oppose democracy and freedom."

Among its anti-terrorism activities, it cites legal actions against organizations that provide material support for designated terror groups; exposing state-sponsored indoctrination of Palestinian children to become suicide bombers; and pursuing war crimes charges against terror leaders and state sponsors of terrorism.

Adler said the Palestinians have been pursuing Israel at the International Criminal Court (ICC) ever since the Palestinian Authority (PA) was named an observer state by the UN. Even before that, the Comoros Islands and Turkey sought to bring Israel to the ICC bar over the death of nine Turkish jihadis on board the Mavi Marmara, a Comoros Islands-registered ship that was attempting to run Israel's blockade of Gaza in 2010.

"We're outraged by how Israel is positioned as the criminal when all you have to do is listen to Palestinian radio and [visit] websites where they promote hate and terrorism and incite their young people," Adler, who in addition to practising law also teaches international criminal law at Osgoode Hall said.

"We're into a stabbing stage now. We feel

Leo Adler

the real criminals ought to come to trial. Those real criminals are the people at the head of Hamas, certain people at the head of the Palestinian Authority, and people at the head of Iran. These are the groups and countries that are committing war crimes and crimes against humanity," Adler said.

"We want to be able to get arrest warrants for those guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, or just plain murder, involving Canadians," he continued. "That means we're looking for Canadians who were victims, either of the Gaza wars or of other terrorist attacks that occurred."

Adler believes that once presented with a file prepared by the Lawfare Project, outlining the case in some detail, Canadian authorities will prosecute it.

"The Canadian government has always indicated to me when I've spoken to them that they take their obligations to prosecute anyone who commits these types of heinous crimes against Canadians very seriously." Adler said the prosecution of two Rwandans provides a precedent in prosecuting war crimes committed abroad.

But how does launching a case in Canada bring to justice someone living in Gaza or the Palestinian territories?

There are two mechanisms available, he responded. One is through extradition if and when the alleged perpetrator travels abroad to a country with which Canada maintains an extradition treaty.

In addition, the charges would be relayed to Interpol, which could "red flag" the alleged perpetrator and he would be held if he travels to any of the more than 100 countries in which Interpol operates.

For Adler, prosecuting terrorists who attack Jews is a matter of justice.

"Jews are no longer the lambs to be led to the slaughter," he said.

"For millenia Jews have been the target of violent injustice," he said. "If there's anything we should have learned from our history, including the Shoah, it's that we cannot allow the perpetrators to avoid justice." ■

Adler can be reached at: adler@CrimLawCanada.com

UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

Jewish Holidays are intertwined with the food we eat and the people we share it with. Sadly for many Jews, all over the world, poverty and hunger define the celebration.

Imagine, you can be the change that helps a Jewish family put food on their holiday table.

globalseder.com

HELP JEWS IN TORONTO, ISRAEL, CUBA AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION CELEBRATE A MEANINGFUL AND JOYFUL PASSOVER BY DONATING TO UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER.

TO MAKE A GIFT, VISIT WWW.GLOBALSEDER.COM OR CALL THE UJA HOTLINE AT 416.631.5705.

For more information about Global Seder contact Rafi Yablonsky at 416.631.5820 or ryablonsky@ujafed.org.

With a donation of $100 you receive a set of 30 hand-crafted place cards for your Seder table.

With a gift of $500 you receive Passover-themed puppets as well as the hand-crafted place cards.

Dollars raised through the Global Seder support UJA Campaign allocated programs and services in Toronto, Cuba, Israel and the Former Soviet Union.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 7, 2016

Daughter spots her teenaged survivor mother in video

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Like so many of us, Evelyn Rochwerg was noodling around the Internet one night, on a Facebook group for children of Holocaust survivors. Someone had posted a YouTube trailer for a film called *Every Face Has a Name*, an award-winning 2015 Swedish documentary that attempts to track down and interview survivors of German concentration camps, seen in black-and-white archival shots, arriving at the harbour of Malmo, Sweden, on April 28, 1945.

The film trains its lens on elderly survivors' reactions as they recognize themselves or relatives in the grainy, black-and-white footage of those arriving to safety in Sweden at war's end.

Rochwerg, who lives in Richmond Hill, was always interested in locating long-lost loved ones. She clicked on the two-minute trailer – "I figured, what are the chances?" – and within 10 seconds, she "totally freaked out."

There in the crowd, smiling broadly and waving between two grim-faced kerchiefed women on that spring day in 1945 was her 16-year-old mother, Lola.

"Oh my God, I was screaming. I said, 'My mother's in the video!' I didn't know this existed. I never saw a picture of my mother as a child. I was on such a high," Rochwerg, 58, told *The CJN* in an effusive interview.

After calming down, Rochwerg ordered the film and wrote to its producers, who have said they are eager to track down the stories of the people in the archival shots.

"I've gone through these pictures quite a lot of times and have more than one time wondered about the girl with the big smile," said researcher Sebastian Claesson, who had a few questions for Rochwerg.

The Krakow-born Lola Preiss was an inmate of the Ravensbruck concentration camp in northern Germany and lost her parents and both brothers in the Holocaust. After liberation, she was taken by the Red Cross to Denmark, where she was quarantined for several weeks, and then on to Sweden.

"You can see from the few seconds of footage that they're not happy," Rochwerg noted of the glum arrivals.

"They're now free but they've just been through hell."

Yet, her mother wears a high-wattage, ear-to-ear smile.

"She was still young and all alone, but I guess she realized that she had her whole life ahead of her."

Evelyn Rochwerg's mother Lola can be seen smiling in the second row.

Lola is now 87 and is wintering in Florida. Rochwerg said she can hardly wait to screen the footage for her. And in keeping with the movie's theme, she also wants to film her mother's reaction to seeing her younger self.

"She has the same face," Rochwerg said with a chuckle.

After arriving in Sweden, her mother was taken to an all-girls school in the town of Forsbacka. Soon after, Jakob Sylman, a fellow Pole who survived the war in Siberia, arrived to attend an all-boys school. The two met and planned to get to Palestine.

They set sail at the height of the British blockade. Though their ship landed, they and the other passengers were intercepted and taken to Cyprus, where they were interned.

Following statehood, they made it to Israel, where they helped start Kibbutz Dovrat. They were married in 1949 and came to Canada in 1952 to begin new lives.

Her parents "never talked about their experiences," Rochwerg said. "It wasn't something we discussed. My mother tried to shield me from anything bad." Her father died two years ago.

As an added bonus, also in the same shot as her mother is Rochwerg's father's first cousin, Hava Sylman, who was then around 25 and also survived Ravensbruck. She's now in her mid-90s and lives in Toronto.

Hailed by *Variety* magazine, *Every Face Has a Name* shows Jews arriving from all over Europe – "Norwegian prisoners of war, Polish mothers and children, members of the French resistance and British spies – and perhaps unique among them, a young Italian-American who was accused of being a spy while visiting her grandparents and deported to Auschwitz."

Rochwerg still can't get over the shock of seeing her mother's young, happy face.

"I keep looking at the video," she said. ■

Free

LARGE PRINT HAGGADAHS

for those who are visually impaired or reading disabled The JBI Library can help you or a loved one fully enjoy the Passover Seder!

Aussi disponible en français/l'hébreu

Please call the JBI Library before
April 15, 2016
800-999-6476

To download or order online at
www.jbilibrary.org

JBI International
110 East 30 Street, New York, NY 10016 · Established as The Jewish Braille Institute in 1931

Shelter rescues Israeli dogs and 'Jewish' horses

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Fifty or so kilometres north of Toronto, on a farm in King City, dogs with names like "Doobi" and "Chetz" sit and heel in response to Hebrew commands.

Dog Tales, a dog and horse sanctuary owned by Israeli couple Danielle Eden and Rob Scheinberg, is home to dozens of dogs rescued from kill shelters located in countries around the world – Israel being one – and around 70 horses rescued from meat buyers in Canada.

The 50-acre farm currently provides sanctuary to about 80 dogs that would otherwise be killed due to capacity issues in shelters in places such as Greece, Africa, Egypt, Romania and the United States, in addition to Israel.

It also takes on what Eden calls "surrenders" from Canada – dogs given up by their owners for various reasons.

"There's a high kill shelter we work with in Miami, for example, where they get so many dogs they have no room for them and have to euthanize some – it doesn't matter if the dog is old, sick or healthy… In Israel, there are too many shelters and too many dogs, and it's a very small country… A dog that has been sitting in a shelter for years there will be adopted *here* within only a few days," Eden explained.

Since opening in 2015, Dog Tales has rescued about 100 dogs from Israel and has found permanent homes in and around the Greater Toronto Area for more than 350 dogs in total.

The rescues, which live in an indoor kennel and are walked by staff on the outdoor grounds five or six times a day, are gradually trained to understand English commands.

Still, Eden typically uses the Hebrew words for "sit" and "come here" with newly arrived Israeli dogs, and she's taught these basic Hebrew terms to her staff.

In addition to the dogs, a number of the horses – many of which are retired or old and most of which are not available for adoption, but spend their days grazing in the property's expansive fields – have been given what Eden referred to as "Jewish names," such as Eli and Avram.

Dog Tales, which has the capacity for about 100 dogs at a time, often takes in dogs that are older, deaf, blind, injured or have been stuck in cages for years in their country of origin.

Dog Tales' owner Danielle Eden with Cava, adopted several months ago from Israel

The sanctuary doesn't rescue puppies, because, as Eden said, "everyone else does," adding, "I'm trying to take the dogs that aren't the absolute hardest cases but are stuck [in shelters] for no good reason. For example, around the world, people often don't like to adopt black dogs, because they see them as bad luck, or they don't want older dogs."

Dog Tales employs a handful of dog handlers, a night guard and three veterinary technicians, who are available to do blood work or perform surgery as needed.

Every Sunday, the sanctuary has an open house and people from across the GTA come to scope out dogs for potential adoption, often while recorded Hebrew music is played in the background.

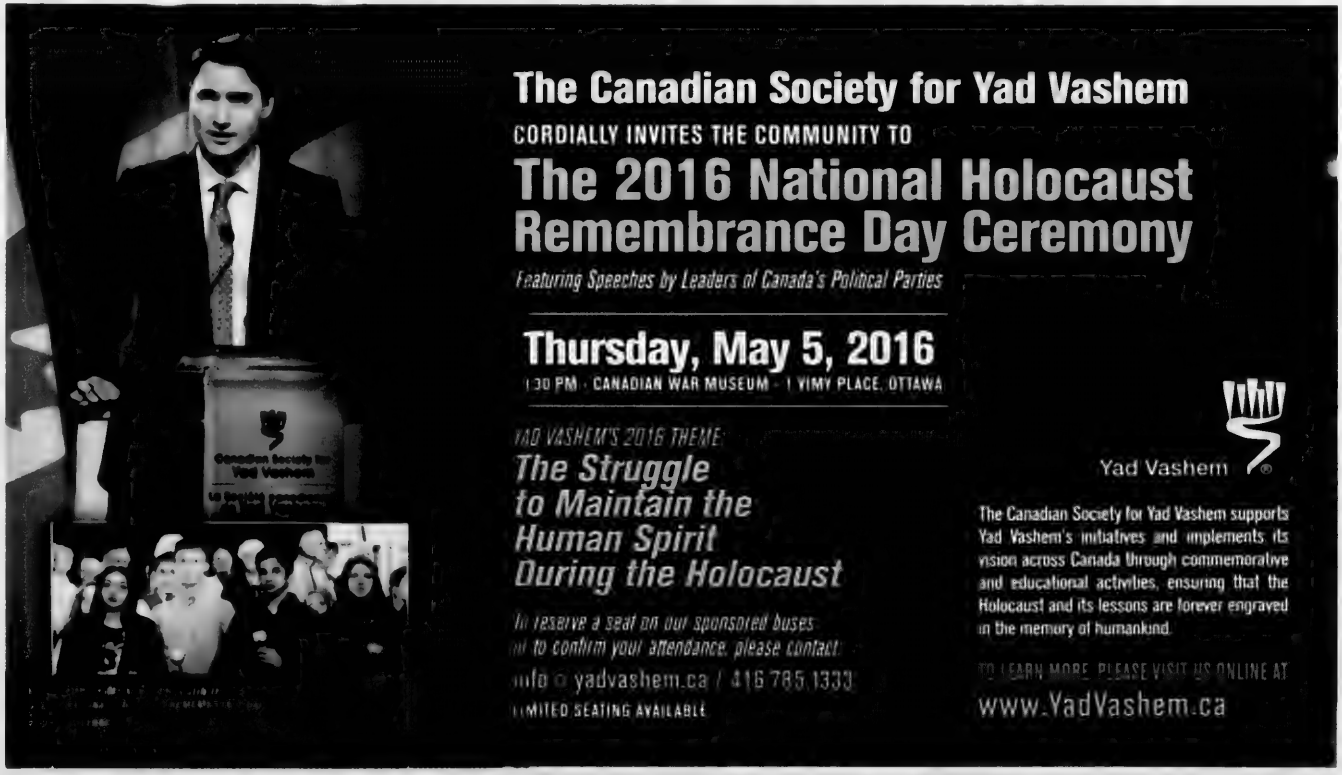
Also on Sundays, an Israeli chef is often brought in to cook vegetarian Israeli dishes such as shakshuka, bourekas and hummus, which visitors can eat for the price of donations that go toward the animals' care.

Eden, who lives on the farm with her husband, grew up in the heart of downtown Tel Aviv, but has always been passionate about animals and animal welfare.

A longtime dog owner, she and her husband used to donate money to dog shelters in Israel before they decided to open their own sanctuary outside of Toronto, where Eden first lived for a period after moving from Israel. Scheinberg is Israeli but was raised in Canada.

Before opening Dog Tales, Eden studied acting in Israel and recently starred in an Israeli movie, called *Laugh Lines*, which ran in the Montreal Film Festival in 2015.

"I'm not acting anymore. This is a full-time job. I can't do both," she said. ■


The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
CORDIALLY INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO
The 2016 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony
Featuring Speeches by Leaders of Canada's Political Parties
Thursday, May 5, 2016
1:30 PM · CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM · 1 VIMY PLACE, OTTAWA
YAD VASHEM'S 2016 THEME:
The Struggle to Maintain the Human Spirit During the Holocaust
To reserve a seat on our sponsored buses or to confirm your attendance, please contact:
info@yadvashem.ca / 416 785 1333
LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
Yad Vashem
The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem supports Yad Vashem's initiatives and implements its vision across Canada through commemorative and educational activities, ensuring that the Holocaust and its lessons are forever engraved in the memory of humankind.
TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.YadVashem.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 7, 2016

Purim peaceful this year in Montreal borough

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Purim passed without incident in Outremont this year and no tickets were issued for the use of minibuses to ferry chassidic children around the neighbourhood, as is the custom of this community on the holiday.

However, the issue is by no means settled, as far as the Chassidim are concerned, say Mayer Feig, a spokesperson for the Jewish Orthodox Community Council, and Mindy Pollak, an Outremont borough councillor, who is chassidic.

In 2014 and last year, six tickets were issued by police to the drivers of minibuses rented by the chassidic community to transport children from home to home on Purim. The children bring gifts to members of their community and generally spread good cheer.

The tickets, which average $245 each, were contested in Montreal municipal court and, on Feb. 22, the prosecutor withdrew the charges. The judge approved that decision saying that there is insufficient signage on the streets of Outremont informing the public of the ban on this type of vehicle.

The case of two other tickets being contested is due to come before the court in April. The defendants are being represented by lawyers associated with the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), a non-profit organization that fights discrimination.

The lawyers argue that the bylaw invoked to prohibit minibuses on residential streets has a discriminatory effect on Chassidim and therefore contravenes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as Quebec's rights charter.

Feig thanked the police for showing "sensitivity and leadership" in refraining from stopping the circulation of the minibuses this year. He said he had been told the police conducted their own internal legal review and used their discretion in not applying the bylaw.

Bylaw 1171 was adopted by Outremont in 2003 to prevent large inter-city buses from circulating on residential streets. This was in response to complaints about the frequent buses the Chassidim run between Montreal and New York.

Feig said the community, by and large, accepted that this was a reasonable restriction. Things were quiet until 2013 when, for the first time, tickets were issued against minibuses under that bylaw.

Outremont Coun. Mindy Pollak in Purim costume. JANICE ARNOLD PHOTO

Feig charged that this was at the instigation of "a certain individual who found a technicality in the wording of the bylaw" that could make it applicable to minibuses even though typically, with 21 seats, they are much smaller than the New York-bound coaches.

He was referring to borough councillor Céline Forget, a longtime campaigner against what she views as violations by Chassidim of Outremont regulations.

The bylaw refers to vehicles with more than two back wheels, which could be interpreted to encompass minibuses. The borough has suggested the community use smaller minivans, but Feig said these are not as safe. "This is all about the safety of the kids," he said.

The issue is also larger. It's about the Chassidim's sense that the borough is targeting the community and trying to make it feel unwelcome, he said.

The community, made up of different sects, continues to grow and is estimated to represent at least 20 per cent of the population.

"We have reached out to the mayor [Marie Cinq-Mars] and asked her to sit down with us and work out a solution… But the mayor has refused to listen," Feig said.

While everything went smoothly this year, Feig said the past couple of years have been "very stressful" for the community on what is supposed to be one of its most joyous holidays.

"The past two years were almost a battle of the streets, with police cars all around us… It does not make sense to harass a community," he said. "We just want to live in peace… vivre ensemble," he said, borrowing Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's slogan. ■

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

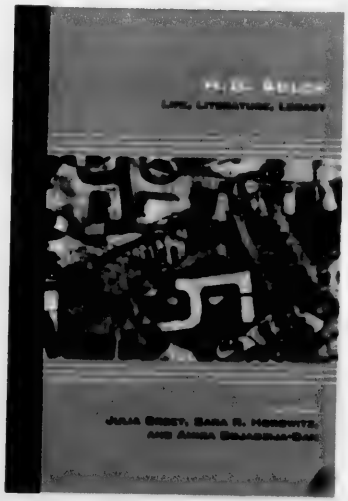
At Corwin Mortgage Capital
We work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000[illegible]
[illegible] 1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

THE ISRAEL AND GOLDA KOSCHITZKY CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT YORK UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
BOOK LAUNCH: H. G. ADLER – LIFE, LITERATURE, LEGACY

THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2016 **AT 5PM**



H. G. Adler: Life, Literature, Legacy is the first collection of essays in English dedicated to the life and work of German-language author H. G. Adler. Among the international scholars of German, Jewish, and Holocaust literature and history who reveal the range of Adler's legacy across genres are Adler's son Jeremy Adler, and Peter Filkins, translator of Adler's trilogy: The Journey, Panorama, and The Wall Together. the essays examine Adler's writing in relation to his life, especially his memory as a survivor of the Nazi death camps and his posthumous recognition for having produced a Gesamtkunstwerk, an aesthetic synthesis of the Shoah.

ISRAEL AND GOLDA KOSCHITZKY CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES
YORK UNIVERSITY, 4700 KEELE STREET
7th floor, Kaneff Tower

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
חמרכז ללימודי יהדות

REGISTER AT
CJS@YORKU.CA
416-736-5823

'We're not interested in being the police for speakers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Jewish organizations such as Toronto's federation and JNF Canada, which sign on as sponsors but have not hired the speaker themselves, sometimes find themselves in the uncomfortable position of being seen as censors, a role they adamantly deny they play when they withdraw their sponsorships.

UJA Federation of Toronto cannot and does not want to be a clearing house for the hundreds of speakers its affiliated agencies bring in every year, which would be "a bureaucratic nightmare," Shulman said. "We're not interested in being the police for political speakers and cultural speakers," he said.

Drafting guidelines for speakers that would cover every situation without being too over-reaching would be impossible. In the end, federation relies on its co-operative relationships with the agencies it supports, he said.

The question of whether an artist's work can be separated from his or her politics is a thorny one, where lines are blurred. But even when Jewish organizations invite politicians who have an unambiguous record on Israeli issues, the situation can be less than straightforward.

JNF Canada rescinded its invitation to former Arkansas governor and Republican U.S. presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee last year, when statements he had made about same-sex couples and transgenderism came to light.

Huckabee, who was to have spoken at a Negev dinner in Ottawa raising money for autism research in Israel, was selected because he is a "staunch supporter of Israel," but the "media spotlight has recently focused on Mr. Huckabee's comments that bear no relevance to JNF or autism," Cooper said at the time.

A 2013 Negev dinner honouring then-prime minister Stephen Harper for his unequivocal support of the Jewish State attracted 4,000 people and raised what was then a record $5.7 million.

"I am not aware of any criticism," Cooper said in an emailed statement. "There was widespread recognition from our community that he was a most deserving honoree."

But, there were prominent members of the Jewish community who felt that Harper's record on refugees – his government had restricted access to health care for them, among other concerns – made him an inappropriate choice for a community that should have a particular sensitivity to refugee issues.

Mike Huckabee

Similarly, there were those who felt that Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, honoured by CIJA and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto last year, was a poor choice because her government had taken a hard stance on extending funding to Jewish day schools.

Wynne, like Harper, is a supporter of Israel, and both politicians used the honour to announce an official mission to Israel.

Fogel says that "some criticism was motivated by partisan consideration, but none that I am aware of related to any substantive criticism of Premier Wynne's position on Israel."

The Jewish community and Israel's supporters are far from monolithic, and as political discourse has become more highly charged and partisan, perhaps it is impossible for Jewish organizations to find a compelling speaker who avoids any whiff of controversy.

But in some cases, there are guidelines. For CIJA, that means speakers may be chosen to educate or "provide a platform for competing views," Fogel said. "All of that is kosher, provided the overall program reflects balance and none of the participants breach the red line on either side of the spectrum (rejection of Israel, racism, etc.)"

For other groups in the Jewish community the interpretation of where that line lies varies. At the Koffler Centre, they are excited that Kushner will be sharing his experiences on the stage in May, Jonasson said.

"We have a responsibility to artists and to our audiences. We choose artists because we think they have something valuable to offer through their art." ■

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto

APRIL 3 - 13, 2016

DONATE TODAY

SO ALL CAN CELEBRATE

Thank you for Caring for Our Community

DELIVERY DAY: APRIL 17, 2016 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

416.633.5100 · pfd@ncjwctoronto.org · www.PassoverFoodDrive.org · www.NCJWCToronto.org

Our Sponsors: **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** · Barrday · Dov Capital · Durante's No Frills · Pat's No Frills · Circle of Care · Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Foundation · Liberal · Great Gulf Homes · Carlo's No Frills · Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Jewish Family & Child · Brampton Brick · Metroland Media · Sobeys Hilda & Clarke · Terraplan Landscape Architects · DMS Property Management · Universal Lamp · Jewish Immigrant Aid Services · HomeSweetHomeToronto.com · Jewish Youth Network · Burnbrae Farms · Y5 Creative Studio

Airport operator enthusiastic about vintage planes

JACK BORENSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The operator/partner of the little-known Markham Airport north-east of Toronto, developed his lifelong passion for airplanes and photography as a child.

Under Allan Rubin's watch over three decades, the small, private sector airport on 300 acres of land has accumulated a collection of vintage aircraft and memorabilia, as well as military photographic equipment. It also has a flight school and runs a high school co-op program. Rubin's goal now is to expand the airport.

The Thornhill, Ont., resident, now in his mid-70s, grew up in Toronto and spent much of his youth around privately owned Barker Airfield, which was located at the current intersection of Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West.

"A school friend's father... took me flying in a World War II Tiger Moth plane he owned, which began my affection for aviation," Rubin said.

He received his first camera just before his bar mitzvah, and was a member of the Vaughan Road Collegiate camera club. "I had a chance to go to New York or Los Angeles to learn about photography, but my mother insisted I stay in Toronto and attend school."

Allan Rubin in front of a vintage RCAF jet

At 18, Rubin enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). "At CFB Borden, they had a special photography school, and I began photo reconnaissance training."

At a Western Canada base, Rubin trained in operations as part of the photo intelligence corps. During the Cold War, he accompanied pilots and took aerial photographs on top secret NATO missions in various parts of the world.

"In 1957, I flew in an aircraft based out of England that reached an altitude of approximately 60,000 to 65,000 feet, entering Soviet Union airspace."

He became a member of Roadrunners Internationale, an elite group of pilots and technicians stationed at a base in the Nevada desert in the 1950s and '60s, during the Cold War. "The CIA was developing an aircraft that had a great speed of 24,000 miles per hour and could climb to 90,000 feet," he said. "The U.S. was so advanced in aeronautics during the late 1950s, that people thought aliens were operating those aircrafts."

In 1962, Rubin left the RCAF and returned to Canada. His wife, Lorraine, was pregnant, and they wanted to settle down. He quickly got a job as director of the photo engineering department at the Ontario Research Foundation (ORF).

"My job involved seeing what was occurring with high-speed motion picture and time lapse photography," he said.

Today, his focus is on his attempt to expand the Markham Airport so that it "functions as a regional airport providing aeronautic services to replace Buttonville Airport," which is slated to close in the fall of 2016.

The expansion would not affect the proposed Pickering Airport, he said. "This would result in no conflicts between air traffic at Pickering Airport and Markham Airport. Markham... would come within the control zone of Pickering's air traffic control."

Rubin is president of Jewish Veterans Association and of the Canadian Air Land Sea Museum and founder of the Jewish Canadian Military Museum.

"I have the largest military photographic equipment collection that I know of," he said. "Someday when we have a major museum, I hope to contribute wartime intelligence, photography and equipment."

He has also devoted 65 airport acres to agriculture "where we've produced soybeans growing 16 to 24 inches high, have two beehives and a cornfield."

Rubin is proud of his co-op education program on aircraft maintenance and mechanics at York Region secondary schools. "I'm hoping more Jewish kids become interested in aeronautics and aviation. Universities have opportunities to have their aerospace programs at our aviation facility instead of a classroom setting."

He is a 25-year-plus member of General Wingate Branch No. 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and president of the Jewish Canadian War Veterans Memorial Park Cemetery at Toronto's Mount Sinai Memorial Park. ■

Lilith editor returns home for Women's Symposium

MYRON LOVE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, WINNIPEG

Although Susan Weidman Schneider left Winnipeg (for Brandeis University) in 1961, growing up in Winnipeg left a strong imprint in the founder and still editor-in-chief of the award winning Jewish feminist magazine *Lilith*.

Weidman Schneider has returned to Winnipeg many times over the years to see family. She will be back again on the weekend of April 9 and 10 as the keynote speaker at Winnipeg's first Jewish Women's Symposium, which will be held at the Rady Centre inside the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

The Jewish Women's Symposium will begin on the Saturday evening with Havdalah and a program showcasing women's contributions to the performing arts. This will be followed by a wine and dessert reception. Sunday will be a series of sessions through a Jewish lens with 15 different panelists discussing such topics as Women in Jewish Leadership/Cultivating the Next Generation, Choices We Made, Jumping In, Navigating Challenges and Social Action/Jewish Values.

"We are thrilled to have Susan Weidman Schneider as our keystone speaker," says Tamar Barr, the assistant executive director at the Rady Centre which is co-sponsoring the symposium with National Council of Jewish Women of Canada – Winnipeg Section. "Susan's magazine, and her books, articles and lectures, are often credited with changing the way women see themselves and shape their roles in the Jewish community. *Lilith* provides women with fuel to power change."

Barr notes that Schneider's major articles have covered, among other subjects, Jewish women's philanthropy, the Jewish stake in abortion rights, gender stereotypes of Jews and the positive effects of feminism on Jewish life. She is the author of three books: *Jewish and Female*, the first book to take a comprehensive look at Jewish women's special concerns; *Intermarriage: The Challenge of Living with Differences between Christians and Jews* and *Head and Heart*, about money in the lives of women – and has won several journalism awards.

Weidman Schneider credits her early synagogue involvement in Winnipeg for helping develop her feminist outlook. "My maternal zaide was a member of the Rosh Pina Synagogue in North Winnipeg," she recalls. "And in the Junior Congregation

Susan Weidman Schneider

there, I was exposed to two amazing Israeli educators - Jack Horowitz and his nephew, Gadi. They didn't impose any gender constraints on us as kids. Girls as well as boys were encouraged to lead services. As a result, I experienced a more elastic view of Judaism than many of my contemporaries who grew up in other communities."

When asked what changes she has seen in the acceptance of woman in the Jewish world and modern life, she replies that while women are generally well-accepted in secular and religious leadership roles, there is still a question of equal value for equal work. For example, she questions how often female rabbis are considered for plum positions as compared to their male counterparts.

"And it's just not a matter of equal pay for equal work," she says. "There is also the question of what kind of lives people want to lead and where work fits in."

She says that she is looking forward to the upcoming symposium which, she notes, will be touching on many of the issues that *Lilith* tries to address. "I will be interested in what the participants in the symposium have to say as we try to determine where we go from here," she says.

Barr says the idea for the symposium arose from a meeting of community leaders a couple of years ago. "Our [the Rady Centre's] executive director Gayle Waxman thought that this would be a great opportunity to bring women together of all ages to exchange ideas, learn from each other and explore different ways women can make a difference in the Jewish and general communities.

"We put together a working committee of women from different Jewish organizations."

"The symposium has attracted a lot of interest," Barr says. "We are expecting a good attendance."

The Jewish Women's Symposium is receiving financial support from the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and Women's Philanthropy-Jewish Federation of Winnipeg. ■

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great SCHOOL

WE ARE SEEKING AN EXCEPTIONAL
CFO/Executive Director

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, a 100 year-old modern Jewish Community Day School with 1,400 students on four campuses is now searching for a CFO/Executive Director.

Reporting to the Head of School, the CFO/Executive Director is the Chief Financial and Operating Officer of the school. S/he is responsible for the following non-academic operations of the school, including but not limited to planning, preparation and implementation of the budget; financial, risk and facilities management; collection of school fees; health and safety; human resources including supervision of non-academic staff as well as oversight of payroll and staff records and IT; and support the administration and lay people of the Board of Directors.

Qualifications:

- A degree in finance, business administration or the equivalent
- Five or more years leading/managing a non-profit organization with a budget of over $5M, or demonstrated combination of for-profit experience combined with Board and volunteer experience
- The ability to work in an educational, religious environment
- Strong problem solving abilities, mature judgement, excellent ability to multi-task and prioritize
- Exceptional management, organizational, and interpersonal experience and skills
- A collaborative work style that fosters team-building and partnerships with staff, students, stakeholders and lay leaders
- A passion for community work
- Strong oral and written communications skills
- Fluency in IT applications

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies
York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

Education, Culture, Community

Lenard Wolinsky Lectures on Jewish Life and Education

RE-IMAGINING THE BIBLE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Professor
Lori Lefkovitz,
Northeastern University:

"Bedrooms and Battlefields: Biblical Foundations of Sexual, Gender, and Ethnic Identities"

Professor
Adele Reinhartz,
University of Ottawa:

"Holy Words of Hollywood: Moses as Jesus in DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* (1956)"

SUNDAY APRIL 10, 2016
2:00 P.M.
Private Dining Room
Executive Learning Centre,
Schulich School of Business
York University, Keele Campus

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SPACE IS LIMITED

FREE PARKING PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE LECTURE

REGISTER at: cjs@yorku.ca | Tel: 416-736-5823

www.cjs.blog.yorku.ca | facebook.com/cjsyorku

YORK UNIVERSITY

St. John's Jewish community one of the oldest in Canada

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Every year before Rosh Hashanah, members of the Jewish community of St. John's, N.L., travel to nearby Cape Spear, the most easterly point of land on the continent, to conduct a Shacharit morning prayer service while overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, thus becoming the first Jews in North America to greet the new year.

That's one of numerous points of distinction of this small Jewish community, which today numbers only a few dozen families. The community may never have been large – it peaked at an estimated 75 to 100 families some time in the 1940s or 1950s – but it is certainly one of the oldest in Canada.

The first Jews arrived in Newfoundland in the 1770s. "They were trading for fish and also seal furs and seal oil, which was used in lamps," said Robin McGrath, author of *Salt Fish and Shmattes: History of the Jews of Newfoundland and Labrador from 1770.*

Many in the modern community are descended from peddlers and shopkeepers who arrived from Eastern Europe and Russia in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, according to Dr. Douglas Wilansky, who was born in St. John's in 1929, the son of a Belarusian-born rabbi and his wife who ran Wilansky and Sons Limited. "My father was the rabbi for a period," he said. "My parents ran the clothing store and my mother also had another store. There were perhaps 10 or 15 Jewish stores in town."

Like many children of immigrants, Dr. Wilansky left Newfoundland in 1949, the year the former British colony became part of Canada. After graduating from medical school, he became founding chief of medicine (emeritus) at Toronto's Etobicoke General Hospital, a position from which he recently retired. But he still goes back to St. John's every year.

As it happens, Claire Frankel-Salama, current president of St. John's Beth El Synagogue, also has strong connections to Toronto. "I'm a Bathurst Street girl," she said, despite the fact that she's lived in St. John's for 30 years. She's a lecturer at Memorial University and her husband, Messod Salama, is a full professor.

"When we came here, it was the tail end of a certain era," she said. "There were a lot of Jewish businesses at one time and there were still some shopkeepers on Water Street. The Holocaust survivors and others who came here after the war sent their kids to universities in Montreal and Toronto, then they followed their kids and left." (Philip Riteman, a Holocaust survivor who stayed, is a renowned public speaker on the Holocaust who was awarded an honorary PhD by Memorial University several years ago.)

Beth El Synagogue. STREETVIEW CAPTURE

A memorable moment in the community's history occurred during the 9/11 crisis of 2001. The community went into full service mode to assist the many Jewish passengers who were stranded when their jets were forced to land here and in Gander.

The synagogue has weekly services and was recently the scene of a Purim party and a lively bat mitzvah last August. But the congregation never rebounded after a group splintered away about 10 years ago and formed a separate organization called Chavura.

Representatives of Chabad have also started visiting in recent years and a Chabad-connected rabbi has even been sending small presents on Jewish holidays, including shmurah matzah at Passover. One year the main shipping route from Sidney N.S. and the mainland was blocked when ice prevented the ferries from crossing the strait, Frankel-Salama recalled. "The only matzah we had for that seder was the matzah from Rabbi Gorelik," she said.

There is a kosher fruit winery on the island, but kosher grape wine must be ordered from Toronto. Kosher beef is hard to come by but a local Sobey's supermarket imports kosher chicken for the community. "We've had struggles moving from Chai to Marvid chicken like everyone else," Frankel-Salama said. "We eat a lot of fish – the fish here is wonderful."

The first Jews to the island came from England in the late 18th century, and historian-writer McGrath found a lot about them in the records of the synagogue in Plymouth, England. Simon Solomon, the first Jew in the St. John's area, was the first postmaster of Newfoundland, she said. "He was also a jeweller and a member of the dissenting church. He came to St. John's from Devon, England in 1792."

A retired Eskimologist who spent 25 years living in Baffin Island, McGrath was born and raised in St. John's, and spoke to *The CJN* from her current home in Goose Bay, Labrador. Her novel, *The Winterhouse*, which is salted with the early history of Newfoundland's Jewish community, won a Canadian Jewish Book Award in 2009.

"As a child growing up, the Jews were extremely important to me and my cultural development," she said. "I didn't grow up as a Jew but they were all around me. They were just very interesting, lively, cultured people, adventuresome and cultivated too."

This is the fourth in an occasional series on Jewish life in various small towns across Canada.

LIVE IN 4400 SF MANSION CONDOMINIUM
SURROUNDED BY RAVINES - WITHOUT THE UP KEEP OF A TYPICAL ESTATE

This 3 bdrm, 4 bth Penthouse w/10ft ceilings. Luxurious entry formal Living, Dining & Family room with gourmet kitchen each with walkouts to balconies, grand master with huge closet, 6 piece ensuite + balcony. 4 parking & Indoor Pool. Yonge/York Mills area near 401 and subway. $2,499,000

MARILYN MERRICK
Sales Representative
Dir. 416-879-8551

SAUL MERRICK, QC.
Sales Representative
Dir. 416-301-4911

Forest Hill
MERRICK
TORONTO REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

The intifadah of the Palestinian Generation Y

'Lone wolf' attacks not driven by religion and seem to be waning

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

Six months have elapsed since the "lone wolf" intifadah began. In those six months, 33 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed by Palestinian assailants, and there have been roughly 270 terror attacks and attempted terror attacks of various kinds, including shootings, car rammings and stabbings.

Some 200 Palestinians have been killed in the same period, more than two-thirds of them in the act of trying to attack Israelis, and others in clashes with Israeli troops. More than 270 terrorists have participated in these attacks – which amount to more than one per day on average. And yet, some still insist on calling this phenomenon a "wave," perhaps in an attempt to create hope that it will soon disappear.

The wave refuses to disappear, but it has declined significantly in recent weeks. There have been fewer attacks and fewer terrorists setting out to stab people or run them over, and there has been less incitement to carry out such attacks.

It is true that on Fridays, one can still find Palestinian demonstrations against the occupation, but these demonstrations have been taking place since before October 2015, when the violence began.

Just for comparison's sake, 62 terror attacks (or attempted attacks) were recorded in October 2015, according to Israel's defence establishment, including shootings, stabbings, rammings and bombs. Forty-eight were recorded in November, 45 in December, 26 in January 2016, 30 in February and 20 in March (as of March 30).

While the drop in numbers is, of course, significant and encouraging, the March figure is still at least four times greater than the average number of attacks that took place in the months that preceded this current wave of terror.

So why call this an intifadah when it bears no resemblance whatsoever to the characteristics of the first and second ones?

The word "intifadah" loosely translates as a kind of outburst or shaking off. It seems that a kind of outburst or "shaking off" has been taking place here: hundreds of young Palestinians, 20-something on average, have attempted to shake off anything that resembles the society and the place in which they live. They are trying to shake off the traditional patriarchal framework where their father and the clan chief tell them what to do, the Palestinian organizations that have led them to destruction, the loathed Palestinian Authority (PA) , and, of course, the Israeli occupation.

Palestinian youths take part in an anti-Israel protest in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah on Oct. 13, 2015. ABED RAHIM KHATIB/FLASH90

This is the intifadah of the Palestinian Generation Y – all those young men with styling gel in their hair, talking on smartphones, and following Facebook and other social networks, but drawing inspiration from the mosque, from the television channels of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, from the buzz on the street, from the pool hall or from school, sometimes out of a desire to imitate their friends who committed terror attacks.

But in recent weeks and perhaps months, we have seen that the "flag of the revolution" that this generation bears does not attract other parts of the Palestinian population; the vast majority have stayed home. While those on "the street" may see those who perpetrate terror attacks as heroes, they are in no rush to go out and get killed in the sort of attack that typifies this new intifadah.

Maybe the media outlets that identify with Fatah put it best when they used the Arabic word *hibah*, "outbreak." It is not an actual intifadah, but rather an unplanned, spontaneous outbreak of young people who are not led by any particular organization; they are young people with no leadership and certainly no strategic or tactical plan.

It is difficult to describe or typify these young people in a single word. They are not particularly poor or deprived. They come from many different parts of the West Bank, except for the large refugee camps. Some of them come from well-to-do families; most do not.

Perhaps what stands out the most about them is that many (at least those who were arrested and interviewed) hoped or believed perpetrating a terror attack would increase their prestige in Palestinian society. They expected to become the heroes of the village or the neighbourhood from which they came.

The "lone wolf" intifadah was at first attributed to an Islamic aspect linked to the incidents on the Temple Mount. Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel's trip to pray there in September 2015, which was circulated in a YouTube video, played a starring role on the Palestinian social networks. More and more terrorists went out to commit attacks, mainly in Jerusalem, in order to "defend Al-Aqsa." But after just a few weeks, the Temple Mount fell from the headlines and Hebron took the lead in the growing number of attacks, especially stabbing attacks.

When young Palestinians were asked why knives had become the symbol of this intifadah, they cited availability. Knives were a weapon found in every home, like cars, which were used in ramming attacks – and, less commonly, the homemade or craft-produced Carl Gustav submachine gun, or "Carlo," the most popular in the territories.

Anyone trying to lump the Islamic State's (IS) terror attacks in Europe together with the terror attacks coming out of the Palestinian territories ended up with a misrepresentation that was far from reality. Religious zeal is not the leading factor here.

So what made them go out to commit terror attacks? Perhaps their uncertain economic situation, nationalistic motives and the lack of hope, as well as the personal psychological motive. But as odd and, perhaps, slightly sick as it may sound, the main reason was a desire for social prestige, a wish to be "cool."

All too many young Palestinians wanted to become *shahids* – martyrs – like their friends who had gone before them. They saw how an entire society glorified the phenomenon (mainly in the first months of the intifadah), the glowing reports on the various television channels, the posters, the status bestowed on families whose sons had been killed during terror attacks – they wanted to be part of it as well. The attacks were their way of climbing up from the bottom of the social ladder to the status of a hero or heroine.

A statistic that may explain quite a bit about these young people's motives is the noted decrease in the number of young Palestinians in the Hebron area who committed suicide for psychological reasons over the past half year.

The Islamic motive among the attackers is far from strong. It is mostly a myth created around this outbreak – and perhaps this is the place to mention the assumptions that became entrenched among the leaders of the political echelon and, following that, the general public.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

Corruption probe will topple government: Liberman

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Israel's former foreign minister Avigdor Liberman said on April 2 that the recently announced corruption investigations into two senior lawmakers will destabilize the political system and bring down Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition before the end of 2016.

A once staunch ally of the prime minister, Liberman asserted during a cultural event in Modi'in that the graft probe into Interior Minister Aryeh Deri would unseat Netanyahu's coalition, which has only a narrow Knesset majority. The investigation into opposition leader Isaac Herzog would also contribute to destabilizing the Knesset, he added.

The hawkish Yisrael Beytenu party chairman said he had no intention of joining Netanyahu's government to prevent its collapse, and predicted new general elections would be called in the coming months.

In recent years Liberman himself has been at the centre of several corruption allegations, though he was acquitted of criminal activity in a 2013 trial. In 2014 several of his party members were hit with a raft of criminal charges in a massive police investigation into alleged systemic, pervasive corruption.

Last week, it was revealed that a criminal investigation would be launched against Deri for allegedly failing to properly report real estate property to authorities. Deri served 22 months in prison from 2000 to 2002 after he was convicted of taking bribes while serving as interior minister, and returned to politics earlier this decade to lead the ultra-Orthodox party in the Knesset.

A day later, it was announced that Herzog, who heads the opposition Zionist Union list, was under investigation for financial irregularities during his 2013 campaign to take over the Labor party.

Both lawmakers flatly denied the allegations, and have vowed to fully co-operate with police in the respective investigations.

Liberman also spoke April 2 of the highly contentious shooting of a disarmed Palestinian assailant by an IDF solider, saying the defence establishment should stand by the solider even if he made an error in judgement.

"In the current situation, it's impossible to expect that a solider will always make the right decisions. He must be supported, even if was wrong," he said.

The soldier, whose name is being withheld from publication, is being investigated by the Military Police and is set to face manslaughter charges, but has been vociferously defended by some sectors of Israeli society.

Avigdor Liberman, leader of the Israel Beytenu party FLASH90 PHOTO

"I don't know if he is a hero, but he certainly is no murderer," Liberman said of the infantryman.

Last month, the Kfir Brigade soldier was filmed shooting a wounded and nearly motionless Palestinian assailant in the head some 10 minutes after the attacker had already been shot and incapacitated.

He was arraigned a day later on suspicion of murder, drawing anger from his family, right-wing politicians and others who claimed the army was passing judgment before fully probing the incident.

The IDF launched an investigation into the shooting immediately, and a day later the army prosecutor said he was considering murder charges against the soldier. Army prosecutors have since indicated that the soldier may only face charges of manslaughter, not murder.

In Israel, the incident quickly escalated into a national debate about the IDF's rules of engagement and its use of force in regards to Palestinians.

Throughout the week, thousands of Israelis demonstrated across the country in defence of the soldier, demanding his release from custody.

Liberman, who attended a rally outside the Qastina military court last week, claimed there was no basis for the accusations against the soldier, saying he was "sure" the soldier would be acquitted of the charges against him.

He went on to attack Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon, who earlier in the week leveled harsh criticism against lawmakers who had expressed support for the soldier.

Ya'alon, senior IDF officials as well as Netanyahu, have defended the decision to probe the soldier and insisted that his actions may have violated the army's ethical code. ■

Times of Israel / Timesofisrael.com

Happy Passover

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO, 5LBS 9.99

WELCH'S MANISCHEWITZ 100% GRAPE JUICE, 1.9LT

NEW LOWEST PRICE 4.29

MANISCHEWITZ POTATO CHIPS ASSORTED, 6oz 1.89

MANISCHEWITZ MACAROONS ASSORTED, 10oz 4.89

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO 16oz 2.49

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
550 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto, ON

PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 8th UNTIL APRIL 22nd, 2016
While quantities last.

Items and prices available at SHOPPERS DRUG MART 550 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto, ON only. Offers valid April 8th to April 22nd, 2016 while quantities last. We reserve the right to limit quantities to normal retail purchases. All references to any savings claims/ie "save", "was", "1/2 price", etc.) is in comparison to our regular retail. we reserve the right to limit quantities. Some franchise and independent stores may have sold or will sell for less. Product selection may vary and may not be available at all stores. Image prevails when text does not correspond to the description of advertised product.

Palestinian likely still alive when shot by IDF soldier

AVI ISSACHAROFF AND TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF, JERUSALEM

Palestinian official said an assailant shot through the head by an Israeli soldier in Hebron last month was injured but alive before the bullet pierced his brain

The Palestinian pathologist attended but did not perform the autopsy April 3 in Tel Aviv on Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, whose death, caught on camera, is at the centre of a case that has roiled Israeli public opinion and the halls of power after an Israeli soldier apparently killed the wounded and supine assailant.

"After a full autopsy, the fatal wound was in the head," the Palestinian doctor, Rayan al-Ali, told *AFP.*

"There were several gunshot wounds. All those wounds were in the muscles, the lower limbs, and there was a wound in his right lung, but it was not fatal and did not lead to his death."

The Israeli findings, which are also central to whether the soldier will be charged with manslaughter in a military court, have not yet been made public, but Israeli officials did not disagree with the Palestinian doctor's findings, according to a *Ha'aretz* report.

The soldier under investigation, whose name has not been released, was filmed shooting Sharif through the head on March 24, minutes after Sharif and another assailant stabbed and moderately wounded a soldier in Tel Rumeida, an Israeli enclave of the West Bank city of Hebron.

The other Palestinian assailant was killed when troops shot at the two in an effort to stop the attack. In some videos, Sharif can be seen moving his legs as he lay wounded on the ground, before being shot in the head.

He was arrested quickly afterward and a prosecutor said initially said he would seek murder charges against the soldier. However, at a hearing last week the prosecutor said they would seek manslaughter charges instead.

The incident sparked a national controversy with some politicians and others accusing the army of selling out the soldier by arresting him and putting him under investigation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon and army brass have all defended the investigation.

It is not clear why the soldier, who arrived on the scene several minutes after the stabbing incident, decided to shoot Sharif.

IDF prosecutors say evidence points to the intention to kill Sharif despite the fact that the stabber had been subdued and lay apparently helpless on the ground. The soldier has argued that Sharif was moving, and said he believed the Palestinian could have been carrying an explosive vest or other device that posed a threat to bystanders.

According to prosecutors, the autopsy will provide critical evidence that may corroborate or undermine the soldier's defence.

The High Court of Justice last week agreed to a request by Sharif's family to allow a pathologist of the family's choosing to attend the autopsy.

The soldier was released from Military Police custody on April 1 on the order of the Jaffa court and moved to supervised detention at a military base.

The prosecution has said that the soldier was not co-operating with investigators, even though his lawyers initially said he had promised to re-enact the shooting and confront the soldiers who testified against him, the *Ynet* news website said.

"He refused to hold a reenactment, and even indicated that he did not remember things that were said by witnesses at the scene," said the Military Advocate General's appeal of the soldier's release.

The appeal added that "the soldier claimed several times during investigation that the attacker tried to reach for a knife that was 'within reaching distance,' while the video [of the incident] paints a different picture, that the knife was a significant distance from the attacker, who was himself in serious condition. He gave evasive answers during investigation whenever he was confronted with anomalies in his version of events. The soldier's [shifting] version raises serious doubts about the credibility of the defense arguments, to say the least."

Netanyahu on March 31 urged the family of the soldier to trust in the Military Police investigation currently underway.

"I heard your words and as the father of a soldier, I understand your distress," Netanyahu told the father in a phone call.

"I trust the IDF, the chief of staff and the investigation 100 per cent and I think that you too should trust the commanders and the investigation," he said. "I am convinced that the investigation will be professional and fair toward your son."

At a press conference held at their Ramle home last week, the soldier's family angrily denounced his "lynching" in the media and said Israeli leaders were too quick to judge him before he had an opportunity to defend himself. ■

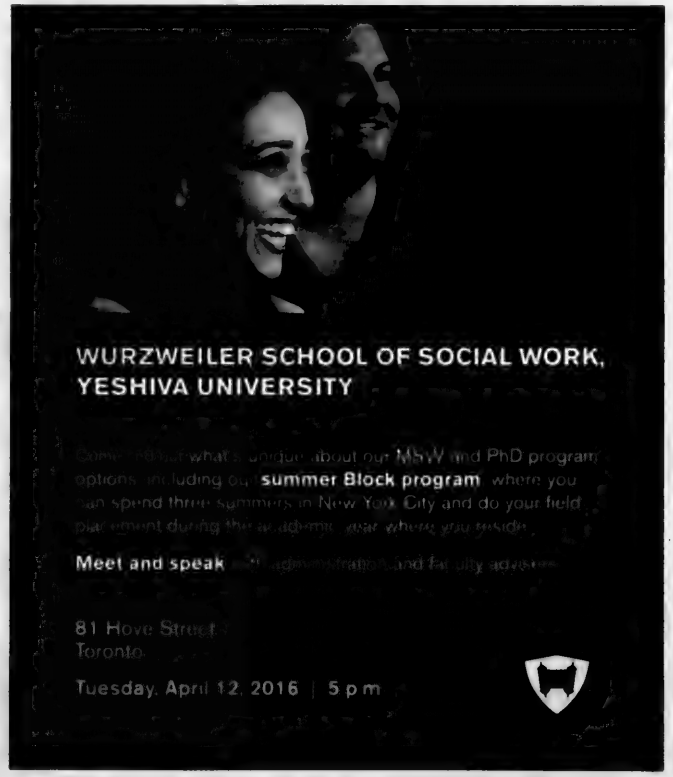
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.

CHW passionately supports programs and services for **Children, Healthcare**, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

When you give to CHW you're funding life-changing programs that help thousands of children, women, and families grow and thrive.
Together we can build a better future for those who depend on us in Israel and Canada.
With your help,
CHW is Giving Hope and Creating Opportunities.
Make a gift today.

TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE
416.630.8373
www.chw.ca/toronto
info@toronto.chw.ca
www.facebook.com/CHWToronto

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Digital Partner
CIBC Wood Gundy | The Ansky-Coulson Group
CHW Children Healthcare Women



Some 1,000 students said to be attending illegal Jewish schools in London

JTA
LONDON

A London firm working with a local education authority said that it had destroyed evidence that Jewish children were being educated in illegal faith schools.

The reports about cheders – informal haredi Orthodox Jewish schools, some of them operating without permit and teaching only scripture instead of the national curriculum – located in the London borough of Hackney appeared April 3 in *The Independent*.

According to the report, employees of the Hackney Learning Trust, a private firm working for the municipal council of Hackney, in 2010 informed a municipal official that the firm had destroyed evidence of the attendance of pupils in cheders at the request of Jewish educational institutions.

In the meeting, Trust representatives said that they had asked legal Jewish state schools – which teach scripture in addition to the required curriculum – to inform the Trust when a child was taken away by their parents to attend an illegal one instead. But some of the schools threatened legal action against the Trust, prompting it to back down and agree to destroy all evidence it collected on the issue.

The minutes of the 2010 meeting record that a senior department for education staff member was present at the meeting and had agreed to inform the department of all that was discussed.

According to *The Independent*, some 1,000 children are currently missing from schools in London and may be attending illegal faith schools.

Rabbi Jonathan Romain, chair of the Accord Coalition which links religious and secular groups to promote inclusive education, told *The Independent*: "There has long been an open secret in the Jewish world that ultra-Orthodox schools have been operating in Hackney and are not registered with the department of education. In essence, they are illegal schools, but authorities appear to be turning a blind eye."

A spokesperson for the department of education said: "Nothing is more important than keeping children safe. It is the local authority's responsibility to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and they take these seriously." ■

Israel must accept non-Rabbinate Orthodox conversions, Supreme Court rules

JTA
TEL AVIV

Israel's Supreme Court ruled that the state must recognize Orthodox conversions performed in Israel outside the authority of the Chief Rabbinate.

The March 31 ruling means any non-citizen who converts in a private Israeli Orthodox conversion court can gain Israeli citizenship under the country's Law of Return. Previously, converts could only gain Israeli citizenship if they converted outside of Israel and lived in a Diaspora Jewish community. Foreign conversions do not need to be Orthodox.

Some 150 citizens who have converted in private Israeli Orthodox conversion courts will now be seen as Jewish by the state.

The court rejected the state's claim that only Chief Rabbinate conversions may be considered legitimate within Israel. Because of the Jewish community's multi-faceted nature, the court ruled, any conversion performed by any Orthodox community, whether in Israel or abroad, should be recognized as valid.

"The Jewish nation is indeed one nation, but it is spread out across the world, and is composed of communities, layers and sub-layers," the court's decision read. Recognizing only the Chief Rabbinate "does not attribute weight to the existing range of Jewish communities – and that is unacceptable."

The decision is largely symbolic for Israeli citizens, as those it affects will not gain any more rights or privileges. But Rabbi Seth Farber, who is active in Giyur Kahalacha, a network of private Orthodox conversion courts, said the ruling could open the door to the Chief Rabbinate allowing converts from private courts to marry in Israel.

"As long as the Interior Ministry wouldn't recognize them, the Rabbinate didn't have a choice whether to recognize them," Rabbi Farber said. "This says we recognize you as part of the Jewish collective."

Judaism for the purposes of immigration is determined by the Interior Ministry. The Chief Rabbinate controls Jewish ritual within Israel, such as marriage, divorce and burial. ■

DONATE TO THE HEART
HEART CAMPAIGN

"You hear about stabbings all the time, but it's always someone you don't know. It's strange to be the victim."

Tomer Ditor, victim of a terror attack in Jerusalem, Israel

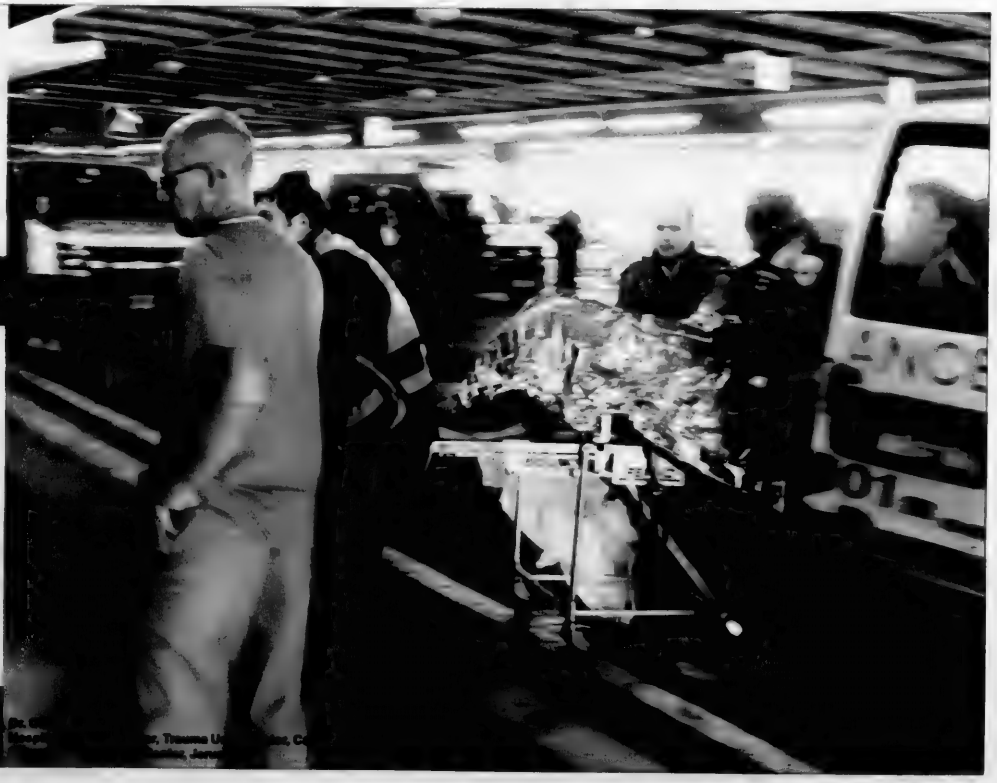
Shaare Zedek Medical Center was there for Tomer when it mattered most. And, with your support, so were you!

Your annual gift will help purchase the cutting-edge technology and equipment to save lives. Your donation will enable us to fund ground-breaking research studies and pioneer innovative new treatments in emergency and trauma care.

You can make your 2016 donation online **www.hospitalwithaheart.ca** or by phone **416-781-3584**.

The Canadian **SHAARE ZEDEK** Hospital Foundation
a hospital with a heart

3089 Bathurst Street, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M6A 2A5
Tel: 416-781-3584



ANALYSIS

For young Palestinians, the PA is irrelevant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

It should be emphasized that the Israeli security forces gave no support at all to these myths or basic assumptions that politicians and media personalities, mainly from the right, constantly invoke.

Decision-makers in the Israeli government and the right-wing parties have said time and again that incitement by the PA and its president Mahmoud Abbas were responsible for the violent outbreak. While this statement is not completely accurate, it is not divorced from reality either. There is plenty of incitement in the Palestinian media, including from outlets belonging to the PA and Fatah's Facebook pages. But – and this is a big "but" – this incitement is not the main reason, or even one of the main reasons, for what has been happening here over the past several months.

Young Palestinians have become fed up with the PA and do not watch or follow its media outlets or those of Fatah. It is true that Abbas has not condemned the terror attacks, but in reality, few young Palestinians care in the slightest whether he condemns them or not. Abbas did not encourage terror attacks, and he also did not state clearly that he opposed them. One of the toughest problems that the State of Israel has to deal with is that Palestinian teenagers care nothing about what the positions of the Palestinian Authority or its leader may be.

On the other hand, almost everyone who (justly) criticized the PA for its part in encouraging terror attacks has ignored the critical role it played in stopping terror attacks. The PA has prevented dozens of stabbing, ramming and shooting attacks during these past six months, arrested Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives who had been planning serious attacks inside the Green Line, and recently, at least, even prevented popular demonstrations against Israel.

This is the PA's dual role and Israel's dilemma: the PA engages in incitement on the one hand, but in preventing attacks on the other. This can also be seen in the ambiguous policy of Abbas himself, who says at every turn that he is opposed to violence, but refuses to condemn the terror attacks in the current intifadah. Yet in recent months, even he has realized the danger that a deterioration on the ground will bring, mainly when Hamas is the one trying to take advantage of it in order to weaken the PA.

It is also the reason why Abbas made members of Fatah's youth movement cease the demonstrations that they had been leading in recent weeks, and why, in recent months, he gave clearer orders to his security agencies to try and prevent terror attacks.

Young Palestinians display their weapons of choice. Religious zeal is not a primary factor in their anger, *Times of Israel* writes. ABED RAHIM KHATIB/ FLASH90 PHOTO

The tone coming out of Ramallah has changed and this can be reflected in the fact that the situation on the ground is calming down. The most outstanding example of this is the PA's attempts to embark on PR campaigns in places disposed to trouble such as Qabatiya, near Jenin, and Sa'eer, near Hebron. The PA's intensive PR activity in schools in these villages has stopped a number of people from setting out to commit terror attacks. The incitement from Fatah- and PA-owned media outlets has weakened as well, though it has not stopped completely.

The bottom line is that, however unfortunately for politicians on the right who may wish differently, the State of Israel still needs Abbas' help in dealing with the escalation in the West Bank.

Of course, the decrease in the number of attacks is not due to the PA's actions alone. Credit must be given to the Israeli side as well.

The highly cautious behaviour on the part of Israel in terms of affecting ordinary life of the Palestinian population as a whole prevented a large-scale deterioration and kept the Palestinian public from joining in. But beyond that, the incidents of this escalation or outbreak also threw into sharp relief the large differences between the approaches of Israel's political echelon and those of its defence establishment.

If the former sought to blame the PA and its leader for the situation, the latter saw that the PA was playing a critical role in calming things down. The defence establishment also favoured keeping various relief measures in place and avoiding causing harm to the population as a whole.

The defence establishment also refuses to go along with the myth being promulgated by some right-wing politicians, that IS and radical Islam are at the centre of this intifadah. As far as home demolitions, there is agreement between the political and defence echelons that they are at least a partial deterrent, but there is still dispute when it comes to the issue of holding on to the terrorists' bodies. While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan and others see this as an effective measure in the fight against terrorism, defence officials fear that doing so could lead to a renewed escalation in violence.

But the toughest debate between the political and defence echelons is about the measures that should be taken to bring the outbreak to an end – in other words, the peace process.

While the defence establishment believes that more gestures must be made toward the PA and the Palestinian population, including resuming peace talks, the Israeli government is almost sweepingly opposed to that stance, certainly as far as talks with the PA are concerned. Does that stem only from disagreement on pure security issues or from a conflict between a professional approach to the issue and political decision-makers seeking to placate their voters? Either way, it does not seem that the dispute will be resolved anytime soon.

Despite the ebbing of the current outbreak, quite a few elements on the ground are working to revive it and even bring about an even bigger escalation. Hamas is, of course, first among them. The same group that is keeping things relatively quiet in the Gaza Strip is doing everything possible to make the situation worse in the West Bank.

For example, the defence establishment has prevented 140 significant terror attacks since Oct. 1, 2015, including shootings, kidnappings, bombings and suicide attacks. Hamas was responsible for most of them.

The murder of the three Israeli teenagers kidnapped in 2014 led to a severe deterioration in Gaza and finally to war. Now we can only imagine what would happen if several of the terror attacks that were prevented over the past half-year had taken place. What would have happened if the Hamas cell that was uncovered in Abu Dis roughly two months ago had succeeded in committing the suicide attack inside Israel that it planned?

The bad news does not end with Hamas and its efforts to undermine the situation in the West Bank. The future of the PA seems particularly bleak. The current violence has proved in many ways how much Abbas' era in the territories is over, and how badly the path he led toward a peace agreement with Israel failed. He himself no longer believes that it is possible to reach a peace agreement with Israel (as long as Netanyahu is in power), and for many young Palestinians, he and the PA are no longer relevant.

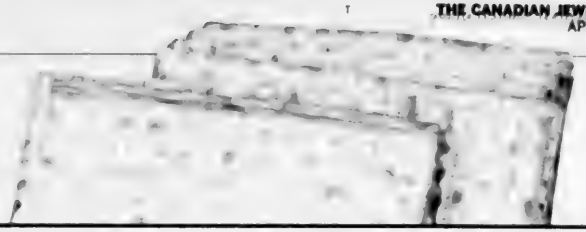
No one can guess what will happen the day after Abbas steps down. After hinting over the past year that he might resign, he now says that he has no intention of doing so. But he turned 81 last week, and public support for him is very weak. If he should step down from the presidency for whatever reason, it will take some time until Fatah manages to appoint a successor who will stabilize the system – if Fatah manages to do so at all.

The worst news of all, at least for some of the people in Israel and on the Palestinian side, may be that the two-state solution has been shelved. No one in the Palestinian or the Israeli leadership really believes that a peace agreement based upon two states can be reached anytime soon. Even if the leaders of both sides were to arrive at such an agreement, with more than 400,000 Jews living in settlements, the scenario of an Israeli pullout from Judea and Samaria seems unrealistic.

On the Palestinian side, at least, people everywhere, particularly young people, are expressing major support for the idea of "one state for two peoples," even if that state should be called Israel at first. As they see it, in another few decades, with a solid Palestinian majority, the name of the state can be changed to the State of Israstine. And, come the day, just Palestine. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

PASSOVER FOOD



Kids will love these breakfast ideas

SUE EPSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When my kids were young, the most difficult thing about Passover, food-wise, was what to make for breakfasts. Lunches and dinners were easy to plan, but breakfasts were another whole story. During the run-up to Passover, they looked forward to matzah brei, but after a few days of it their reaction was, "Oh, not that again."

Waffles, pancakes, toast, bagels, muffins, even most cereals – they're all off limits during the weeklong holiday. Most of the kosher for Passover cereals are pretty bad. So what's to eat for breakfast? Here are some ideas that I think your kids will love.

French toast made with slices of sponge cake. Omelette with chopped lox and a healthy dollop of cream cheese added just before the fold.

Geshmirte matzah

- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 matzah squares
- 16 oz. soft cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp. potato starch
- juice of half a lemon
- 3 eggs
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon-sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Pour the milk into a large shallow dish and lay the matzah squares in one at a time, turning to soak both sides. Set each matzah on a greased cookie sheet. Beat together the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, potato starch, lemon juice and eggs until smooth. Spoon onto matzah, spreading to cover. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until puffed and lightly browned. Remove from oven; cut each matzah into 9 squares. Makes 8 servings.

Pizza omelette

- 3 eggs
- salt and pepper, to taste
- marinara, tomato sauce or ketchup
- mozzarella cheese, shredded cheddar cheese, shredded olives, herbs or toppings of choice

Whisk eggs well. Season with salt and pepper. Heat a 7-in. frying pan* with cooking spray or butter. Pour egg mixture into pan and let it cook until it sets around the edges. Flip the omelette, taking care that it does not break. Remove the omelette from the pan and set on a baking sheet. Top with tomato sauce, cheese and toppings of your choice. Bake at 400 until cheese is browned and bubbly.

*If you use a bigger pan, you may want to add a few more eggs to keep the "crust" substantial. If it's too thin, the pizza will fall apart.

Applause
Elegant Kosher Cuisine
COR

Happy Passover from Applause Catering
Kosher for Passover Menu

Deadline for orders is Wednesday, April 13th, 4:30pm

APPETIZERS & SOUPS
(1lb serves approx 4 people)

Savoury or Sweet Gefilte Fish	$20.00 per lb
Chopped Liver (GF) with Matzah Crackers	$15.00 per lb
Red Velvet Beet Crepes with Leek & Mushroom Filling (GF)	$6.00 per piece
Traditional Chicken Soup (GF)	$10.00 per litre
Matzah Balls	$1.75 per piece
Butternut Squash and Pear Soup (GF)	$10.00 per litre

MAINS

Chicken & Turkey

Blackened Chicken Supreme (GF)	$16.00 per piece
Matzah Breaded Chicken Roulade	$18.00 per piece
Stuffed Chicken Supreme (GF)	$18.00 per piece
Chicken Fingers	$20.00 per lb
Turkey Cutlet	$14.00 per 5 oz

Beef

Slow Roasted Beef Brisket (GF)	$16.00 per 6 oz
Grilled Montreal Spiced Ribeye Steak (GF)	$21.50 per 10 oz
Charoset Braised Short Ribs (GF)	$29.50 per 10-12 oz

Fish

Cranberry Apricot Crusted Salmon Fillet	$16.00 per 7 oz
Sweet and Sour Salmon (GF)	$14.00 per 5 oz

Vegetarian

Stuffed Pepper with Ratatouille (GF, Vegan)	$12.00 per piece

SALADS

Italian (GF)	$4.50 per serving
French Country (GF)	$4.50 per serving
Israeli (GF)	$5.00 per 4 oz
Beets and Mandarin (GF)	$5.00 per 4 oz

SIDE DISHES
(1lb serves approx 4 people)

Oven Roasted Herb Potatoes (GF)	$20.00 per lb
Seasonal Vegetable Sauté (GF)	$25.00 per lb
Honey Balsamic Root Vegetables (GF)	$25.00 per lb
Egg Noodles (GF)	$14.00 per lb

EXTRAS

Seder Plate	$8.00 per plate
Charoset	$6.00 per 1/2 lb
Potato Kugel	$30.00 per pan
Apple Kugel	$31.00 per pan

DESSERT
(Each cake serves 12 to 14, nut free)

Frozen Chocolate Vanilla Caramel Cake (GF)	$65.00 per cake
Frozen Lemon Meringue Torte	$55.00 per cake
Coconut Macaroon	$3.00 per piece
Caramel Matzah Crunch Squares	$9.00 per 6 pieces
Fresh Fruit Salad (GF)	$5.00 per 6 oz

GF = Gluten Free Under the supervision of COR

Please call us or email your order to
Tel: 416 628 9198
www.applausecatering.ca

Pick up location at Beth Tzedec
1700 Bathurst St.,
Main Hall,
Friday, April 22nd,
10am – 3pm

STRUB'S 1929

MRS. WHYTE'S

For 87 years Strub's and Mrs. Whyte's have provided high quality, great tasting original brine kosher pickles and other kosher products for your family gatherings.

Continue the legacy this Passover with our Canadian made pickles during your holiday family celebrations.

Strub's
COR Pareve
Happy Passover!
Mrs. Whyte's
MK

Four ingredient Passover pancakes

- ❑ 2 large eggs (or 1 extra-large egg)
- ❑ 1 ripe banana
- ❑ 2 tbsp. almond butter
- ❑ 1 tsp. cinnamon

Optional Toppings:

- ❑ chocolate chips
- ❑ blueberries
- ❑ toasted coconut
- ❑ pure maple syrup

Heat a griddle or nonstick skillet over medium heat until very hot, around 3-5 minutes.

In a bowl, mash the banana with a fork. Whisk in the eggs then add the almond butter and cinnamon and stir to combine. You can add chocolate chips, blueberries or anything else you can think of to the batter.

With an ice cream scoop or large spoon, pour the batter on to the skillet and cook on one side until bubbles form around the edges of the pancakes, about 3 minutes, then flip and cook for 1 minute. Remove the cooked pancakes from the skillet, stack, top with pure maple syrup and other fun toppings and eat! Makes 8-10 pancakes.

Homemade Nutella

Your children will love this spread on matzah.

- ❑ 8 oz skinned* and roasted hazelnuts (unsalted), about 1 1/2 cups
- ❑ 1 8-oz. bag chocolate chips
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- ❑ pinch of sea salt

Melt the chocolate chips over a double boiler. While they are melting, add the hazelnuts to a food processor and blend until smooth and creamy, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. Add the melted chocolate, vanilla and salt and blend until incorporated. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week, or refrigerate for up to 1 month. Makes about 3 cups.

*If you cannot find skinned hazelnuts, purchase raw nuts and roast them at 400 degrees for about 8-10 minutes, until the skins begin to crack. Remove from the oven and add to a kitchen towel. Rub the nuts vigorously to remove the skins and set aside to cool.

Note: When the Nutella comes out of the food processor, it will be liquidy, like the consistency of melted chocolate. As it sits, it will firm up to the texture of nut butter. If you refrigerate the spread, it will harden, but you can just bring it to room temperature so it's easier to spread.

Equipment Note: You will need a powerful food processor in order to create the hazelnut butter. If your machine is not that good, the process may take longer, just be patient and let the machine do the work.

Tip: If your Nutella is difficult to spread, place your sealed container in a bowl of very warm tap water to soften. ■

Happy Passover

Walmart Supercentre

Manischewitz Matzo 5x1lb boxes 9.98 5 lb.

Welch's Manischewitz 100% Grape Juice 4.28 1.9 Lt

Manischewitz Egg Matzo 2.98 16oz

Manischewitz Matzo Meal, Cake Meal Or Matzo Farfel 3.88 16oz

Manischewitz Cereal Assorted 3.98 5.5oz

Manischewitz Vegetable Oil 2.98 24oz

Manischewitz Potato Chips Assorted 1.88 6oz

Manischewitz Macaroons Assorted 4.88 10oz

Manischewitz Dried Apricots 6.48 170g

Items and prices available at your Walmart Supercentre, located at 700 Centre Street in Thornhill, ON only.
Offers valid Friday, April 8th to Wednesday, April 27th, 2016.

Ad Match • Guaranteed Unbeatable
Walmart will match the advertised purchase price of any competitor for an identical product.

Ad Match is only available with proof of the current published in-store retail price for the identical product in an advertisement by a retailer in the local area. Not applicable to clearance sales, combination promotions (e.g., gift with purchase), double or triple coupons, after sale rebate offers, preferred customer discounts or random discounts (e.g., scratch and save events) offered by other retailers, or to competitor coupons, or withdrawn or corrected advertisements. Applicable only to products currently in stock at this store location. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Walmart's Ad Match program may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice.

Items and prices available at your Walmart Supercentre, located at 700 Centre Street in Thornhill, ON only. Offers valid Friday, April 8th to Wednesday, April 27th, 2016. We reserve the right to limit quantities to normal retail purchases. All items may not be available in all stores. Items may be available by special order in certain locations. Prices, selection and availability may vary by store and on Walmart.ca. For terms applicable to online offers, please visit Walmart.ca. Certain items may be subject to additional environmental handling, recycling or disposal fees. The amount and application of such fees vary by product and by province. See store for details.

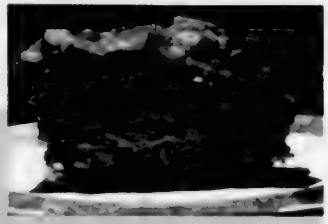
Pickle dishes your family will relish

RANDY FINGRUT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Pickles are a "dill-ight." A crisp, tangy pickle prepares the palate for food yet to come. The acid in a pickle cuts through the richness of meat or cheese, while the sweet and spicy flavour balances and complements it.

A pickle is a fruit or vegetable that's preserved through acidity. We are most familiar with cucumbers that are preserved in a solution of vinegar, salt and flavourings such as garlic and dill. Before refrigeration, pickling was the only way to preserve food for safe consumption.

In many cultures, pickles are key to cooking. Prized for their unique flavours and textures, pickled foods frequently appear as condiments or essential components of many dishes. Give these recipes a go, and you will find yourself in a fine pickle.



Pickle meatloaf

- 3 lb. ground beef or chicken
- 2 tbsp. onion, grated
- 1 cup matzah meal
- 3/4 cup bottled kosher dill pickle liquid
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Glaze:

- 1 cup finely chopped kosher dill pickles
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup water

Preheat 350 oven. Prepare two loaf pans either sprayed or greased with vegetable oil. Mix ground meat mixture with onion, matzah meal, dill pickle liquid, eggs and pepper until well blended. Divide into the two loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour.

Combine chopped dill pickles, ketchup, water, and pour over loaf. Bake for an additional 15 minutes. Let sit for 5 minutes before slicing.

Kosher dill pickle soup

- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup dill pickle liquid
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup finely chopped dill pickles
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh dill
- salt and pepper

In a large pot, over medium heat, soften the vegetables in the oil for about 5 minutes. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Deglaze the pot with the pickle liquid. Add the broth and the dill pickles. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat and simmer gently for about 20 minutes.

Giftware and Trays Overflowing with Passover sweets, chocolates, dried fruits and nuts.

Geri's GIFT BASKETS SINCE 1979

Delivery Available

416-445-5504

1875 Leslie Street, Unit #5

Visit our website for a sampling of our Passover Selection at www.torontobaskets.com

Come see what all the talk's about

experience Difference

experience Ely's FINE FOODS

Visit our retail location for the largest selection of gourmet Kosher for Passover options in the city

Place your order Online, Fax or in Person NOW!

416 782 3231 416 782 0466 ELYSFINEFOODS.COM

Munchreal KOSHER Tasty Traditions

Come & Shop from our mouth-watering display of Pesach Delicacies

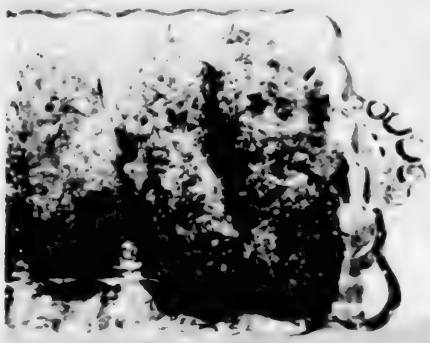
Montreal Kosher Passover Division

Cookies Cakes Deli Elegant

& much more to choose from

Available at your local supermarket

514.738.3600 5495 Pare St. Montreal, QC H4P 1P7



Baked pickle appetizers

- ❑ 1 (24 oz.) jar kosher dill pickles, sliced in half
- ❑ 2 eggs
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- ❑ 2 tbsp. fresh dill or 2 tsp. dried dill
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. pepper
- ❑ 1/3 cup potato starch
- ❑ 1 1/2 cups matzah meal

Drain the dill pickles and pat dry with paper towels.

In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs. Add 1/2 of the dill, garlic and pepper. Mix well.

Place potato starch in a shallow dish. Add remaining garlic, dill and pepper to the matzah meal in a second shallow dish.

Dunk each pickle slice into potato starch then into the egg mixture, then dredge it in the matzah meal mixture. Place coated pickles on a baking sheet sprayed or greased with vegetable oil. Place pan in the middle rack of the oven. Bake at 400 for 15 minutes, flip, and bake for 5 more minutes. Broil for 1 minute until they brown, watching carefully. ■

STEELES DELI (1ST) RESTAURANT

New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions

Passover Menu Now Available

FREE Delivery on orders over $75.00 (before tax)
(within immediate area)

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
We are closed from April 24th – 29th
PASSOVER HOURS
April 22: 10:00-3:00 pm (Pick-up before 5 pm)
April 23: Closed (Pick-up before noon)
April 24-April 29: Closed
April 30: Open at 5 pm

FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT · DINE-IN · CATERING

metro
my savings & my metro

PASSOVER

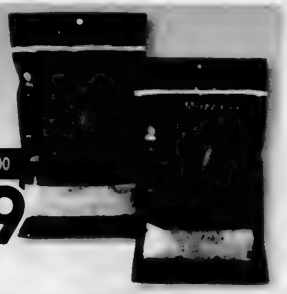
YEHUDA OR AVIV MATZOS
2.26 kg
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $7.00
12.99 ea.

7.99 ea.
1.99 ea.
1.79 ea.
2.99 ea.

KEDEM GRAPES JUICES
1.5 - 1.89 L
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $3.00
5.99 ea.

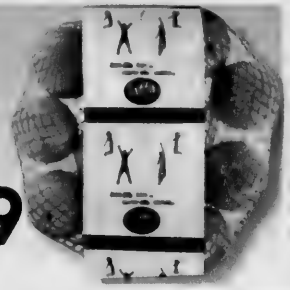
3.99 ea.
1.69 ea.
79¢ ea.
1.99 ea.

NATURAL KOSHER SHREDDED CHEESE
226 - 227 g
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $3.00
4.49 ea.



1.49 ea.
1.79 ea.
59¢ ea.
3.99 ea.

JAFFA MANDARINS
2 lb
Product of Israel
3.99 ea.



6.99 /lb
9.99 /lb

ALL PRICES & ITEMS ARE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 7TH UNTIL WEDNESDAY APRIL 13TH, 2016
AT THE FOLLOWING METRO LOCATIONS ONLY:
• 119 OSLER DR., DUNDAS • 1030 ADELAIDE ST. N., LONDON • 250 GREENBANK RD., NEPEAN • 281 YORK MILLS RD. • 1050 DON MILLS RD. • 3090 BATHURST ST. • 600 SHEPPARD AVE. W. • 20 CHURCH AVE., NORTH YORK • 4111 THICKSON RD. N., WHITBY • 735 COLLEGE ST. • 425 BLOOR ST. W. • 656 EGLINTON AVE., TORONTO • 16640 YONGE ST., NEWMARKET

FRESH HOT PIZZA (FOR PASSOVER)

COR

My Zaidy's
Gluten Free

GLUTEN FREE & NON-GEBROKTS

OPEN FOR PASSOVER (all Chol Hamoed)

Cakes, Cookies, Baked Goods & More...

facebook

7241 BATHURST STREET
(Next to My Zaidy's Bakery)
905-763-6463

YITZ'S

SELECT FROM OUR HOLIDAY MENUS OR CREATE YOUR OWN FROM OUR HOLIDAY FOODS

346 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-487-4506 • 1-800-283-1943

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

MENU #1

Sweet & Sour Meat Balls
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Lockshen Pudding
Potato Pudding
Carrot Tzimmes
Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Mandlebroit
Seder Plate
Charoses

$329.00 for 10 people

MENU #2

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Carrot Tzimmes
Cole Slaw
Lemon Roll
Macaroons
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$369.00 for 10 people

MENU #3

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borscht
Roast Turkey Breast (precarved)
Farfel & Mushrooms
Candied Yams
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw
Fresh Fruit Salad
Passover Cookies
Seder Plate
Charoses

low fat menu
Only 20g Fat per person

$215.00 for 5 people

MENU #4

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Veal
Lockshen Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw
Honey Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$220.00 for 5 people

MENU #5

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Green Beans Almondine
Lockshen Pudding
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$199.00 for 5 people

MENU #6

Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Poached Salmon
Pan Roasted Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Lockshen Pudding
Chocolate Brownies
Seder Plate
Charoses

$195.00 for 5 people

ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES
Roast Turkeys
Turkey Breast
Cornish Hens
Chopped Liver
Cabbage Rolls
Veal Roast
Flunken in Borscht
Roast Duck
Lemon Chicken Breast
BBQ Chicken Wings
Honey Garlic Wings
Chicken Fingers
Knishes -Potato or Beef
Kishke
Meat Kreplach

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetarian Loaf
Matzo Lasagna
Stir Fry Vegetables
Grilled Vegetables
Apple Farfel Pudding
Farfel & Mushrooms
Potato Latkes
Green Beans Almondine
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Handmade Egg Noodles
Seder Plates
Charoses

SALADS
Cole Slaw
Pickled Beets
Tossed Salad
Cucumber Salad

FISH
Poached Salmon
Sweet Gefilte Fish
Salt & Pepper Gefilte Fish

DESSERTS
Apple Flan
Chocolate Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Chocolate Lemon Roll
Fresh Fruit Salad
Honey Cake
Macaroons
Mandlebroit
Mocca Cake
Passover Cookies

CHAG SAME'ACH from YITZ'S

It's not Passover without it

SYBIL KAPLAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

It's an integral part of Pesach for many people. There is no special plate. There isn't even a brachah over it! Can you guess this well-known part of Pesach?

It's sponge cake.

Sponge cake comes in two types – angel food and true sponge. Angel food cake has cream of tartar, an acid ingredient, which used to be combined with baking soda and salt to make a form of baking powder before baking powder was produced commercially. Cream of tartar is what gives the angel food cake the pure white colour, and it also creates an acid reaction in the batter.

Sponge cake has a more delicate cousin referred to as sunshine cake. Most people, however, refer to the Passover version as sponge cake.

Sponge cake is usually baked without shortening or butter or baking powder but with lots of eggs. Its lightness and texture come from careful handling and the air beaten into the eggs. Recipes with nine to 12 eggs are not uncommon.

The aim of making a sponge cake is to beat the maximum amount of air into the yolks and whites while handling them as little as possible to retain the air. Eggs should be room temperature when beaten. An electric or rotary beater gives better results than whipping by hand. Since there is no baking powder, the main rising factor is the air plus steam.

In making a sponge cake, it is important that the yolks are beaten until light and thick, and the whites must be beaten until they are stiff and glossy. Essences such as vanilla lemon or orange rind add special flavour to a sponge cake.

The best pan for a sponge cake is a tube pan with removable rim. Thus the central tube gives support to the batter.

In Israel, many oldtimers use a wonder pot (*sir pella*) about which I wrote a cookbook in the 1970s for people without an oven (and reprinted recently for those whose cookbook was lost or had fallen apart). It is basically a sponge cake pan that sits upon a coned base and then has a lid with strategic holes around its top to let out the steam. It is placed on a burner atop the stove for baking.

A regular sponge cake pan should be ungreased. A preheated 350-degree oven is the best heat for baking a sponge cake.

When the cake is done, the pan should be inverted to cool for about an hour and a half. Before removing the cake from the pan, the sides should be loosened with a knife. It is best not to try to cut a fresh sponge cake with a knife, Use a divider with prongs instead, and slide it back and forth gently.

Here are two different kinds of sponge cake.

Miriam's banana cake

This is from one of my close friends in Overland Park, Kansas, who is a really creative cook and is now 88 years old.

- ❑ 7 separated eggs
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. salt
- ❑ 1 cup mashed bananas
- ❑ 3/4 cup potato starch
- ❑ 1 cup sugar
- ❑ 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350. In a bowl, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry, then refrigerate.

In another bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon coloured. Gradually add sugar and salt, beating continually.

Fold in bananas and potato starch. Fold in egg whites then nuts. Turn into an ungreased tube pan and bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes. Invert pan to cool.

Orange glazed Sabra sponge cake

- ❑ 1/2 cup unsalted pareve margarine or 1/4 cup +2 tbsp. oil
- ❑ 2/3 cup sugar
- ❑ 1 tsp. orange rind
- ❑ 2 tbsp. Sabra liqueur
- ❑ 3 separated eggs
- ❑ 2 tbsp. sugar
- ❑ 1/2 cup potato starch
- ❑ 3 tbsp. Sabra liqueur
- ❑ 4 tsp. orange rind

Preheat oven to 325. In a bowl, cream margarine or oil and sugar. Add 1 tsp. orange rind, 2 tbsp. Sabra and egg yolks and blend.

In another bowl, beat egg whites until stiff, gradually adding 2 tbsp. sugar. Add to creamed mixture gently, then stir in potato starch.

Pour into greased tube pan. Bake at 325 for 45 minutes to one hour. Let cool for at least an hour then gently remove to a plate.

Meantime, in a bowl, combine orange juice, 3 tbsp. Sabra liqueur and 4 tsp. orange rind. While cake is still hot, punch holes around cake with a toothpick and pour over glaze. ■

Sobeys

Chag Sameach
2016 / 5776

Stock up for Passover

Don't miss
Midnight
Madness
Saturday April 16th
6 pm - Midnight
with a Live Band

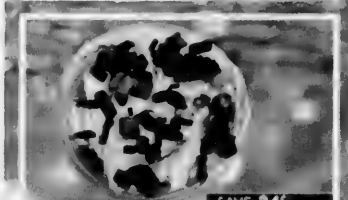
More Great
Specials
in Store

Fresh Tilapia Fillet
17.61/kg
SAVE 2.00/lb
7.99/lb

Golden Herring Fillet
in wine marinade
600g
SAVE 1.00
6.49 each

Nature's Own Grape Juice
1.89 L
SAVE 1.40
4.99 each

Coca-Cola or Pepsi Soft Drinks
12 x 355 mL limit of 4
SAVE UP TO 3.00
3.69 each



Kosher Dairy Cream Cheese with Chives
6.12/lb
SAVE 34¢/100 g
1.35/100 g

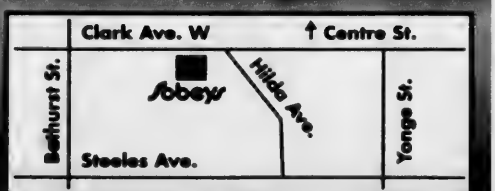
Glicks Macaroons
280 g
SAVE 1.00
3.99

Shneider's Chocolate Bar
100 g
SAVE 1.00
1.99

Cashmere Jumbo Bathroom Tissue
30 Rolls, Sponge Towel
Paper Towel 12's or Tide 64 Use
SAVE UP TO 12.46
9.99

We've made a commitment to carry the largest selection of kosher products in North America, for all of your Passover Needs.

441 Clark Ave. West (at Hilda)
Store Hours: Sun 8am-10pm, Mon-Wed 7am-10pm,
Thurs 7am-11pm Fri 7am-10pm, Sat 8am-10pm
All Passover product is subject to availability, subject to change & while quantities last
Prices effective: Friday, April 8th to Thursday, April 14th, 2016



Visit us at www.sobeys.com

Chocolate desserts for Passover

DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

I love creating desserts, especially chocolate desserts. Even when a multi-course meal is served, as it is on the first two nights of Passover, I rarely think twice about serving chocolate for dessert. Chocolate is just one of those ingredients that people seem to obsess over.

Whether it's milk chocolate, semi-sweet or bittersweet chocolate, or one of the more premium chocolate with the cocoa content ranging upwards of 75 per cent, people tend to be passionate about their chocolate.

But why exactly does chocolate arouse such passion? Is it the mouth feel when chocolate exquisitely melts in your mouth, not quite solid and not quite liquid either? Is it the fact that chocolate (really good chocolate, not the impostors that use vegetable shortening instead of cocoa butter) melts at almost exactly body temperature? Is it the aroma of chocolate that hits you just before you swallow it, heady, unctuous and primal? Is it the fact that there are over 400 compounds in the cocoa bean, making it one of the most complex flavours around?

As is true of any passion, there are lots of reasons but no conclusive answer. Perhaps it's best not to analyze it at all or some of the mystery is tarnished. Here are two wonderful Passover chocolate recipes that promise to satisfy those chocolate cravings, whether it's after the seder meal, or at any other time during the holidays.

Rich fudgy Passover brownies

These brownies fall squarely in the fudgy camp; they're dense and chocolaty, with a thin crust on the surface. They must be fully cooled before eating.

- 8 oz. kosher for Passover semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter, in pieces
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2 tsp. vanilla powder
- 3 tbsp. potato starch
- 1 tbsp. cocoa powder
- pinch granulated sugar

Preheat the oven to 350. Lightly grease the bottom and sides of an 8-in.square metal cake pan

In a saucepan set over very low heat, melt the chocolate with the butter, stirring only after half of it is melted. Once about 7/8 of the chocolate is melted, remove the pot from the heat, stirring until the chocolate is completely melted. Using a small whisk, whisk in the sugar. One at a time, whisk in the eggs, making sure the first one is fully mixed in before whisking in the second egg. Whisk in the vanilla, potato starch, cocoa powder and salt, again whisking vigorously until the mixture is fully combined.

Scrape the chocolate mixture into the prepared pan. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven for 20 to 22 minutes or until the brownies are set on the edges and just set in the centre. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 16 brownies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

KOSHER COR CITY plus

3468 Bathurst
416-782-6788

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY PASSOVER

Specials valid to April 22nd, while supplies last. We reserve the right to limit quantities

NATURE'S OWN GRAPE JUICE 1.8 L
4.99

NATURAL KOSHER CHEESE SLICES 3 LB
19.99

MANISCHEWITZ EGG OR WHOLE WHEAT MATZO 300G
2.99

OBERLANDER LADY FINGERS 5OZ BOX
4.49

LIEBER KETCHUP 24OZ
2.49

HEAVY DUTY FOIL PANS 9 X 13 or 100/$24.99
3/$1
Shallow Pans 100/$26.99

MANISCHEWITZ OR STREITS MATZO MEAL OR CAKE MEAL PACKED BY US 1 LB
2.99

SHELLED WALNUTS 350G
5.99

SHELLED ALMONDS 400G
7.99

EDEN MARGARINE 1LB
2.99

NEW! O.V.O NO M.S.G PARVE CHICKEN SOUP BASE 350G
3.99

SAVION CEREALS 187G
2.99

CALIBAUT PURE CHOCOLATE CHIPS 340G
4.99

PANKO CRUMBS KFP 1LB
6.99

MANISCHEWITZ PANCAKE MIX
3.79

YEHUDA MATZOS 5 LB
12.99
WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE OF $20

GEFEN TOMATO SAUCE 15OZ
1.29

CHAMILLE BLOCH SWISS CHOCOLATES SELECTED VARIETIES
2.79

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO 5LB
9.99

FRESH & FROZEN GEFILTE FISH 622G
7.49

GALIL SILAN PREMIUM DATE SYRUP 350G
1.99

QUINOA
GREAT NEWS! THIS YEAR WE HAVE OU & STAR K APPROVED QUINOA FOR PASSOVER 12OZ
5.99

O.V.O. PURE DUTCH COCAO 250 G THE BEST!
4.99

POTATO STARCH 24OZ
2.99

NUTOLA VEG OIL (COTTONSEED) 1 L
9.99

BARTENURA BALSAMIC VINEGAR 500ML
8.99

PERFECTION PLASTIC PLATES
6" PLATES OR 12OZ BOWLS
3.99

Meringue cake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Chocolate hazelnut meringue cake

It's important to cook the meringues just until they're crunchy and crisp on the edges but still somewhat soft in the centre. If they're too crisp throughout, cutting them becomes more difficult. Hazelnuts are a glorious pairing with chocolate, but almonds, pecans and macadamia nuts will also be delicious.

Meringues:

- ❑ 1-1/2 cups hazelnuts
- ❑ 6 large egg whites, at room temperature
- ❑ 1 tsp. lemon juice
- ❑ pinch salt
- ❑ 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- ❑ 1 cup mini chocolate chips

Ganache:

- ❑ 1 cup whipping cream or dairy free whip topping
- ❑ 8 oz. kosher for Passover semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped

Topping:

- ❑ 1-1/2 cups whipping cream or dairy free whip topping

Preheat the oven to 350. Spread the hazelnuts on an unlined rimmed baking sheet. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven for 8 to10 minutes or until lightly browned Let the nuts cool slightly. Transfer the hazelnuts to a kitchen towel and rub vigorously to remove as much of the skin as possible. Chop the nuts coarsely and set aside. Line two large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Draw two 8-in. circles on one sheet and one 8-in. circle on the second. Turn the paper over so that the circle (s) are visible but the pen or pencil mark is on the underside.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, or using hand held beaters, beat the egg whites with the lemon juice and sugar until soft peaks form. In a thin stream, gradually beat in the sugar until stiff and glossy, but not dry, peaks form. Gently fold in the hazelnuts and chocolate chips.

Divide the meringue evenly among the three traced circles and gently spread evenly to cover the circles. Bake in the middle and top third of the oven for 1-1/2 hours, or until the edges are set and crispy but the middle is a bit softer. Let the meringues cool on the pan on a wire rack. (Meringues can be made up to two days ahead and stored in a dry, cool place.)

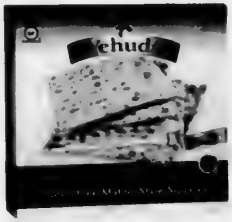
Ganache: Bring the whipping cream to a boil. Remove from the heat. Add the chopped chocolate to the cream and whisk until melted and smooth. Let cool slightly.

Remove 2/3 cup of the ganache to another bowl and reserve. Divide the remaining ganache evenly among the three meringues, spreading it evenly. Let set at room temperature.

Topping: Place the reserved 2/3 cup of ganache in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment. Pour in the 1-1/2 cups of whipping cream. Whip until soft peaks.

Place one of the meringue rounds on a serving plate. Top with one-third of the chocolate whipping cream. Place another meringue on top and spread another third of the chocolate whipping cream. Place the last meringue on top and spread the remaining chocolate whipping cream over the top. Refrigerate for at least 6 hours before serving. Makes 12 servings. ■

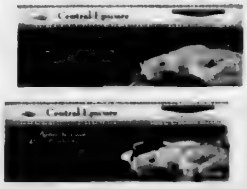
Celebrate Passover



Yehuda Matzo
5 x 454 g
GREAT PRICE
13.99

Manischewitz
Welch's Concord
Grape Juice
1.89 L
GREAT PRICE
3.99

Nathan's
Sour or Half Sour
Pickles 1 L
GREAT PRICE
2.99



Central Epicure
Frozen Gefilte
Fish 600 g
GREAT PRICE
5.99

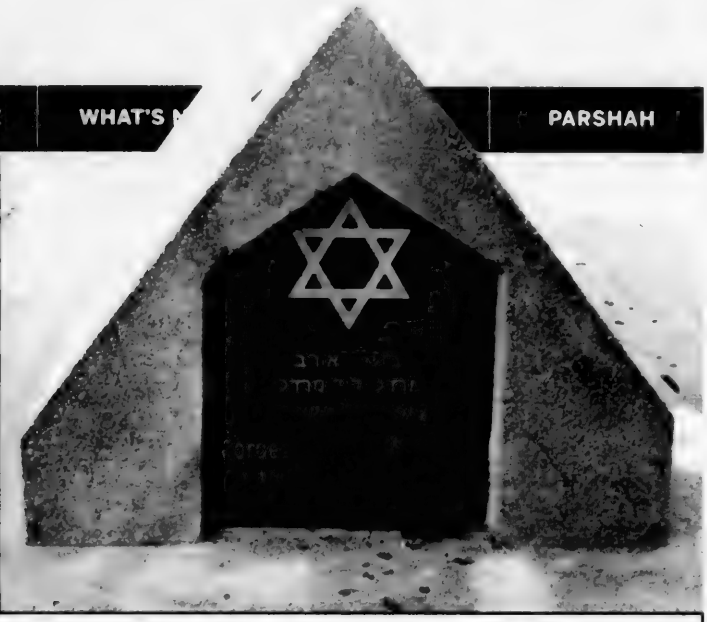
Billy Bee
Honey
500 g
GREAT PRICE
4.99

Miki
Spreads
200 g
GREAT PRICE
1.69

Items & Prices Effective From March 31st to April 13th at our Steeles & Bathurst locations only.

Price Chopper
LOW FOOD PRICES!
6201 Bathurst St. (south of Steeles)
FRESH
800 Steeles Ave W (at Bathurst)

Jewish Life



Visiting the Jewish cemetery in Penang

NANCY WIGSTON
Special to The CJN

"Is it locked?" We approach the wrought iron gates to Penang's historic Jewish cemetery – its name clearly lettered in English. We're in luck – the gate swings open to our touch. As we enter, a Tamil gentleman in shirt and sarong approaches. Turns out he's Selva, the caretaker, a member of the family in charge of tending the property for three generations. His small house abuts the cemetery's wall; his caretaking duties are paid for by the Penang Jewish Cemetery Trust, headquartered in Australia.

Fifteen-odd years ago, a friend and I visited this same plot of land, and we found it distressingly choked with weeds. As we left, my friend, a professor at the local university, handed the elderly caretaker some MR (Malaysian currency), urging her to better care for the grounds.

In recent decades, the large number of NGOs on this island off the Straits of Malacca, have, with the help of history-conscious private citizens, spearheaded a movement to protect and preserve a heritage that mirrors the diverse communities– Jews, Armenians, Chinese, Arabs, Europeans, Indians, Eurasians, Thais, Burmese, Malays – that prospered here after Captain Francis Light founded the East India Company's Penang outpost in 1786.

One tangible result has been the 2008 UNESCO Cultural City World Heritage designation awarded to Penang (and Melaka, further down the coast), protecting from development the old capital of George Town and its pastel prewar houses, quirky winding streets, shaded "five-foot ways" designed to protect pedestrians from the sun and a plethora of houses of worship and elaborate Chinese clan houses, (*khongsis*). The island's only synagogue closed in 1976, although the original building is well-maintained and "listed," as the British say, by its heritage-conscious owner.

Penangites revere their crazy quilt past. Although the Jewish cemetery does not lie in the protected UNESCO zone, our most recent visit revealed a place that, despite the scorching heat of a March day, was spruce and tidy, its warm walls and tombstones softly shaded with palms and banana trees. We walked among the 100-odd graves, several shaped like ossuaries found in Israel, others square and modern-looking. In this quiet corner of the island, visitors discover evidence of a vanished community, with roots in Baghdad, Persia, India, and Europe.

> *In this quiet corner of the island, visitors discover evidence of a vanished community, with roots in Baghdad, Persia, India, and Europe.*

Never large – Penang's Jews numbered a dozen families and 172 persons at its height in 1899 – the community's exodus accelerated on the eve of the Japanese invasion in 1941. Many Penang Jews kept going, often to Australia. Local newspapers sometimes run "Last Jew in Penang" features, notably on the death of Mordecai David Mordecai, beloved general manager of Penang's glorious old Eastern&Oriental Hotel.

"Mordy" Mordecai has rested here since 2011. "Gone but not Forgotten" reads the inscription on his grave, the cliché belied by the many heartfelt mentions of the hotel manager penned by the nostalgic Australian teachers who were housed in the E&O annex at the height of the Vietnam War.

Other articles focus on visits of elderly Jews, raised in Penang, who return to pay their respects at the cemetery—a gesture that twins culturally with George Town's Chinese community (the city is 60 per cent ethnic Chinese), where families attend to their ancestors' graves in the yearly Ching Ming Festival.

Our companion on our cemetery visit was Canadian historian Leslie James, who lives in Penang with his Malaysian-born wife, between trips home to their family in Ontario. Retired from the foreign service, James is a fountain of information about Penang's diverse heritage. His usual beat is the Protestant cemetery, where Captain Francis Light's 18th century tomb grandly dominates the scene.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The cemetery gates, left, and the grave of the 'last Jews in Penang', Mordecai David Mordecai. NANCY WIGSTON PHOTOS

Cemetery tells many tales

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Far humbler there is the small grave of Anna Loenowens' husband, a British army clerk; his widow went on to teach princely children in Siam's royal court; her rather fanciful memoirs were eventually transformed into the Broadway hit, *The King and I*. (The Jody Foster/Chow Yun-Fat film version, *Anna*, incidentally, was filmed in Penang, the original still being banned in Thailand.)

James explains that the Jewish cemetery is "freehold," established for Penang's Jewish community in perpetuity, a point underlined by new signage. The oldest grave, 1835, belongs to Shosha Levi, believed to have donated the cemetery land to her community.

Still, on an island where so much history has been destroyed in the name of development, uncertainty about the cemetery's future is only natural. On the bright side, there is enthusiasm in heritage quarters for naming the area near the cemetery and the former synagogue at 19 Nagore Rd., after the Jews who lived here, an idea supported by The Penang Heritage Trust.

"They say dead men tell no tales," says James, resuming his easy familiarity with Penang's rich history, as we wander among the rows of tombstones, "but in fact they tell many tales." The tales in the Jewish cemetery are written in stone: heartbreak over the loss of a spouse ("Lizzie Schwarz, beloved wife of Julius Schwarz, born in Rumania, 1871, died in Penang, aged 42 years, 8 months"); the wartime death of a British lieutenant, buried in the section reserved for Cohens and Levis; and an unusual design in stone – two hands arranged in a priestly blessing – symbolizing the burial of a Cohen. Small stones grace many graves.

As we take our leave, Selva gestures us into the shade, proudly showing us the visitor's book. Impressed, we examine the pages and pages of names, addresses, and messages – from Perak (Malaysia), Singapore, Bristol, Calgary, Sydney - even Finland. Visitors frequently express thanks ("for the upkeep") and gratitude for their discovery of this evidence of a vanished community. Many, from east and west, have simply written, "Shalom."

Dignified, smiling, Selva brings water for rinsing our hands. We leave and he closes the gates behind us. Immediately outside, we notice a Hindu shrine, a banyan tree decorated with flowers and garlands—the jumbled proximity of beliefs and cultures are very typically Penang. ■

Inside the Jewish Cemetery. NANCY WIGSTON PHOTO

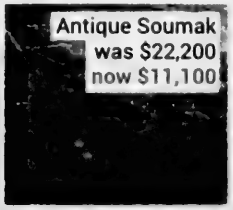
If you go: Jewish Cemetery: Jalan Zainal Abidin (Jalan Yahudi). George Town (www.penangjewishcemetery.com); Penang Heritage Trust. www.pht.org.my

CLOSING SALE

38 days left

After twenty-five years, Reznick Carpets is closing.

As we say goodbye to this Design District institution, take advantage of *once in a lifetime* liquidation prices on rugs and broadloom.



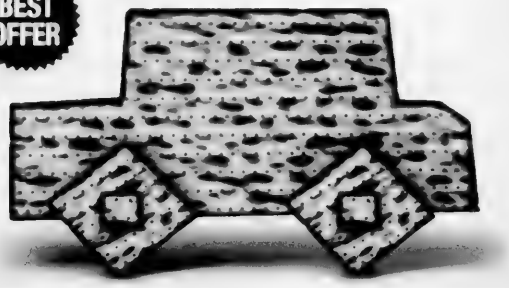
Thousands of rugs available: modern designer traditional tribal & broadloom

Shop early for best selection.

REZNICK CARPETS
81 Ronald Av, Toronto. 416-787-7676
www.reznickcarpets.com

IN ISRAEL...

BEST OFFER



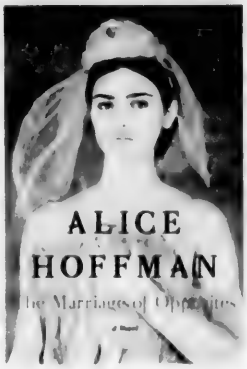
RENT BLUE & WHITE
RENT ELDAN

Eldan, Israel's leading car rental company

rent.eldan.co.il/en | 1800-938-5000

eldan rent
The Best Way to Experience Israel

Marriage of Opposites is a captivating, thoughtful, provocative book



The Marriage Of Opposites
By Alice Hoffman
(Simon & Schuster 2015)

MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Who among us has not marveled at the luminous paintings of the French impressionists? They revolutionized painting as a visual art form at the turn of the 20th century and their works today still remain among the most popular attractions at art galleries around the world.

One of the master impressionists was Camille Pissarro, considered to be among the movement's founders. Renowned art historian E.H. Gombrich wrote of Pissarro that he was "one of the oldest and most methodical champions of the impressionist movement." Pissarro's radiant landscapes have been described as having "an unaffected naturalism." He was supremely gifted.

In *Art: A New History*, Paul Johnson succinctly wrote of the talented artist: "Pissarro was a Sephardi Jew from the West Indies who was self-taught but became extraordinarily adept at putting what he saw down on canvas, simply, sincerely and effectively and he tried to work out-of-doors right up to the finish. He was modest but with an inner self-confidence and authority which, in their own way, made him a formidable person and a fine teacher."

In her most recent novel, *The Marriage of Opposites*, celebrated author Alice Hoffman writes about Pissarro's life. But Pissarro is not the central character of the book. Indeed he does not arrive on the scene until the book's midpoint. His mother Rachel Pomié Petit Pizzarro is the beating heart of *The Marriage of Opposites*.

Rachel's defiant, passionate, resolute nature, as dramatically imagined by Hoffman, is the artistic springboard of the story. Through Rachel's character, the author launches the reader into a brightly lit corridor that opens onto many connecting chambers dealing with art, religion, philosophy, history, polemics, family relations and individual human destiny.

The story begins on the island of St. Thomas in 1807, some 23 years before the future impressionist painter is born. We meet young Rachel whose relationship with her mother is deeply troubled. Their relationship deteriorates as Rachel blossoms into womanhood and her aspirations clash with her mother's expectations.

Rachel's connection with her father, however, is better. Out of an abiding sense of duty and loyalty to him, Rachel even agrees to a marriage he has arranged with a widowed father of three, in order to save the family's failing business. Rachel's sentiments were not a factor in her father's calculations. But the marriage to Isaac Petit sets in motion a series of events that ultimately brings his nephew, Frederic Pizzarro, onto the island.

Rachel and Frederic meet and their worlds are forever altered. The two fall immediately in love. They marry despite the objections of family and community elders who shun the young couple with cold callousness for having violated the norms of traditional Jewish communal life on the island. Among Rachel and Frederic's children is Jacobo Camille Pizzarro.

Marriage of Opposites is a captivating, thoughtful, provocative book.

The story is an entrancing narrative of many intersecting lines. We meet strong, robustly developed characters, all of whom directly or indirectly influence the unfolding drama of Rachel's eventful life. And yet, the full extent of the inter-connections among them all is not revealed until very late in the novel. And we are surprised as well as delighted at these clever conclusions.

Like the artist whose life she describes and who layered myriad shades, tones, hues and textures of related colours, Hoffman also joins many diverse but related subjects on her literary canvas.

She explores the history of the persecuted Jews of Spain and Portugal who sought sanctuary from the Inquisition, even in the 18th century, as far away as the West Indies islands.

Hoffman describes the severely structured lives the tiny Jewish minority lead on St. Thomas and what it was like for strong-willed and independent individuals, especially women such as Rachel, to resist some of those rules. Women were bereft of legal rights that allowed them to determine their own economic destinies.

She exposes the inhumanity of even seemingly benign systems of slavery, such as the one that existed in St. Thomas in the early 1800s.

She imagines the dreamy motivations and inspirations that bred in Camille Pissarro his rare abilities.

Throughout the book, Hoffman uses lovely, lilting language that achieves somewhat in literary textual form what the Pissarro achieved with his brush and palette. For example, when Frederic arrives in St. Thomas, she describes the tiny roomlet he occupied. "In his current room there was a single window that let in more sunlight than had streamed through all of the windows in his family's home in France combined. Here, every day was a joy, bathed in light."

But most powerfully, Hoffman reflects upon the essence of individual existence. How do we pursue our own dreams when our freedoms are curtailed by responsibility, duty, commitment and a sense of powerlessness? How can we reconcile what we owe to ourselves with what we owe to others? To the world? And what of love? Is it a chimera, a compromise that most people accept as a means to stability and security? Or is it the essence of what gives our lives their deepest meaning?

Hoffman boldly shares her own opinions with us. For example, when it is time for Rachel to say a last farewell to the family maid – the woman who had more or less raised her – Rachel says. "I had whispered a single question to Adelle before she passed on. What is life without love? That was when she took my hand in her own, though she was as frail and weightless as a bird. She made a circle within my palm. I knew what she was telling me. A life like that was worth nothing at all."

Camille Pissarro, perhaps summoning subconsciously upon the psalms he undoubtedly recited in his early youth, wrote: "Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places, where other people see nothing. Everything is beautiful; all that matters is to be able to interpret. "

Hoffman's Pissarro says in the story, "I felt I had come upon the core of the meaning of life to discover and re-create beauty."

It is a discovery worth joining. ■

...From one Fine Home to Another

Moving, Reorganizing, ReDecorating?

...of Things Past offers Home Visits and will provide a one-stop, solution for all your consignment needs. With over 20 years of experience, a team of experts and 3 locations to serve you, we are your premier choice.

Call us today for more info at 416-256-9256!

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

185 Bridgeland Ave • Toronto, On • 416-256-9256

Crazy Ex-Girlfriend and the meaning of obsession

Michael Fraiman

Episode seven of *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, the latest Golden Globe–winning, Jewish-led TV comedy, opens on lead character Rebecca Bunch sitting in her car and spying on her crush, a Filipino-American named Josh Chan. And we think, OK I get it; she's the namesake crazy ex-girlfriend, and the show is about how obsessed she is with this dude.

Except beside her is her best friend, Paula, who delivers the line that strikes at the heart of why we're watching this show at all.

"You need to be with Josh," Paula insists. "If not for you, then for me... I need this. My marriage is like *The Walking Dead*, OK? We are all just trying to get out alive. You and Josh are a love story – it gives me hope."

That thought captures not just the show's own central theme, but also why any of us watch TV at all. Paula is the audience – gripped to social media, curious about others' lives, and, frankly, obsessed with television.

The show, which wraps up its first season this month, has gotten rave reviews from critics – it blends musical numbers with a colourful Kimmy Schmidt-style optimism that insists women can embrace their femininity while still being honest, emotional and hilarious.

In particular, Jewish media have themselves fallen in obsessive love with lead actress and showrunner Rachel Bloom. She's enchanting to watch, yes, but also proud to pepper the show with references to her religion. "Jews talk about being Jewish a lot," she told *JTA* this March. "They're very aware of their Jewish identity, so in getting specific with the character, it was natural to make Rebecca own that Jewishness."

But amid all the accolades and praise, the show's most fascinating quality has gone largely unmentioned – that is, its meta-commentary on the nature of public obsession.

Crazy Ex-Girlfriend tells the story of Rebecca Bunch, who, in a fit of deep-seated depression, quits her high-profile Manhattan law firm and moves to West Covina, Calif., after a chance encounter with Josh. (The two only dated for one summer during camp – just the latest example of great Jewish summer camp love stories we're getting these days.)

It's a profoundly irresponsible move indicating a deeper life crisis. As Lisa A. Phillips has commented in *New York Magazine*, the show aptly presents her unrequited love as signalling "deeper things in our lives."

But Bunch's obsession is only the most superficial of the show's psychological web. Paula sometimes literally watches Rebecca's life unfold onscreen: At one point Rebecca hooks up a hidden camera to her dress, allowing Paula to spend an entire evening ignoring her family and watching the comedy on her smartphone.

Then there's Greg, Josh's best friend, who reluctantly falls for Bunch himself, and who constantly comes back to her despite knowing she doesn't return his feelings (epitomized by the terrific Fred Astaire-style musical number, *Settle for Me*, pictured above).

It's no coincidence that Bunch's neighbour is a psychology student whose first instincts are to study Bunch, nor that numerous episodes deal with prescription drugs and people trying to cover up how weird it is to care so much. Even Bunch's boss has a song about how much he wishes he could express his love for his daughter – "I love my daughter, but not in a creepy way," he croons.

In short, though I never thought I'd make this observation about a CW network program, this show is a deeply psychological experience. It addresses head-on that people care deeply about people, things, storylines, characters; and yet, to admit it publicly, we're suddenly vulnerable. But really, who's crazier – the crazy ex-girlfriend, or the people obsessively watching her every week? ■

From Weddings & Holidays, to Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, You'll find what you need at
MATANA Judaica
When Purim is gone, Pesach is here
Our Exodus from Egypt, Our Liberty cheer;
For Eliyahu Hanavee a glass we will raise
And let "Matana" complete your seder with praise.
HAGGADAHS • SEDER PLATES
MATZAH COVERS • and much more
WISHING YOU & YOURS A HAPPY & HEALTHY PASSOVER April 22-30, 2016
855 Abness Street, Unit 1, North York, ON M3J 2X3
(South of Steeles Ave. W. between Sapertest Rd. & Dolomite Dr.)
905-731-6543
For the Finest Judaica in the GTA
Store Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 - 3:00
Friday & Sunday 10:00 - 2:00
SAVE THE DATE with this ad on Regular Priced Merchandise before the tax.

CONGREGATION
B'NAI TORAH
בית כנסת
בני תורה
an Orthodox Shul located in North Toronto
(465 Patricia Ave.) is seeking an exclusive
Kosher Caterer
for our membership and
Toronto's Jewish Community.
We have a fully operational meat kitchen
and adjacent Social Hall with
a seating capacity of 200-225.
Parties interested in becoming
our Exclusive Caterer should contact
our Search Committee via email at
BTcaterersearch@gmail.com

MANDARIN
MS WALK
EVERY STEP MATTERS.
JEN
MOTHER, MARATHONER
DIAGNOSED WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AT AGE 36
STEP UP WITH US TO END MS IN CANADA.
May 1, 2016
In most communities
Register today at
mswalks.ca

Harmonica wiz gets to play in front of his mentor

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Roni Eytan

Avishai Cohen CATERINA DI PERRI/ECM RECORDS PHOTO

Harmonica wizard Roni Eytan is excited about opening for one of his musical heroes, jazz trumpet virtuoso Avishai Cohen, at the Israeli Jazz Showcase in Toronto.

Eytan was attending high school in Jerusalem and enrolled in an after-school music program held at a club called The Yellow Submarine when he first heard Cohen play in performance there. Tel Aviv-born Cohen is part of The Three Cohens, a jazz band he founded with his sister, tenor saxophonist/clarinetist, Anat, and his brother, soprano saxophonist, Yuval. For the past six years, Cohen has played with the all-star jazz ensemble, the SFJAZZ Collective.

"I have all of his records and I'm a fan. For me and my peers, he's someone to look up to," said Eytan, who at 25 is about 13 years younger than Cohen. Eytan added that the trumpet player, whom he also studied with, is still one of his favourite musicians.

Eytan said he picked up the harmonica when he was 15, without any thought of ever playing professionally. "It started as a hobby. I did fall in love with the sound of it. After a few months, I was completely hooked."

He was introduced to jazz at the after-school program. Although jazz bands do feature harmonica players, they are rare in jazz. "The harmonica has yet to be explored," said Eytan, who plays chromatic harmonica. "In the past people didn't take the instrument too seriously."

Eytan's current mentor is jazz harmonica star Gregoire Maret. Both in Israel and at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where Eytan is in his final year, he's studied with musicians who play various instruments, including the Middle Eastern clarinet.

"That obviously also affected the way I play. I saw it as a privilege to study with saxophone players, trumpet players, piano players. I didn't see it as an obstacle, I just saw it as an opportunity. I think you can make everything work on a different instrument," Eytan said.

Citing a wide range of musical influences, from Herman Look, a Sephardi cantor, to Greek, Latin American and Turkish music, Eytan said that "all of this is coming out organically" in his playing.

At Berklee, he plays with musicians from around the world who have different musical backgrounds. "It has enabled me to play with people who I wouldn't be able to play with in Israel, people coming from countries I can't go to," Eytan said. "I have a very good Iraqi friend, a violinist who's a collaborator of mine. I play with musicians from all over the Middle East."

Eytan said the accomplished musicians he's studied and played with, among them pianist Danilo Perez, whose band he appeared with at Koerner Hall in Toronto last year, have influenced his playing and writing.

After being a sideman in various bands and being fortunate enough to play with incredible musicians, Eytan said it was time to form his own group. At the Israeli Jazz Showcase, the Roni Eytan Quartet is featured and the harmonica will be up front and centre.

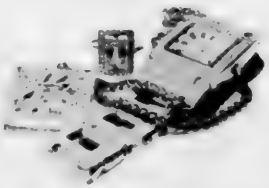
The band – including Lefteris Kordis on piano and keyboards, Tamir Shmerling on bass and Dor Herskovits on drums – will play Eytan's and Kordis' compositions. ■

The Israeli Jazz Showcase, featuring the Roni Eytan Quartet and the Avishai Cohen Quartet, takes place at 8:30 p.m. at the Rex Jazz and Blues Bar on April 10. Admission is $20. Presented by Toronto Downtown Jazz and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, with support from the Consulate General of Israel, the Israeli Jazz Showcase is part of the Spotlight on Israeli Culture. For more information, visit www.spotlightonisraeliculture.ca and www.therex.ca.

HOMEPRO®
Residential Services
We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs
• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations
Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years
2 year warranty
SPRING SPECIAL
10% OFF*
Seniors Never Pay Tax
*on projects over $1,000. before tax.
Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN
Cancer?
We've "been there".
We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can "be there" for you during your cancer journey.
We provide confidential peer support to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.
Hotline: (416) 630-0203
A project of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD
JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 7, 2016

Show offers a lifeline for children with serious illnesses

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

A show at Roy Thomson Hall, in support of Chai Lifeline, brings together three Jewish superstars performing music that reflects their diverse backgrounds.

Yiddish singer Mike Burstyn, Cantor Itzhak Meir Helfgot and Cantor Simon Spiro share a stage for the first time in British, Yiddish & Kiddush, for what should be a historic show in the world of Jewish music.

A Yiddish entertainer who cuts across musical genres, Burstyn has garnered rave reviews for his portrayal of Al Jolson on Broadway. Helfgot is the Pavarotti of the cantorial world, with a voice to rival that of any world-class opera singer and Spiro is a world-renowned cantor who's also made his mark in the pop world, singing with Elton John, Shania Twain and Phil Collins.

Accompanying the singers will be the 50-piece Sing-for-the-Children Symphony Orchestra, which includes members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and other local ensembles. Australian Russell Ger, an internationally renowned conductor from New York City who works closely with Helfgot, leads the orchestra.

Israel (Yummy) Schachter launched the Roy Thomson Hall concerts in support of Chai Lifeline nine years ago, after the organization, new to Canada at the time, asked him to help with its fundraising events. Over the years, the concerts have featured popular Jewish performers, including Marvin Hamlisch, Itzhak Perlman, Neil Sedaka and Art Garfunkel.

One problem, though, is that they were running out of big-name Jewish stars who could sell out a hall. So Schachter started looking around for a new concept for the annual event. When Schachter watched the 2014 show *The Kids From Brooklyn*, which featured the music of 1960s Jewish singers and a narrative written by Aliza Spiro, the founder of Toronto's Jewish Music Week, Schachter saw a new direction for the Chai Lifeline concerts.

He collaborated with Spiro, who's married to Cantor Spiro, and she ended up penning a narrative for British, Yiddish & Kiddush. Cantor Spiro said the audience will be exposed "not just to the cantorial side of things, not just the classical style of singing, not just the operatic style of singing, not just Broadway, but to all genres. It's for everybody."

Cantor Simon Spiro, left, and Mike Burstyn.

He added that his wife has written a "beautiful narrative that weaves all the different genres of music together at different times during the show. So everyone is going to be taken on this beautiful, fun musical journey."

Chai Lifeline helps children who are suffering with serious illnesses and their families and also helps children with a seriously ill parent. Although many of Chai Lifeline's services are geared to the Jewish community, the organization "helps everybody who reaches out," Schachter said.

Although about 250 Chai Lifeline volunteers are currently assisting some 400 families, the organization has a low profile in the community as families with sick children tend to guard their privacy.

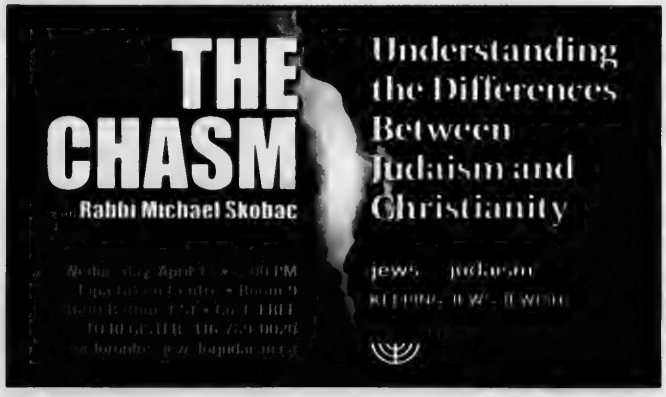
"Unless you actually know that child or that family, you'll never really know how much Chai Lifeline is doing behind the scenes to hold that family together," he said.

While Chai Lifeline does promote its services, "you don't really get a good sense of what they do," he added. He said people who attend the annual show get a better sense of what Chai Lifeline does through the videos it shows and through speakers who deliver first-person accounts.

"Families begin to crumble and fall apart as soon as they have a child who's been diagnosed with something. They simply don't know how to handle it," Schachter said. "The marriage starts to fall apart, their income is at risk. I've seen Chai Lifeline save hundreds of families over the years." ■

British, Yiddish and Kiddush is presented April 11 at 7:30 p.m at Roy Thomson Hall. For tickets, visit www.chaiconcert.com.

LAND ROVER JAGUAR
THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI



Play looks at effects of 9/11 on Jewish/Muslim couples

Michael Rubenfeld, second from left, stars in Disgraced at Panasonic Theatre in Toronto

MARVIN GLASSMAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Playwright Ayad Akhtar focused on both the harmony and conflict between Jews and Muslims following the events of 9/11 in his drama *Disgraced*.

The one act play, which won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for drama, is primarily about two married couples intertwined in personal and professional relationships. It opened April 3 at the Panasonic Theatre in Toronto.

Set in a Manhattan apartment in 2012, Amir (played by Raoul Bhaneja) is a Pakistani Muslim attorney, but has rejected Islam as his religion and his roots, preferring to think of himself primarily as an American. Amir works in a prestigious Manhattan law firm owned by Jews and hopes to become a partner in the firm.

Amir's wife Emily (Birgitte Solem) is an artist who loves putting Islamic tradition in her paintings much to the dismay of Amir. Adding to the mix and conflict is Jewish art dealer Isaac (Michael Rubenfeld), who, like Amir, views himself primarily as an American. Isaac is married to Jory (Karen Glave), a black American who is an attorney with Amir at the same firm. Emily sells her paintings to Isaac, who values Emily's work.

The couples get together for dinner with polite banter, despite disagreements between the two men. Isaac sees the beauty of Islamic tradition in art and Amir sees nothing memorable with his wife's focus on Islamic culture. Amir and Isaac also discuss similarities between principles in the Talmud and the Qu'ran and the two couples appear to be the best of friends.

However, the polite banter of the dinner party and harmony of the two couples changes within a short period of time. Amir is asked by his nephew Abe (Ali Momen) to represent an imam, who Abe thinks has been unfairly arrested for mistakenly helping terrorists. Amir wants nothing to do with the incident, but finally gives in to his nephew's pleas and visits the imam.

Because of the visit, Amir is mistakenly perceived by the Jews who run the law firm as a supporter of terrorism, starting a chain of events that lead to conflict between the two couples.

The events include secrets about the relationship of Emily and Isaac as well as tension between Amir and Jory on who will become a partner in the law form.

When Amir gives in to tense emotions by stating "I take some pride in what happened at 9/11", Isaac and the others are shocked.

Isaac, rebuffed by Amir's 9/11 comments, confronts Amir with comments on his pride for being a Jew and supporter of Israel.

An added twist in the plot has the two couples exploding in rage as the audience is engaged in the transformation of the characters. Amir reveals a dark side of his personality in affirming his Muslim heritage.

Both Bhaneja and Rubenfeld (who is Jewish) were superb in their roles as the enlightened Muslim and Jew respectively who both fall victim to pent up anger and frustration.

Disgraced does not have smooth messages of toleration, but illustrates that Jews and Muslims have much in common, despite ideological differences.

"The play is fascinating and goes deep into understanding relationships," said Rubenfeld.

"You have a black character who sides with a self-loathing Muslim and a Jewish character I play who is pro-Islam. It is a unique perspective from the playwright."

Disgraced was written in 2012 and premiered in Chicago and also played off-Broadway and regionally in Miami and other cities prior to coming to Toronto for Mirvish Productions.. The play won both the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for drama as well as the 2013 Obie Award for playwriting.

Born in Winnipeg, Rubenfeld is an actor, director and playwright dominated for 10 Dora Awards for many of his works, such as his plays *Essay* and *My Fellow Creatures*.

Residing in Toronto, he has been artistic director of the Summerworks Festival since 2008, presiding over 300 productions.

Since last year, Rubenfeld has been married to Magda Koralewska, a Polish Jew. The couple spends time both in Toronto and Poland where Magda still lives.

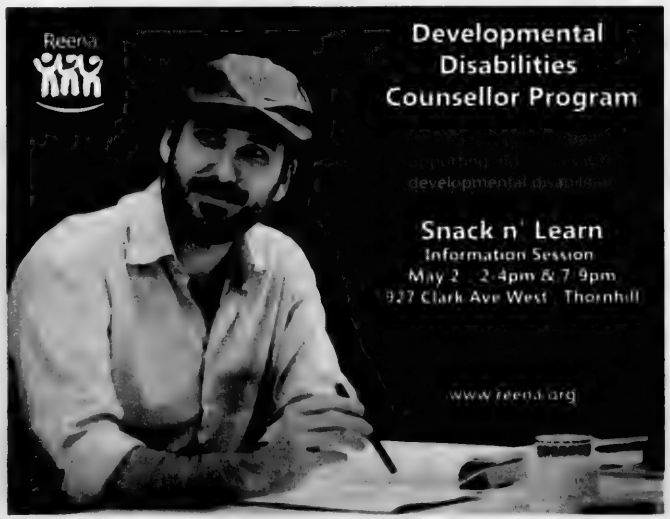
"We do commute as often as possible to see each other. There is such a strong bond between us and a love for Polish Jewry, that is vibrant," said Rubenfeld.

Rubenfeld's maternal and paternal grandparents are Holocaust survivors from Poland.

He has immersed himself into understanding his family's roots in Poland, creating a documentary about his Polish Jewish roots for which he and creative partner Sarah Garton Stanley received a Canadian Council grant.

"I am very proud of all I have done artistically in my life, including playing Isaac in *Disgraced*'."■

Disgraced *runs until April 17 at the Panasonic Theatre, 651, Yonge St. Toronto. Call 416-872-1212 or go to www.mirvish.com.*



Reuben Cipin
HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living
• Newly upgraded suites
• 24-hour concierge
• Secure underground resident and guest parking
• Large social hall with a private dining room
• Fitness facility with complimentary classes
• Street-level garden and roof-top terrace
• Library with computer access
• Membership to the Wagman Centre
• Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations
One and Two Bedroom Suites Available
Ages 65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

Brundibar will be performed in Windsor

RON STANG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Windsor's Jewish community has teamed up with a local musical group to retell a charming yet poignant children's Holocaust story that they will be taking to this year's world famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Brundibar, A Children's Opera by Hans Krása, tells the story of Aniqa and Pepicek, brother and sister, who need to buy milk for their mother who is sick. But when they venture into the marketplace, their efforts at busking are thwarted by an organ grinder, Brundibar (Czech for bumblebee).

But soon other children, aided by animals such as a dog, cat and sparrow, come to the siblings' rescue and help them defeat the mean organ grinder.

The opera was first performed in a Jewish orphanage in occupied Prague during World War II. It was reprised many times at the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, where the composer, the original cast of children, and the set designer, all found themselves as prisoners. Theresienstadt was the model camp where the Nazis brought Red Cross inspectors to show how well they treated the inmates.

But after a final performance before those

Brundibar was first performed at Theresienstadt, the Nazi "model camp."

Red Cross officials, the entire cast was shipped to Auschwitz, where they died.

The Windsor performances are expected to appeal to children and adults alike.

For children, *Brundibar* is a "unique and interesting way" to address the Holocaust, and "which is not a depressing production by any means," says director Tracey Atin, a cantor at the city's Congregation Beth El and founder of Windsor's popular Korda Artistic Productions theatre company.

"It's really lighthearted and charming and happy – the opera itself – and very accessible," she said. "It's just an interesting gateway into the study of the Holocaust."

The play also addresses contemporary issues like bullying. Aniqa and Pepicek, for example, end up getting help from others and "suddenly they're a force to be reckoned with and they have a way of dealing with the bully," Atin said.

The children in the production are between six to 14 years old and come from a group called Music Moves Kids (MMK), an area arts company that teaches singing and has a children's choir.

Brundibar will be performed 10 times for school children – Jewish and non-Jewish alike – who will be bussed in from throughout the greater Windsor area.

There will be one public performance April 7 at 7.30 p.m. All performances are at the Windsor Jewish Community Centre.

Both Atin and MMK music director Erin Armstrong are sopranos. During the public performance they will be singing additional works from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* with clarinetist and University of Windsor Music School director Trevor Pittman, and some Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino arias.

A soprano duet of Leo Delibes' famous *Flower Duet* from *Lakmé*, will also be performed by Armstrong and gifted young soprano Will Trigo Ebere.

The production is coupled with a museum exhibit also at the community centre that focuses on the Kinder Transport program which saw thousands of European Jewish children transported to safety in Great Britain for the duration of the war.

Exhibit pieces come from the Holocaust Memorial Centre in West Bloomfield, Mich. and from the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. ■

pet

PRICE MATCH

15% OFF
any purchase of $60 or more*
*Valid only at PET VALU Bayview and Laureleaf. Certain conditions apply. Expires April 30, 2016.

/PVBayviewLaureleaf
@PetValu_Bayview

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Minimum $50 order.

Bayview and Laureleaf Petvalu

BUY • SELL • TRADE

• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver

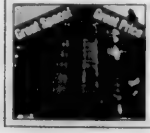
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

JEWISH & INTERFAITH
WEDDINGS
OFFICIATED BY
CANTOR DEBORAH STAIMAN
416-483-9532
www.jewishlifecycles.ca

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating close to 60 years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

VitalMobility
Sales of Home Health Care Equipment
• Wheelchairs | Walkers | Rollators | Scooters | Power Chairs
• Home Hospital Beds | Long Term Care & Air Mattresses
• Raised Toilet Seats | Shower Chairs | Commodes | Cold Therapy
• Medical Lift Chairs | Stair Lifts | Patient Hoyer Lifts
• Compression Stockings
www.vitalmobility.ca • paulros@vitalmobility.ca
3509 Bathurst St | North York, ON M6A 2C5 | 416-901-3509

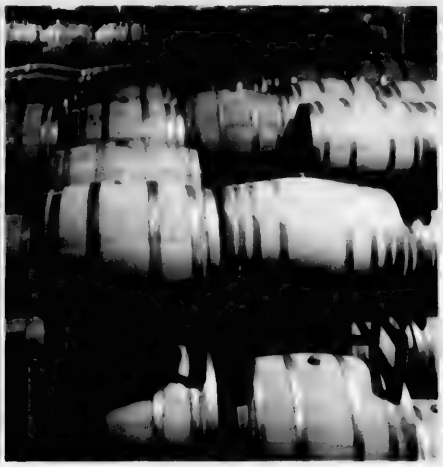
#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!
Elli Davis
ROYAL LEPAGE
416.921.1112 www.ellidavis.com
Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli



33 Jackes Avenue $2,390,000
Best priced suite in exclusive boutique building at Yonge/St. Clair! Direct elevator, centre hall, appx 2,964 sq ft, 2 bedrooms + den, high ceilings. 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Amenities include valet/visitor parking, 24 hr security, indoor pool, party/exercise rms, car wash. Steps to Summerhill shops, TTC, parks.

If you are having a gala, The Socialite wants your photos.
Email thesocialite@thecjn.ca for submission details.
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

Oxnard: California's kosher wine secret



Herzog Wine Cellars sits in a nondescript industrial facility just off the highway. MICHAEL STAVSKY PHOTOS

MICHAEL STAVSKY
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The sleepy seaside town of Oxnard, Calif., sits away from the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles. Although only about an hour and a half north in Ventura County, the town has the quaint charm of a Mediterranean village.

Free from the congestion and pollution of its southern neighbour, Oxnard's rocky picturesque coastline sits dotted with endless yachts and pleasure boats. Many serve the nearby Channel Islands off the coast.

This bastion of tranquility is also far removed from L.A.'s half-million strong Jewish community. With neighbourhood after neighbourhood lined with synagogues of all denominations and kosher eateries that put Toronto's measly few to shame, one would expect a major Kosher wine producer to set up shop closer to the heart of it all.

But Oxnard's proximity to the megalopolis of Los Angeles is secondary to its location closer to several of California's major grape growing regions. And avoiding the near-permanent traffic jam of Los Angeles allows grapes from all over the state to reach Oxnard in a timely manner.

It's here, away from vibrant Jewish communities, that Royal Wine Corporation, makers of Kedem grape juice and wines, established Herzog Wine Cellars some 30 years ago. Their current state-of-the-art facility opened in 2005.

Now the largest kosher wine facility in North America, the Baron Herzog line of fine wines rivals their non-kosher counterparts. Gone are the days of the stereotypical sweet table wines gracing the tables in kosher homes. Having won numerous wine competitions and tasting awards over the years, Herzog wines are sought after by Jews and non-Jews alike.

Herzog Wine Cellars sits in a nondescript industrial facility just off the highway. With the serene setting and fabulous climate, we were sure their grapes come from a nearby vineyard. But after seeing the immense production facility inside, we learned that Herzog's California wines are produced from grapes grown in world famous regions like Napa Valley, Sonoma and Mendocino counties, as well as smaller areas like the nearby Santa Ynez valley.

Each region grows grapes that are unique to their area and have been cultivated to produce some incredible varietals. And Herzog's master winemakers carefully select grapes that produce some fabulous wine blends.

Due to the laws of kashrut, from the time the grapes are crushed, only religious Jews are allowed to be involved in the wine making process. Herzog Wine Cellars are no different. Far from any large established Jewish communities, a team of Orthodox winemakers, machinists, staff and mashgichim (kosher supervisors) work together to produce wine shipped all over the world. One staff member mentioned the warehouse in back where nearly $3 million of wine is stored.

On the day of our visit, the facility was in the process of bottling Baron Herzog Jeunesse. From our vantage point in the viewing area above the plant, we could clearly read the signs stating that only mashgichim were allowed within the bottling loop during production.

At 2p.m., production halted. With so many Orthodox workers in the facility, it was time to daven Minchah. In a small, makeshift synagogue at the corner of the immense fermentation tank room, I joined the men in prayer forming a minyan.

Next it was off to the bar where all of Baron Herzog's wines are available for purchase. The wine-tasting option, however, is a must. For a small fee, patrons are served 10 different Baron Herzog wines ranging from exquisitely dry reds like Zinfandel to sublime late-harvest Chenin Blanc.

The newest Herzog blend, called Camouflage and released in 2015, uses 12 different varieties of grapes and was produced to commemorate Herzog's 30 years of California wine-making. With subtle hints of raspberry and chocolate, it was the wine I decided to take home with me. And any bottle purchased from the wine bar waives the fee for the wine tasting.

When the new facility opened in 2005, the Herzog family decided that visitors to the facility should complement their visit and wine tasting with a fine meal as well. It was with this in mind that Tierra Sur was established.

The only Zagat rated restaurant within 65 kilometres, the glatt kosher Tierra Sur appeals to Jews and non-Jews alike. With tasteful décor and available terraced dining, the restaurant sources many of its ingredients from local Oxnard farmers. Open for lunch and dinner, the restaurant serves elegant American fare with wine pairings available for each course. Rivaling any kosher fine dining establishment in Los Angeles, Tierra Sur is a kosher foodie's dream and makes for an elegant nightcap to a visit to Herzog Wine Cellars. ■

Announcement

Jes Landry, Branch Manager and Director, is pleased to announce the arrival of Corrine Spiegel, Senior Wealth Advisor and Director, Wealth Management to the Rosedale Office in Toronto.

Corrine brings more than 30 years of wealth management experience to ScotiaMcLeod and is joined by her team, Michael Kane, Investment Associate and David Chaim, Business Development Associate.

The Forest Hill Financial Advisory Group shares Scotia Wealth Management's vision of providing an innovative team based approach to wealth management.

Please join us in welcoming Corrine and the Forest Hill Financial Advisory Group.

Corrine Spiegel
Senior Wealth Advisor
Director, Wealth Management
corrine.spiegel@scotiawealth.com
(647) 777-7139
www.corrinespiegel.com

FOREST HILL FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod®, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management® Enriched Thinking™

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. ™ Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. Scotia Wealth Management™ is the brand name for a range of financial services provided by The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank), The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Scotiatrust), Private Investment Counsel, a service of 1832 Asset Management L.P., 1832 Asset Management U.S. Inc., Scotia Wealth Insurance Services Inc. and ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Wealth advisory and brokerage services are provided by ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.

SENIOR SIDE OF LIFE

Brooklyn: a movie that resonates

Dr. Michael Gordon

Occasionally, one reads an article that resonates at many levels with the reader. A few days after having seen the movie *Brooklyn*, based on the book by Irish writer Colm Toibin, there was an article in the *New York Times* in which he and author Alice Walker were interviewed. The part of the interview that resonated with me mirrored the film, which touched me in many ways, as it took place during my preteen years in Brooklyn.

That the story revolves around an immigrant from Ireland who settles in Brooklyn had, from the start, themes familiar to me, having been influenced greatly by my Lithuanian-born grandmother with whom I shared a bedroom along with my sister, during these same preteen 1950s years.

Without my realizing it, her life experiences and her penchant for telling stories about her immigrant and early working years in Brooklyn profoundly affected and perhaps laid the groundwork for my final professional decisions to focus on geriatrics and eldercare. When people ask me why I gravitated to that medical specialty, besides the unpredictable factors of opportunity and chance and good fortune, I often respond that the great joy in eldercare, beyond the usual satisfactions of doing meaningful medical work, is that all of my patients come with stories. These stories often rivet and connect me to the patients and become part of my own meaningful collective medical and life narrative.

The film *Brooklyn* resonated because it was not just an immigrant story, but it took place in the Brooklyn that I recall so fondly – the Brooklyn of the Dodgers, from just prior to their being at the bottom of the "Wait until next year" story, to the 1955 World Series Championship, to that terrible year in 1957 when it was announced that our beloved Dodgers, with their home in the tired but always welcoming Ebbets Field, would be moving to Los Angeles, which they did in 1958. For many, it portended the end to their love of and engagement in the world of baseball.

> *Brooklyn resonated because it was not just an immigrant story, but it took place in the Brooklyn that I recall so fondly.*

The movie has scenes of Coney Island, a few kilometres up the beach and boardwalk from my home in Brighton Beach, and Brooklyn College, where the heroine goes to study at night school, and was my alma mater. It reminded me of the common need for immigrants or the first generation of Americans to study at night while they worked to support their studies and help with their families during the day – my father took more than 10 years to complete his engineering degree at Cooper Union, another of the marvellous and accessible universities in New York – and followed this with a lifelong career as a civilian working for the U.S. Department of Defence.

In the *New York Times* interview, Toibin says, "I had to be careful not to preach… in the book, just tell the story. But I hope that when you see the young Lithuanian girl at the cash register in the supermarket looking really sad one day, you know it's for good reason: she's missing home. I hoped the book might contribute to that public debate."

It was that quote, which, as they say, closed the circle of the movie for me: my experience of growing up in Brooklyn and the immigrant experience I heard stories about from my Lithuanian-born grandmother – she was not at a cash register but at a sewing machine, initially in a factory, and, over the years, she became an active Lady Garment Workers member and organizer (ILGWU), a socialist influence that was not lost on me during my early years.

For a lovely and moving film experience, *Brooklyn* is a jewel – I have not read the book, but am sure it is equally as moving, and as is usually the case, although the story may be the same, its presentation and development and language would likely add another important dimension to this universal and individual immigrant experience. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
82 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-8457

Mazel tov Doreen Sternfeld celebrating your 85th birthday March 15 from your loving family, always, Sol, Robin, Neil, David Lewis, Michael and Sienna Rebecca Ann.

Maxine & Marvin Rosenblatt, Joyce & David Bergman announce the engagement of their children Stefanie & Jeffrey. Grandparents Mira, Harvey and Cookie share the joy.

Stephanie & Jack Saraga welcomed James Eric on Feb. 6. First grandchild for Judith & Edward Fink, seventh for Debbie & Gerry Saraga. Mazel tov!

Mazel tov on your 65th Anniversary Ruth & Norem Litvak! With love from your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. xoxo

Welcoming Zoë Hava Zichermann-Haber (Feb 14). She joins brothers Zach and Benny. Thrilled parents, Sandra & Kevin. Mazel tov to the Zichermann and Haber families!

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cjfiows@cjfiows.com or go online to www.CJFiows.com and click on "Family Simchas"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Wendy Breuer, Estee Buaron, Jack Bensimon, Natalie Nelson, Hershel Recht, Ayal Cohen and Dean Lurie

Harold and Pamela Garfinkle

Cindy Kam, Michael Wiener, Boris Ejchental and Brad Vooren

Edward Nagel and Reena Sheres

Art – Architecture – Technion

A fascinating evening showcasing the works of local artists Tobi Asmoucha, Wendy Breuer, Joelle Elfassy and Dorren Lurie was held by Technion Canada's Toronto Council and hosted by Stone Tile International. Guests enjoyed an enlightening presentation: "Beyond the architectural form: the implications of the new technologies in architectural design and fabrication" by Prof. Yasha Grobman, head of the Computer Oriented Design Laboratory at Technion's faculty of architecture and town planning. ■

– *The Socialite*

Janice Breslin and Michael Wiener

Sam and Joelle Elfassy and Nicole Mashiah

Hershel, Sharyn and Arnie Recht

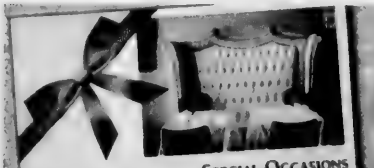
Eric Breuer

Ayal Cohen and Charles Boulakia

Wendy Breuer and Vivian Katz

AVITAL ZEMER PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca



KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

APRIL 7 - APRIL 14

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, April 7

HUMANITARIAN AID
Jessica Cadesky, a humanitarian aid worker who has worked to reduce the risks of gender violence in Africa and Asia, discusses her work, 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. Tickets, $18-25. Call 416-487-4161.

Friday, April 8

THE LEGACY OF HESCHEL
Rabbi Michael Marmur discusses the legacy of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Holy Blossom Temple, 6 p.m.

SHABBAT TOGETHER
PJ Library presents ShabbatToT Together, for children ages 3 and under with an adult, 9:30 a.m., the Leo Baeck Day School, North Campus. Register at www.shabbatot.eventbrite.ca

Saturday, April 9

SHABBAT/PESACH PARTY
PJ Library holds a Shabbat/Pesach party for children 2 to 5 and their siblings, 4-6 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Register at www.gotshabbatapril.eventbrite.ca

Sunday, April 10

REMINISCING
Alex Gropper discusses "Reminiscing on 40 years in the field," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

BUILD A BEEHIVE
Join Shoresh for an afternoon of learning and building new beehives, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Wolfand Centre for Jewish Life, 36 Harbord St. To register: sabrina@shoresh.ca

BUILDING HEART
An evening to celebrate Heart to Heart features a conversation with **Yaniv Sagee** and **Mohammad Darawshe** of Givat Haviva Educational Institute and music by Ventanas, Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W. Reception starts at 5:15 p.m. Tickets, $60/$85 at heart-to-heart.ca

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN
Club Chaverut presents the Gilbert and Sullivan Concert Group, 2:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue. RSVP **Rose**, 905-764-8141. $7/$10.

PRE-PESACH FASHION SALE
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation holds a pre-Pesach clothing and accessories fair, car wash and kids' activities, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill.

RE-IMAGINING THE BIBLE
Prof. Lori Lefkovitz discusses "Biblical foundations of sexual, gender and ethnic identities"; **Prof. Adele Reinhartz** discusses "Moses as Jesus in DeMille's *The Ten Commandments*," 2 p.m. Schulich School of Business, York University. Register at cjs@yorku.ca, 416-736-5823.

PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS
Beth Tzedec's 55+ Singles Friendship Group hosts **Steven G. Kelman** discussing "Protecting your assets," 2 p.m. $15/$18. 416-781-3511.

ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATION
Enjoy brunch with Alzheimer specialist **Dr. Nathan Herrmann** discussing "Can seniors moments be made a bad memory?" 10 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. $12. $16-633-3838.

PASSOVER GROOVE
PJ Library hosts special activities for Passover, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Avenue Road Arts School, 460 Avenue Rd. Register at www.passgroove.eventbrite.ca

UP FROM THE PAGE
Friends of Yiddish holds an afternoon of entertaining readings in Yiddish and English of short stories, 2 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Free/$5. RSVP **Lillian**, 416-783-3603.

BROADWAY TREATS
Cantor Eyal Bitton and soprano **Michele Tredger** discuss the music of composer **Claude-Michel Schonberg**, who wrote *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miz*, 9:45 a.m. Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $10/$15.

SHAMOS COLLECTION
Shamos (religious texts that need to be buried) will be collected by Beit Rayim Synagogue, Lebovic JCC, shipping and delivery area, noon-4 p.m. $10 per shopping bag, cash only.

Monday, April 11

ISRAEL'S GEO-STRATEGIC SITUATION
Diplomat **Ofer Bavly** discusses "The good, the bad and the ugly, Israel's geo-strategic situation," 7:30 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $15/$20.

WISDOM LITERATURE
Rabbi Eva Goldfinger, Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, discusses "Wisdom literature: affirming and challenging Torah," 7 p.m., Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. $20. 416-385-3910.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES
Temple Emanu-El's spring lecture series begins today with **Rick Phillips** discussing "Beethoven: child of the French Revolution," 2-4 p.m. $45/series/$15 lecture. 416-449-3880.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Musicale afternoon

Beersheba club of Na'amat Canada Toronto presented a "Musicale afternoon" recently to raise funds for Na'amat Israel's 240 daycares and other institutions. Seen are, standing, from left, vocalist Judith Ross and pianist Shaya Petroff; seated, pianists Natalya Tyonknia and Dinah Gruber. MOLLIE ROTHMAN PHOTO

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of April 21 is April 11. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Tuesday, April 12

LUNCH AND LEARN
Valerie Schatzker discusses "The Jewish oil magnates of Galicia," Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 12:10 p.m. RSVP 416-221-3433.

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB
The Israel Stamp Club discusses "Stamps with marine or naval-related subjects," 7 p.m., 140 Antibes Dr.

BARBARA KAY
Barbara Kay and **Jonathon Kay** discuss "Are liberal Jews trapped by their own ideology?" 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

Wednesday, April 13

TECH TALK
Marc Saltzman discusses technology trends, Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., dialogue at 7:30 p.m. $35/$45.

POVERTY IN THE COMMUNITY
A panel of experts from Ve'ahavta, Jewish Family and Child and others discuss poverty in the Jewish community, 7 p.m., First Narayever Congregation.

BOOK CLUB
Temple Har Zion book club discusses *The List* by **Martin Fletcher**, 7:30 p.m.

EATING FOR WELLNESS
Holistic nutritionist **Bonnie Wisener** discusses "Prevention of common ailments and disease," 1:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

THE CHASM
Rabbi Michael Skobac discusses "Understanding the differences between Judaism and Christianity," 8 p.m., Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

HAGGADAH NIGHT
Rabbis David Grundland, **Yisroel Rosenzweig**, **Mordechai Torczyner** and **Jonathan Ziring** discuss the Haggadah, 8:15 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue.

Thursday, April 14

THE HISTORY OF UNDERGARMENTS
Professional bra-maker **Leah Hoogkamp** discusses "The history of the undergarment," 8 p.m., Temple Har Zion, $3/$6.

Et Cetera

PASSOVER SEDERS
- Temple Kol Ami hosts a seder April 23, 6 p.m. Register by April 8 at admin@kolami.ca or 905-709-2620, ext. 3. $20/$40.
- Congregation Habonim hosts a seder led by **Eli Rubenstein**, **Avrum Rosensweig**, April 23. Free, donations welcome. Register at www.congregation-habonim.org
- Temple Har Zion hosts a seder April 23, 6:30 p.m. Register by April 15, 905-889-2252, ext. 108.

DR. SLEPKOV HONOURED
A dinner honouring **Dr. Howard Slepkov** will be held at B'nai Israel Synagogue, 190 Church St., St. Catharines, April 17 at 5 p.m. For tickets, 905-685-6767.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com.
- Widows/Widowers under 65: A 6-session group for men and women under 65 who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Starts April 12, 7:30-9 p.m.
- Widows/Widowers over 65: A 6-session group for men and women over 65 who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Starts April 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. April 11, **Corrie Sirota** discusses "Grief is a process, not an event," 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Discuss the novel, *The Children Act*, April 7, 11 a.m.; Passover recipe swap, April 7, 1 p.m.; Passover seder, April 21, 1:30 p.m.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. April 10, concert with **Ashira Duo**, 1:30 p.m.; April 12, **Faye Kellerstein** discusses "Yiddish musical theatre," 10 a.m.; April 13, York Minstrels Show Choir, 1:30 p.m.; **Sylvia Warsh** starts a 10-session creative writing class April 8, 10:30 a.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 65+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama, April 13; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; barber/hair stylist, April 14, 10 a.m.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
- A ghostly revival: Postwar Yiddish culture in North America with **Rachel Seeling**, April 6-20, 1 p.m.
- Yoga Cares, a program for young adults with an intellectual disability starts April 5.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Bridge level 1 starts April 7, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong starts April 6, 10:30 a.m. and April 7, 7-9 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

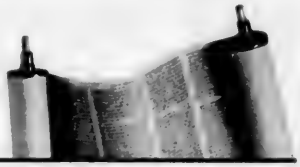
750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
- *Scots Jews: Identity, Belonging and the Future* is on display at all 3 JCCs until April 27.
- **Iain Scott** teaches "Opera appreciation: All in the family," April 11, 1:30 p.m.
- Journey to headstand: Face your fears and flip your perspective, April 9, 11 a.m.
- Mindfulness-based stress reduction, Wednesdays, April 13-June 15, 4:45 p.m. Ext. 574.
- Register now for adult volleyball league, children's dance program or basketball academy.
- Hebrew (and Yiddish) Institute classes for adults start the week of April 10.
- Improv for adults, with Second City, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m.
- Skills-based program for loved ones caring for a family member with dementia, starts April 13. Email gerri.richman@sympatico.ca
- Everybody dance, accessible to all people with DJ **Layah Jane**, April 17, 2:30 p.m
- Bel Canto concert featuring **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez**, April 18, 8 p.m.
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, April 6-June 29, 7-9 p.m.
- Bridge, Level 1, starts April 6, 10 a.m.; Beginner mah-jong, starts April 7, 7 p.m.
- Passover cooking workshop with **Agnes Imani**, April 7, 7 p.m.
- Free bagel breakfast for members, April 8, 10-11 a.m.
- Registration open for Groove School of Dance, cooking lessons and tennis with Jay. ■

Parshah

Tazria | Leviticus 12:1-13:59



Yacov Fruchter says spiritual leadership means giving people the space to grow on their own
Rabbi Shalom Spira discusses practical applications of the mitzvah of saving a life
Rachael Turkienicz elaborates on the link between leprosy and gossip

Yacov Fruchter

One reason I joined the Beth Tzedec Congregation team in Toronto last summer was because of my interest in spiritual care, and my desire to adopt Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl as a mentor in this field. Rabbi Frydman-Kohl has a significant reputation for his focus on chesed work and walking alongside and supporting people through their most challenging and spiritually confusing times.

A few months ago, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl invited me to shadow him as he helped a family "get up" from shivah after the passing of the family patriarch. The rabbi had a close relationship with the family and was aware that the deceased had left several of his family members in tremendous pain.

For this family, the shivah was an opportunity for mourning their loss and the beginning of healing from emotional wounds. It was also an opportunity for them to strengthen the damaged bonds between the remaining relatives before continuing with their normal activities. In helping the family cross the threshold into a new normal, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl spent over an hour with them preparing for the weeks to come, and created the space for them to reflect on their experiences during the shivah, as well as their emotional states.

I was reminded of the passages we read this week. In Tazria, people also find themselves isolated and withdrawn from normal communal activities after becoming ritually impure, following either the birth of a child, or the identification of the ailment known as *tzara'at*. In both cases, they cannot fully rejoin communal life until the kohen confirms that they are ready and, through ritual practice, invites them back in.

In 2016, many Jews feel they have been pushed away from traditional Jewish spaces and made to feel unfit. We need spiritual leadership who are welcoming, forward thinking and sensitive enough to allow individuals the space to grow on their own and within an inviting community. ■

Yacov Fruchter is director of community building and spiritual engagement at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shalom Spira

"On the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised" (Leviticus, 12:3). The Gemara, Yoma, 34b, derives from the term *besar* (the flesh of) that even if the baby is afflicted with *tzara'at* (a skin disorder, often translated as leprosy), circumcision overrides the prohibition (Deuteronomy, 24:8) against a dermatologist removing *tzara'at*. This special biblical licence is specifically required for Rabbi Yehudah, who generally forbids unintended side effects.

The Gemara objects that the same Rabbi Yehudah allows placing hot iron spits in the near-freezing Temple mikvah on Yom Kippur. A second effect of submerging glowing iron into cold water is that the metal will become tempered (one of the 39 labours proscribed on Yom Kippur). How, then, can he countenance mikvah warming?

The commentaries clash on the Gemara's answer. According to Rashi, the metallurgical tempering is only sub-optimal in nature because the raw iron spits do not serve as a useful receptacle. Under such circumstances, tempering (if performed deliberately) would merely represent a rabbinic infraction like all sub-optimal labours performed on Yom Kippur, and double effects do not apply to rabbinic interdictions.

Tosafot, on the other hand, distinguish the Sabbath/Yom Kippur from all other mitzvot, because the Sabbath laws are derived from the Tabernacle architecture, which specifies "goal-oriented labour" (Exodus, 35:33). Since a double effect is not goal-oriented, it is merely rabbinically forbidden on the Sabbath. And to facilitate the sacrificial service, the sages granted the Temple immunity from inconvenient rabbinic Sabbath legislation.

Based on the above analysis, Rabbi J. David Bleich (in the journal *Tradition*) prohibits administration of morphine to a terminally ill patient in such a manner that the latter's death will result as a second effect. Neither Rashi's nor Tosafot's leniency is applicable to the mitzvah of saving a life, and the morphine dose should be carefully titrated against the patient's symptoms. ■

Rabbi Spira is a research assistant at the McGill AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Rachael Turkienicz

This week's parshah speaks of ritual impurity pertaining to a woman who has given birth, and then the impurities of leprosy. It speaks of sacrifices and time restrictions.

But beyond the ancient Jewish rites of purity and impurity lies a subtle and powerful message within the structure of the parshah. First, we must remember how the Torah and the sages understand leprosy. It is a highly contagious, infectious and deadly disease. The sages teach us that leprosy is linked to the sin of gossip, or "lashon hara." Miriam, Moses' sister, is struck with leprosy when she gossips about Moses in the desert.

The properties of leprosy also describe the properties of gossip. They are both infectious, both contagious, and both destroy someone's life piece by piece and eat away at the individual from the outside in.

In fact, the description in the parshah can also be paralleled with the different degrees of gossip. Some are surface comments that can be brushed off, others are insidious and damaging. While exploring the topic, we return to the parshah, which gives us a structure that reflects true life.

The Torah portion begins by discussing a woman who has given birth. Immediately following these details, the Torah proceeds to discuss the signs of leprosy, the symbolic disease of gossip. We can now see the warning presented to us.

Amidst the community celebrating the addition of a new member, there is the very real temptation to discuss the woman and the circumstances of the birth. The delivery of a baby is both the most public and the most private of moments. The structure of the parshah reminds us to always guard our words and remember that we share each other's lives and protect each other's sacred moments. ■

Rachael Turkienicz is executive director of Rachael's Centre in Toronto, rachaelscentre.org.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTIES

PINEWOOD AVENUE $2,179,000
Demand Wychwood/Humewood Neighbourhood. State Of The Art, Sunfilled 5 Bdrm, Luxurious Master With Steam Shower – Delightful LR + DR, Family Rm On Main, Hrwd Flrs, Lwr Lvl Rec Rm + Unique Play Rm, Parking Deep Lot And More! Penny Forber* 416-488-2875

EXCEPTIONAL CEDARVALE HOME $1,849,000
Totally Reno'd Through Out, 3+Bdrms, 3 Bths, Large Principal Rms, Stunning Kit With O'sized Island, Top Of The Line Appliances, Powder Rm On Main, Mud Room Entrance Warm Inviting Family Home Close To Shops, Subway, Restaurants. Julie Gofman* 416-488-2875

123 DELL PARK AVENUE $1,629,000
Sleek + Sun Filled, Completely Re-Done, Open Plan On Main, Incredible Kitchen, Family Rm + W/O To Deck And Grdn, Floating Staircase To 4 Family Bdrms, Fin Lwr Lvl W/Extra Bdrm + Bath. 'Smart' House. Irma Weisz** 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

UNIQUE PROPERTY – JUST $590/SF
Rare Luxurious 4400 Sf P'hse, 3br, + Den, Elegant Dble Door Entry, Marble Foyer Flr + Coffered Ceiling, W/W Windows Bring In Natural Light, Wonderful Princ Rms For Entertaining, O'sized Gourmet Kit, Sumptuous Master, 5 Balc, Ravine Views, 4 Car Pkg And More Saul Memck* & Marilyn Memck* 416-488-2875

THORNHILL – 2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN
1350 Sq. Ft. Bright Space. Eat-In Kitchen. Hardwood Laminate Floors. Walking Distance To Synagogue. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

PRESTIGIOUS FOREST HILL CODE CONDO
Boutique Building By Blvd & Lifetime Developments. 6th Floor Unit Overlooking The Village. 750 Sq. Ft. 2Bdrm, 1 Bath. 200 Sq. Ft. Terrace. Equipped W/ Gas Hook Up & Water Bib. Debbie Ekonomou* 416-785-1500

JUST LISTED 2BR 1BTH CONDO STE @ YONGE+EMPRESS
Bright West Facing Unit In Lux Bldg In Desirable Locale! Laminate Thru-Out, Stainless Steel Appl's. Steps To All Amenities. 1Prkg+1 Lckr Incl. Andre Levy-Bencheton* 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

STRATHEARN RD – CEDARVALE $4300 – MAY 1ST
Lovely 3 Bdrm, Updated Kitchen – Marble Counters, Backsplash, Brkfast Bar, Hrdwd On Main + 2nd, L –Lvl Rec Rm + Nanny's Rm + 3 Pce Bath, W/O To Deck And Grdn From Dining Rm. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

368 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,275-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Luxurious+New Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br, 2+1Br! From $1,610-$5,310! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2701-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$4,685/Mo! Magnificent 2Br 2Bth South/West Corner W/Lake+City Views! Superb Amenities! LEASED 1419'! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! JUST S/LAWRENCE! $3,300/MO!
Fab Opportunity! Approx 950' Storefront W/Outdoor Rear Deck+Bsmt! Front+Rear Entries! 2Car Parking! Was Used As A Restaurant! Immediate Closing! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath + solar., hdwd, indry indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

Skymark, Zenith 2 bdrm + den, 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft. SW exp. pkg, cable $2550/mth. 416-566-6654

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE
Thornhill Woods
8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan
Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.
Interested Physicians call 416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

PRIVATE LUXURY APARTMENTS ON THE RAVINE
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE • BATHURST/SHEPPARD

Beautiful, spacious, renovated units available in a peaceful forest setting. Quiet, mostly adult building. TTC steps away. 2 Bedroom available.

Spring Special! Call for info.

Please call for information or to book an appointment:
Donna Goldenberg: donna@lordon.ca
905-474-3600 • 416-638-6813
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU HOME

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Are you looking for someone who is reliable, trustworthy, dependable and caring. I provide these svcs. for seniors. Call 416-663-2903

Cleaning lady avail to clean homes. Honest, over 20 yrs exp. Refs. avail. Call Eugenia, 647-391-6564

Live-in caregiver for elderly exper. w/ refer. salary negotiable. 416-460-2854/416-656-8863

Cleaning lady avail. every other Tues & Wed. Refs. upon request. Please call: 647-763-5508

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

368 CARPETS

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

380 CATERING

COR
Online Catering
www.cafesheli.com
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905.762.0640
www.cafesheli.com

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old, refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6467.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1383.**

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Rabbi Sacks: Extremism is hitting all the world faiths

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013, is a global religious leader and philosopher. Author of more than 25 books, Rabbi Sacks has published commentaries on the Jewish daily prayer book and holiday machzorim. His 2015 book, *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*, addresses religious extremism and violence committed in the name of God.

Rabbi Sacks spoke in Toronto at Glenn Gould Studio on March 15 and at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue March 16.

What spurred you to write *Not in God's Name*?

I began writing it a very long time ago. I published a book on the first anniversary of 9/11 called *Dignity of Difference*, and at that time, I wanted to explore more deeply the tensions that lead people toward religiously motivated violence. So in 2002, I began *Not in God's Name*. It turned out to be very difficult, and I put it aside three years later. Then, in the summer of 2014, there was all of the ISIS-related violence and I decided to bring the manuscript back out. I felt there was this new chapter in the horrific story of religiously motivated violence in the 21st century, and it seemed so important that I felt I had to write about it. I went back to the manuscript and rewrote the book completely.

Why do you believe that the 21st century has seen a surge of religious extremism and violence?

I think what's happening in the Middle East reflects a failure in many places of secular, nationalist politics. In Syria, Iraq, Egypt, even in Turkey, we see the failure of secular nationalism. It failed because the regimes in these places were corrupt, essentially, and in many cases, sustained by rather brutal dictators. It takes a long time to create a culture of freedom, and I don't think leaders like Hafez Assad, Moammar Gadhafi or Saddam Hussein tried, because they wanted to maintain a grip on power. In the end, you can't sustain this. Now, we're seeing a really toxic mix of religion and politics in the region. The language is religious, but the objectives are all political.

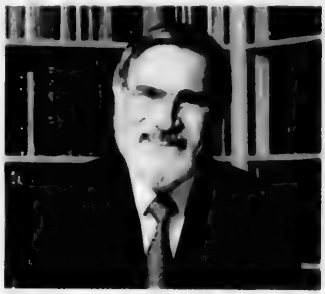
How do the tensions between the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Islam and Christianity – contribute to violence and political unrest?

In *Not in God's Name*, I argue that the three Abrahamic faiths all have sibling rivalries written into the stories each religion tells about itself. And the relationship between the faiths is similar, say, to the relationship between Jacob and Esau or Isaac and Ishmael or, at worst, Cain and Abel. We're talking here about ancient theologies, but it's because we have to be honest enough to recognize that we've never really worked through our religious differences as faiths. We've never really delved into our relationships in the sacred texts.

To what extent do you see interfaith discussion as part of the solution to increased religious violence?

I think we may need something stronger than interfaith discussion, though we certainly do need it. Interfaith discussion is, "I tell you what I believe, and vice versa, and we're nice to each other." We need more than that: we need a side-by-side approach, which is, "I don't mind what you believe, and vice versa, and we realize that we face a problem that we can only solve by working together."

In the same vein, regarding the problem of religious violence, I don't think we necessarily need theological dialogue to address it, but all the faiths need to recognize that we can solve this problem if we all work together. This is more of a grassroots approach, whereas formal, interfaith dialogue tends to be very elite.



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Much of the current unrest in the Middle East (other than in Israel) stems from conflicts occurring within divisions of Islam, and not so much between Muslims, Jews and Christians. Can you speak to that?

True. But at the moment, Christians are also being ethnically cleansed from large parts of the Middle East. And there is profoundly anti-Israel rhetoric being disseminated on university campuses and throughout the world. Much of what I say in the book has nothing to do with Sunni and Shiite divisions – I think a non-Muslim is well-advised not to write about this subject. You can't deal with everything in one go. Thousands of books have dealt with looking at extreme forms of radical, political Islam since 9/11 happened. I wanted to try to say something new.

Do you think religious violence across the Abrahamic faiths tends to stem from misreadings of the Old and New Testaments and the Qur'an?

I argue that people who read these texts and practise violence are misreading them. I do argue for a new reading of these texts. But it's very easy to misread them, because there are violent passages in all of them: in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qur'an. I think we all have dangerous texts. All of us do, including atheists.

What are examples of how these religious texts have been misunderstood?

The central part of the book is a new reading of all the stories of sibling rivalry in Genesis. I'm looking at Genesis because it features stories common to Jews, Christians and Muslims – all three speak about Abraham. So what I'm posing is, can we carefully read these stories in a new way? And most people who've read my book say, "I may not agree with everything you say, but yes, I can see there is a new way of reading these stories."

With regard to Judaism, to what extent and where are you seeing extremism occurring?

We've had a real problem with this at various points in Jewish history. In the book, I focus on situations in the first century when Jews inside the besieged Jerusalem were busier killing each other than the Romans outside of it. I focus on this moment in Jewish history just as I focus on the 17th century when I look at Christianity. I'm not looking at the contemporary Middle East. I'm stepping back and saying, "Let's look at the unexorcised ghosts in our religious texts." I think the book would be impossibly controversial if I tried to look at contemporary issues. I've tried to give it some historical distance.

You say that religion needn't be the root of violence, but part of the solution. How can this be brought about?

I seriously believe that a precedent was set by the Vatican II, in 1965, when it decried persecution against Jews. This redefined the Catholic Church's relation to Jews. Whereas for centuries, Jews and Catholics met with animus and a lack of understanding, today they meet as friends. So if one can make that change between Jews and Catholics, maybe similar changes can be made between Judaism and Islam, and Christianity and Islam. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy Passover!

Will you pay more than your fair share of income tax this month?

That happens when you do not have a Taxable Income Strategy.

Professional Financial Planning can minimize the amount of tax you must pay, *legally*, of course!

By effectively analyzing your income needs and creating a Financial Plan which provides that income by using various financial products, including a diversified portfolio of mutual funds, we can help you create additional income at a reduced rate of tax!

Why pay the government more than you have to? "Better in your pocket...!"

We also provide Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs)

For a free consultation with no obligation, call (416) 221-0060

MUTUAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY GOLDSTEIN FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INC

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaldin

One foot in Belfast, the other in Peterborough

Backstory

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Born in 1960 in Toronto, literary scholar Leon Litvack now lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland, but still fulfils the role of spiritual advisor and sometimes cantor for Beth Israel Congregation in Peterborough, Ont.

Decades ago, Litvack attained a bachelor's degree in English literature and religious studies from the University of Toronto, then started postgraduate studies – and a new life – in Britain. Today he is a professor of Victorian studies at Queen's University in Belfast and a noted specialist on the works of Charles Dickens.

Somewhat fittingly, it was a dramatic and somewhat Dickensian twist of fate that led him to establish a new connection with Canada via the Peterborough shul.

Adopted as an infant into a Jewish family in Toronto's Forest Hill neighbourhood, Litvack received a Jewish education at Associated Hebrew Schools and the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and acquired his adoptive father's love of cantorial music. As a teenager, he often read the Torah and led services for the adult congregation at Toronto's Beth Sholom Synagogue.

Then, several years ago, came a bolt from the blue in the form of a communication from a relative he didn't know he had, allowing him to discover his birth family, who were from Peterborough. "I never went looking for it," he said. "It came to me in an email from my half-sister who found me after they passed the Adoption Disclosure Act in 2009."

Litvack conducts High Holiday services for the Peterborough congregation, as well as infrequent Erev Shabbat services when he is in town. "I've introduced a meditative service for them on Friday nights – a 'kirtan' service, which combines eastern musical forms with Hebrew words in order to give it that kind of eastern feel that a lot of Jews respond to quite favourably," he said. He is also a halachic advisor for congregants.

A trustee of the Charles Dickens Museum in London, Litvack is primarily known in the scholarly world as the principle editor of the Charles Dickens Letters Project, an enterprise that seeks out newly discovered letters by Dickens that have never been in the public domain. He and his team of three get copies of the letters, transcribe them, provide context, and publish them in supplementary journals of a 12-volume series of letters that was completed in 2012.

> *Litvack is primarily known in the scholarly world as the principle editor of the Charles Dickens Letters Project*

"It's amazing how many letters are out there that have never seen the light of day. I would say that I personally find 30 or 40 letters a year. Generally, these are letters that are brought to auction houses like Christie's, Bonham's or Sotheby's and sold in their sales."

Dickens, of course, was a prolific writer, not just of novels and stories but of letters as well: the project has documented close to 15,000. That number doesn't include the many baskets of letters that the famed author – in the midst of an affair and ever mindful of his reputation – gathered back from his correspondents and destroyed in a bonfire in the 1860s.

"He was very careful about protecting his private life, and he worried about anything in the public domain that would cast him in a negative light," Litvack said.

Newly surfaced letters may come with a price tag of 5,000 British pounds or more, but Litvack and his team don't need to worry about raising that kind of money. "We have very good relations with the auction houses, so generally, if I'm not able to get a transcription from a low-resolution image on the website, I write them for a copy. They understand that we do not publish the images, we only want the text."

Litvack's related activities include the Dickens Festival that he and others staged in Belfast to mark the bicentenary of the author's birth in 2012. Currently, he's researching the backgrounds of photographs of Dickens and the photographers who created them. He's also slated to assemble an exhibition of portraits of the literary giant for the Charles Dickens Museum to mark the 150th anniversary of his death in 2020. ■

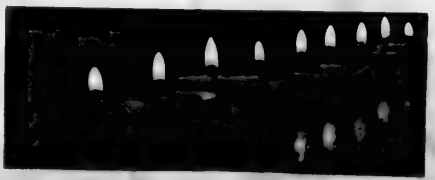
OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Glucksman, Lorraine	March 21, 2016	100 Canyon Ave
Ryvina, Lidia	March 21, 2016	Private
Lightman, Adele	March 22, 2016	25 Ridge Rd
Rubenstein, Harold	March 22, 2016	1201 Steeles Ave W
Sheiner, Jack	March 23, 2016	7 Overbrook Place
Meyers, Marion	March 23, 2016	34 Leith Hill Rd
Jacobson, Eileen	March 23, 2016	00 Auburndale Dr
Wartman, Albert	March 24, 2016	120 Promenade Circle
Wassyng, Ethel	March 24, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Gluckowsky, Frances	March 26, 2016	77 Allingham Gardens
Campeanu, Esterica	March 27, 2016	765 Steeles Ave W
Fournier, Marc	March 27, 2016	30 Belvia Dr
Waisman, Lisbu	March 28, 2016	Private
Rivkind, Dora	March 29, 2016	5 Emerald Lane
Gruda, Morris	March 29, 2016	343 Clark Ave W

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Florence Moses	Mar 21/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Maxine Drevnig	Mar 20/16	22 Beaverhall Drive
Jan (Janek) Rolin	Mar 20/16	784 Centre Street
Lola Foster	Mar 21/16	20 Shallmar Blvd.
Joseph Morgan	Mar 22/16	85 Stonedene Blvd.
Alice Ann Hershberg	Mar 22/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Hershel Okun	Mar 21/16	111 Avenue Road
Gloria Cera	Mar 21/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Sandra Cummings Aron	Mar 23/16	4001 Bayview Avenue
Renee Diament	Mar 23/16	98 Overbrook Place
Adele Fienberg	Mar 25/16	2500 Bathurst Street
Barry Avrith-Cooper	Mar 23/16	202-1420 Kingston Road
Leo Goldstein	Mar 25/16	147 Elder Street



2016 MAH JONGG CARDS

LAST CHANCE TO PRE-ORDER!

RESERVE YOURS WHILE QUANTITIES LAST!

WWW.ISRAELISOURCE.COM/MAHJONGG OR VISIT US IN STORE!

PLEASE NO TELEPHONE ORDERS

BEING JEWISH DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE EXPENSIVE!®

THE ISRAELI SOURCE

2006-2016

10 YEARS OF SAVINGS!

LET MY PEOPLE SAVE!

YOU CAN EXPECT CANADA'S BEST DEALS ON ALL YOUR PASSOVER NEEDS

SHMURAH MATZAH • SEDER PLATES • PASSOVER COOKBOOKS
KITCHENWARE • HOSTESS GIFTS • TOYS • ARTS/CRAFTS • GREETING CARDS

AFTER

NOW!

IN PRIZES TO BE GIVEN OUT IN OUR AFIKOMAN RIDDLE CHALLENGE! VISIT ISRAELISOURCE.COM/AFIKOMAN TO PLAY!

SAVE UP TO 70%!

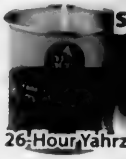
FROM $9.99 PER 500g (1.1 lbs)

Handmade Shmurah Matzah
Mehadrin, Product of Israel

SAVE 50%!

$2.49 BUY 10 AND GET ANOTHER 2 FREE!

Rabbi Nathan Goldberg Haggadah
Hebrew/English



SAVE UP TO 66%!

FROM 49¢

26-Hour Yahrzeit Candles

SAVE 80%!

FROM $9.99

Antique Finish Seder Plate
Nickel or Pewter

SAVE 60%!

$9.99

Acrylic Flip-Top Lid Matzah Box
For Square Machine-Made Matzah

SAVE 43%!

FROM $3.99

Welch's Manischewitz
Concord Grape Juice, 1.9L
Suitable for Kiddush and 4 Cups

SAVE 33%!

$99.99

Shabbat & Yom Tov Warming Tray
Large Size, Stainless Steel Finish

SAVE 40%!

FROM $74.99

Shabbat & Yom Tov Compliant
Kitchen Water Pot

SAVE 50%!

FROM $19.99

Stain Resistant Tablecloths
90" to 197"

MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE

SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 16TH, 10:00PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

HUGE SAVINGS AND AN AFIKOMAN HUNT WITH FREE PRIZES!

SEE www.israelisource.com/midnightmadness FOR DETAILS

Thornhill · SUNDAY 10-5 / MONDAY-THURSDAY 10-6 / FRIDAY 10-4
www.israelisource.com · 24 HOURS A DAY
info@israelisource.com · (905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18

Prices in this flyer from April 7 until April 13, while supplies last. Some items may be final sales, check at point of sale. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion, and we cannot be responsible for typographical errors in product prices or descriptions.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

APRIL 14, 2016 • NISSAN 6, 5776

$2.00 • 60 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Wynne reveals details of upcoming Israel visit

Premier's May trade mission will emphasize high-tech and life sciences. **PAGE 12**

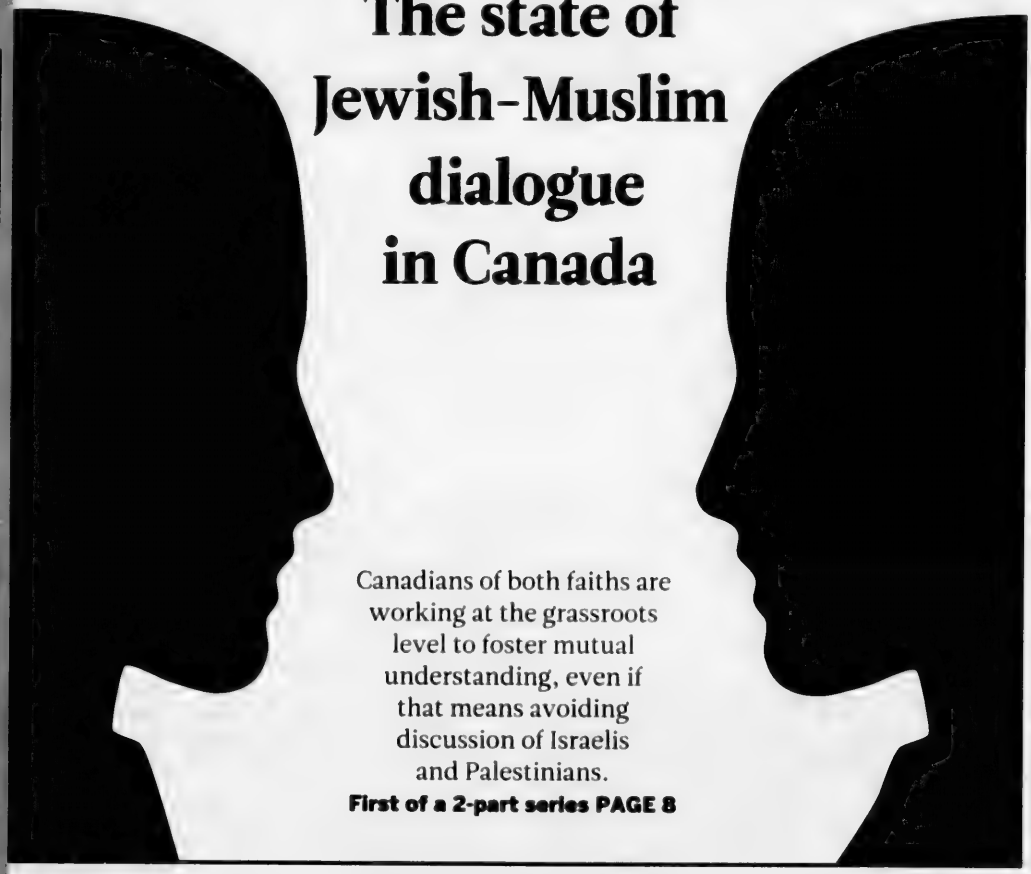
Orthodox rabbis denounce physician-assisted suicide

Petition argues PAD is forbidden by Jewish law, urges moral clarity. **PAGE 21**

Metzora

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:41 p.m.	8:48 p.m.
Montreal	7:23 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Ottawa	7:31 p.m.	8:38 p.m.
Toronto	7:43 p.m.	8:49 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:05 p.m.	9:17 p.m.
Calgary	8:15 p.m.	9:29 p.m.
Vancouver	7:48 p.m.	8:59 p.m.



The state of Jewish-Muslim dialogue in Canada

Canadians of both faiths are working at the grassroots level to foster mutual understanding, even if that means avoiding discussion of Israelis and Palestinians.

First of a 2-part series PAGE 8

What's on your Pesach menu?

PASSOVER FOOD: Ten pages of inspiration to spice up your holiday table. **PAGE 32**

York's 'inclusion' steps criticized

Jewish groups decry presence of anti-Israel members on body meant to heal divisions. **PAGE 16**

Can Pillar help Jays to promised land?

Toronto's star centre-fielder headlines crop of Jews on MLB rosters as season opens. **PAGE 48**

Kinky Boots NOW THRU MAY 15 ONLY
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 mirvish.com

6 27843 39403 7

Israel gets support from Canada's north, and a literary giant dies in Hungary

Yukon premier condemns BDS

Few may have noticed at the time, but Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski came out strongly against the boycotts, divestment and sanctions movement against Israel Feb. 23, the same day Canada's Parliament condemned BDS. "There is growing international recognition that the BDS movement is veiled anti-Semitism," Pasloski stated. "As Canadians, we must speak up strongly and clearly again discrimination in all its forms." The BDS motion was passed by the majority of Conservative and Liberal MPs. Pasloski's conservative Yukon Party has 12 seats in the 19-seat legislature. He's been premier since 2011.

Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski

Auschwitz survivor won Nobel Prize

Imre Kertesz, a Holocaust survivor who won the Nobel Prize for literature, died March 28 in Budapest at age 86. Kertesz, who portrayed the horrors of Auschwitz in some of his writings, reportedly suffered from Parkinson's disease. He was deported from his native Budapest to Auschwitz in 1944 at age 14, and was transferred the next year to Buchenwald, where he was liberated in 1945. Kertesz returned to Budapest after the war and worked as a journalist, but lost his job in 1951 when the newspaper adopted the Communist Party line. He later moved to Berlin, where he lived until recent years. In 2002, Kertesz became the first Hungarian to win the Nobel for literature.

Gay wedding a first in Argentina

A Buenos Aires shul will host the first official same-sex Jewish marriage held in a synagogue in Latin America. The shul, NCI-Emanu El, and the LGBTQ group Judios Argentinos Gay, announced April 6 that the assembly of NCI last month unanimously approved a request to hold a same-sex wedding, and that Romi Charur and Vicky Escobar will marry this month. No date was released. Both groups said it's the first official same-sex Jewish marriage to be held in a religious setting in Latin America. NCI-Emanu El belongs to both the Conservative and Reform movements. Argentina was the first Latin American nation to allow gay marriage, which has been legal since 2010. ■

Inside today's edition

RabbiZRabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	42	Q&A	57
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	52	Parshah	58
Cover Story	8	International	27	Social Scene	54	Backstory	59

Gematria

26

The number of terror attacks in Israeli-controlled areas in March decreased by 26 per cent over February, making last month's tally of 123 incidents the lowest since July.

93

The age of ex-Auschwitz guard Ernest Tremmel, who died April 5, one week before he was slated to go on trial in Germany for his role in more than 1,000 murders at the camp.

Quotable

Disappointed, but not surprised.

— Program host Stanley Asher on the demise of Montreal's Radio Shalom due to financial problems. See p. 24.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz looks at ways to freshen up your Passover menu.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein
Certified Financial Planner
416-221-0060
Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Protecting the vulnerable

Diane Richler asks where the Jewish community is in the debate on assisted suicide (Letters, March 31). The answer is that we are everywhere.

Unlike certain issues such as racism, where there is near unanimous agreement within the community, the issue of medical assistance in dying is past being a yes or no question. The court has ruled.

It is now a matter of working out details, such as who should be eligible, who should be permitted to take part, and how we can ensure access and protection for all, while protecting the rights of those who cannot take part in this process.

Many of those of us who are leading in this process are Jewish. However, because the issues are not unique to our community, we are not working in isolation, and so we just aren't as visible. However, our voices are being clearly heard.

Hershi Berman, MD
Toronto

Putting God first

Rabbi Donniel Hartman in his new book *Putting God Second: How to Save Religion from Itself* ("Putting God first by putting God second," March 31) claims that a life of faith "very often activates a critical flaw that supports and encourages immoral impulses." One example he gives is that "it can exhaust one's ability to see the needs of other human beings." Hillel's Golden Rule, "to not do to your neighbour what is hateful to you," is brought as the panacea to Hartman's problem with putting God first.

With all due respect, Rashi, the foremost talmudic and biblical commentator, explains the story with Hillel differently. Rashi gives two explanations for Hillel's answer to the potential convert. The second explanation of Rashi is the well-known one quoted above. Rashi's first explanation, however, interprets "your neighbour" (literally your friend) as referring to God. Rashi says that one shouldn't transgress God's words just as you wouldn't want your neighbour to do something that is hateful to you.

Understood this way, both ritual and interpersonal commandments are given equal importance. Our sages say the Ten Commandments were given on two tablets to emphasize the equality between the ritual commandments on the first tablet and the interpersonal commandments on the second. Why then do the Ten Commandments begin with laws between man and God? The very first word of the Ten Commandments is "I" (*Anochi*) referring to God. The very last word is "to your neighbour" (*lere'echa*). God requires we accept Him, not because He needs us, but because our neighbour does. It is only a life of faith, putting God first, that engenders moral behaviour toward our neighbour in any and all situations.

Abraham said it best in his response to Avimelech, king of Gerar, who asked him why he didn't say that Sarah was his wife. Abraham answered: "There is but no fear of God in this place, and they would have killed me because of my wife" (Genesis 20:11). A nation can be highly advanced with superficial geniality and manners (i.e. Nazi Germany's *gemütlichkeit*) but without fear of God, anything is possible.

Rabbi Mordechai Bulus
Montreal

Leave shul service alone

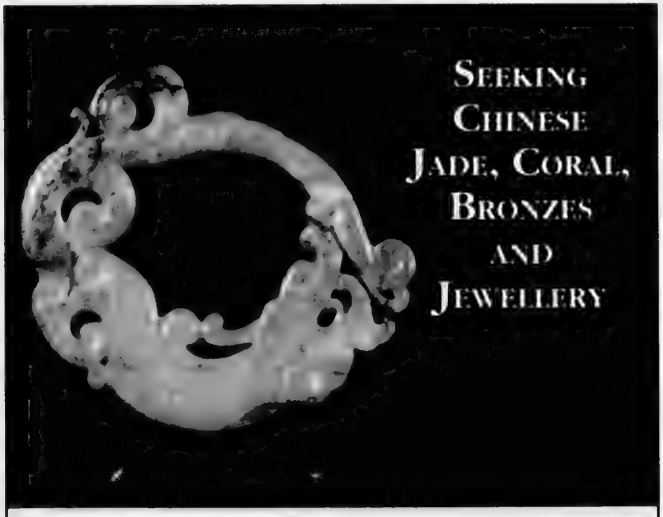
Yoni Goldstein wrote about stemming the decline in synagogue membership, "Even with rabbis trying just about everything, nothing seems to be working," ("My three shuls," March 10).

In their efforts to stem the tide of disaffection, the first thing our leaders throw out from the synagogue is the service itself. It is no longer uncommon for rabbis themselves to tell us that prayers are boring. They replace them with mindfulness sessions and Carlebach singalongs, even though most people don't know the tunes. (And, yes, I have attended a Jewish mindfulness session – phones rang constantly, people rattled their water bottles, and the guy on the door, who was instructed to keep people out and prevent disturbance, kept letting latecomers in.)

So here's my suggestion: let's try just leaving the service alone. Sing the traditional tunes and use our time-tested *nusach*, led by a trained prayer leader. The synagogue will become what it has always been: a place for the community to share in a celebration of time and space, with the feeling, in Chaim Grade's words, that the clouds have been swept from the sky.

Charles Heller
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

Why Gamble?

Earn 9% annual interest.
Secure and in Writing.

PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

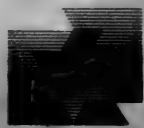
"Feel good about your investments"

To find out more visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000423), not an investment dealer.
Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

When someone in your family passes away, you want everything to be done right, according to Jewish tradition. When my mother died, I didn't know half of what these things were. Benjamin's spent time with our family, explaining the significance of every sacred ritual. More than that, they made it ours. It was a beautiful way to honour my dear mother's life.

"They thought of everything."



Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel

Through the generations ...a sacred trust.

416-663-9060
We are here to help.
www.benjamins.ca

RABBI·2·RABBI

Speak up or stay silent?

Should Jews seek to influence societal values based on our teachings, or are we a minority seeking to preserve our freedom and be exempt from laws that infringe on our beliefs?

RABBI ADAM CUTLER
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI ADAM SCHEIER
CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Cutler: When a congregant asks a formal *she'eilah* (question), I am happy to provide a rabbinic tshuvah (response). When however I am asked to weigh in on issues of public concern, especially if my voice is intended to be public, I am less at ease. When it comes to public policy, rabbis must not only be cautious with what they say, but be able to justify saying anything at all.

Of recent note is the conversation around physician assisted dying. Certainly, it is in the appropriate religious realm for rabbis to advise Jews as to the permissibility of Jewish patients or doctors partaking in this course of action. It is also, in my opinion, absolutely acceptable for rabbis to be at the forefront of voices calling for significant safeguards in order to protect society's most vulnerable.

However, in a situation of a non-Jewish terminally ill individual in chronic intolerable pain who has requested of his willing non-Jewish doctor to assist her in dying, one may reasonably ask why should there be a Jewish voice in deciding whether or not the physician may comply? How is physician assisted dying different than other issues, where we reject religious interference?

Rabbi Scheier: Your question is a profound one. It speaks to how we, as Jews, perceive our place in society: are we a guiding force of morality and ethics that seeks to influence societal values based on our teachings, or are we simply a minority seeking to preserve our freedom and therefore be exempt from legislation that infringes on our religious beliefs?

What is our community's threshold for when to speak up and when to remain silent? To this question, I'm not sure there's a concrete answer, as lobbying is often an art, not a science. Perhaps, in that physician assisted dying is literally a question of life and death, we have met our parameters for intervention. At the very least, we reaffirm the importance to voice values that we see as central to sustaining a moral society.

Where do you see the line drawn? Should we differentiate between religious advocacy on the issue of same-sex marriages and the issue of physician assisted dying?

Rabbi Cutler: While I am generally leery of slippery slope arguments, I believe that the likelihood of physician assisted dying leading to the cheapening of the value of human life is too great to merit its legalization. A world that sees human life as nothing but a biological fact is a world that too easily dismisses those who cannot materially contribute to the collective or who are regarded as too different or too much of a burden. It is in such a world that atrocities become more easily achieved.

For me, a critical factor in deciding whether it is appropriate to insert a Jewish voice into a public conversation is the potential result of silence. Would failure to speak result in lost lives? Would silence lead to the deaths of society's most vulnerable? If the answer is yes, then that is reason enough to speak out.

Rabbi Scheier: It seems that my line of demarcation might be less utilitarian than yours. For me, a dramatic and definite outcome – even if derived through the "slippery slope" – is not the only prerequisite for Jewish values being voiced in a secular-society debate. Rather, Jewish thought has something to contribute to society at large, regardless of the case's specific ramifications.

While I recoil at the idea of one religion's system of values determining policy for society at large, I do believe that values-based morality should inform both major and minor issues that any society faces. In Jewish law and the Torah, we have a foundation for moral society. It would be a shame to silence these values simply because they emerge from a religious tradition.

Perhaps at the end of the day, what motivates this conversation is the desire to live in a values-based society, in which our leaders make decisions based not on whim or opinion, but on a value system that is tried and true. For us, the Torah provides the backbone and structure to how we process life and its challenges. The struggle, perhaps, of living in a multicultural, secular society, is to construct policies that neither completely mimic nor fully reject the various traditional value systems present in that society. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 15 (2,241)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949

Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933 E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

UJA'S

yogen früz

RUN with Israel

runwithisrael.com

Toronto's Newest Certified, timed and chipped 8K Run

Run through the streets of downtown Toronto in our newest certified 8K Run. UJA's Run with Israel will provide you with an opportunity to achieve a new personal best!

This flat, fast route is a unique distance and a good stepping stone between 5K and 10K distances. The downtown route takes you past the CN Tower, ACC and the Toronto waterfront.

$50 REGISTRATION UNTIL MAY 1

Race Kit Includes:

- Technical Run T-shirt
- Personalized race bib
- Timing chip for certified route
- Finisher medal
- Amazing swag
- Post race snacks and refreshments
- Access to family friendly festival after the Run

Visit **runwithisrael.com** and find out more about UJA's 8K Run.

Sunday, May 29

MIZRAHI DEVELOPMENTS

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

UJA RUN with ISRAEL

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergi **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

From the Archives | Wartime seder

ALEX DWORKIN CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES (FORMERLY CJCCC NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

The second community Passover seder held in St. Rupert, B.C., in 1943. Fur and hide dealer William Goldbloom, Prince Rupert's longest-lived Jewish resident, enjoyed one of the most moving experiences of his long and colourful career when he conducted a Passover seder for 150 army and air force personnel.

SeeJN | Hockey in Israel

The winning team from the 10th Israel Recreational Hockey Association Tournament, held at the Canada Centre in Metulla, Israel. Players shown here hail from Montreal, Indiana, Michigan and cities from throughout Israel. Other teams had players coming from Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Seattle and New York. The players ranged in age from an 11-year-old prodigy from Toronto to a 71-year-old from Montreal, who revelled in the tournament and is resolved to improve his skills for next year.

From Yoni's Desk

Is this the end of the knife intifadah?

Is the so-called knife intifadah finally waning? The latest statistics from the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, indicate that after six deadly months, violence is on the decline, even if the situation remains precarious. According to the Shin Bet, there have been three major attacks on Israelis this month, a significant reduction from the 20 serious attacks it counted in March, 155 in February, 169 in January and 246 in December. There were 78 attacks in October 2015, when the current round of violence began.

Why are the attacks in such steep decline? In large measure, due to the efforts of the Israeli security establishment – on this point, the Shin Bet and the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appear to agree. But where the government and its security apparatus diverge is on the motivation behind these attacks.

Netanyahu contends that Palestinian government and media outlets are to blame for incitement. The Shin Bet believes the majority of Palestinian and Israeli-Arab attackers have been spurred to action by what it calls "personal issues," including "dire personal or financial" situations. Over the weekend, a Shin Bet official further argued that the arrest of the Jewish-Israelis allegedly behind the murderous arson attack in the West Bank village of Duma has contributed to the relative calm of late. (If that is indeed the case, then perhaps the upcoming trial of an Israeli soldier charged with manslaughter for shooting a Palestinian terrorist in Hebron might lead to a further drop in the number of attacks.)

The Netanyahu government and Shin Bet concur that Israelis have to remain vigilant in the fight against terror, or a reversal of these positive numbers may occur. Nobody is claiming victory over the knife intifadah just yet, and that's just as well. Because even when it does end, after all the bloodshed it's hard to see how anyone comes out looking like a winner.

• • •

The New Democratic Party is looking for a new leader, after its members voted on Sunday to replace Tom Mulcair.

Mulcair drew the ire of many in the Jewish community recently when he and the entire NDP parliamentary caucus voted against a motion rejecting the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. (This after Mulcair had thoroughly rejected the BDS campaign during an interview with *The CJN*.) But if some have long suspected that the NDP harbours the animosity of the far left when it comes to Israel, it could be about to get much worse.

The NDP rank-and-file appear to be warming to the Leap Manifesto, which calls for a ban on new oil pipeline infrastructure in Canada and a dramatic move away from fossil fuels. And while that's worth debating, the problem is that some of the people behind it, including the activist and author Naomi Klein, are vocal supporters of BDS. (Klein's husband, Avi Lewis, has even been touted as a potential NDP leader.)

The Leap Manifesto doesn't mention Israel per se. But if the document does eventually form the basis of NDP policy, its backers could try to shoehorn BDS into the agenda. And if that happens, the Jewish community might very well be left longing for Mulcair's more centrist path. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

Driving Rabbi Sacks

Rabbi Eddie Shostak

On his recent whirlwind trip to Montreal, I was asked to drive Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to a speaking engagement. After taking a breath of exhilaration, I humbly accepted the opportunity to spend 25 minutes in a car with one of my greatest living heroes.

As I carefully converted our family minivan into a royal stagecoach, dismounting four car seats and eliminating remnant Cheerios, I contemplated what my objectives would be for this unique journey. I came up with the following:

First, get Rabbi Sacks, together with his wife and his attaché, to their destination on time and in one piece. Second, get a picture together with the rabbi as a personal memento. Third, have the rabbi inscribe one of my favourite of his books, *Lessons in Leadership*. And lastly, ask Rabbi Sacks one good question.

Morning arrived and I traveled downtown just after sunrise. I stood anxiously in the lobby of the hotel. The elevator doors opened, Rabbi Sacks greeting me warmly, and I escorted the group to the car. After some initial conversation about the coming day's events and Montreal's Jewish community, I asked my question: where can one make a greater impact on Jewish lives – in a day school or at a synagogue?

Rabbi Sacks paused before rejecting the simple binary offered: "Without question, one can make the most impact in day schools," he said. "Communities should have their primary focus on day schools, but in partnership with strong synagogues."

Then, the rabbi shared two anecdotes. The first was that in the mid-19th century, when Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch was invited to become rabbi of a community in Germany, he was asked to build a new synagogue. He refused and declared: "First I will build a school, then I will build the shul." And so he did, building the famed Realschule in Frankfurt.

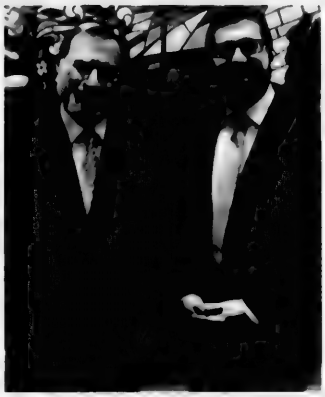
The second observation was more personal. In 1983, Rabbi Sacks was to be appointed rabbi of the prestigious West Marble Arch Synagogue in London, but he was told that he would have to give up teaching at Jews' College, the oldest rabbinical school in the world. Not wanting to leave teaching behind, he sought out his rabbi, who said matter-of-factly: "And why can't you do both?"

And so it was. Rabbi Sacks assumed the post of senior rabbi and became principal of Jews' College in 1984.

The lesson: if our shuls are going to be successful, our schools need to be successful. And if our schools are going to be successful, our shuls need to be successful. Not independently, but in partnership.

Rabbi Sacks' advocacy for partnership stimulated three ideas for strengthening the relationship between schools and synagogues to secure a more engaged, active and enthusiastic next generation of Jews.

Parents as teachers: In his evening talk in Montreal, Rabbi Sacks quoted the great kabbalist Rabbi Moshe Alshich, who asked, "How do we act in order to succeed in educating our children?" and answered, "It is what you love that your children will learn to love." Rabbi Sacks added: "It is the way your life reflects your loves, those are the things that our children will absorb and eventually make their own." When we as parents reflect our love for Jewish life and practice, our children will choose to commit to become engaged and enthusiastic Jews.



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, left, and Rabbi Eddie Shostak

Meaningful interaction between the leadership of schools and synagogues: Synagogue leaders need to know what is going on in their members' schools, and school leaders need to know what is going on in their students' synagogues. What if synagogue professionals and lay leaders went on official school tours of their members' schools, observing them through a "synagogue lens"? This could be one way to gain knowledge on what they need to produce in order to close the "shul-school partnership" gap.

Day schools and communal responsibility: In 2011, a day school parent and former synagogue board chair in Hollywood, Fla., convinced his synagogue to allocate $30,000 (which was immediately matched by a donor) to day schools. Each school would receive an annual per capita distribution based on the number of students enrolled who were also members of his synagogue. I know of other communities that have duplicated this type of financial investment. It is truly an expression of "putting your money where your mouth is," especially since study after study shows that Jewish engagement is dependent more than ever on day school education.

In his closing remarks to an audience of over 1,300 in Montreal, Rabbi Sacks shared a story about his father, an immigrant to Britain who had to leave school at a young age in order to help support his family. Rabbi Sacks recalled walks home with his father from synagogue as a child. He would ask his father questions about Judaism. His father would offer the same answer every time: "I never had a Jewish education, so I cannot answer your questions. But, one day you will have the education that I never had and when that will happen, you will teach me the answers to those questions."

My 25-minute ride with Rabbi Sacks was a dream come true. His words have inspired me to engage in this dialogue with the larger community. And, by the way, I got the rabbi to his speaking engagement on time and unharmed, plus a treasured picture with him and that inscription for my friend. And while I think I asked a pretty good question, I know that I got an even better answer. ■

Rabbi Eddie Shostak serves as Rav-Mechanech at Hebrew Academy Montreal Elementary School, Israel Adviser and Judaics teacher in the high school, and director of education at Congregation TBDJ. He is currently a fellow (cohort 9) in the Day School Leadership Training Institute (DSLTI), at the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at Jewish Theological Seminary.

FOREMOST IN HELPING YOUR BREAD RISE ALL YEAR ROUND.

6.6%* LAST 12 MONTHS

TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN FOREMOST MORTGAGE TRUST PLEASE CALL:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

FOREMOST FINANCIAL

Building bridges between Jews and Muslims

Canadians of both faiths are working to foster mutual understanding, even if that means not talking about Israelis and Palestinians

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

On a wintry Tuesday night in Toronto, a group of women are engrossed in talk about mourning rites.

Tucked in a room at the University of Toronto's Multi-Faith Centre, they listen to a recording of a woman formerly part of Calgary's chevra kadisha (Jewish burial society) describe the customary Jewish procedure for preparing a body for burial.

Next, Hayat Mabrouk comes to the front of the room and uses a doll to demonstrate the method used in the Muslim tradition to clean and shroud a body.

The several dozen or so women assembled are students of a seven-week, Jewish-Muslim women's text study course called "Blood, Milk and Tears: Menstruating, Nursing and Mourning in Islamic and Jewish Sources."

After the presentations, they remark on the similarities between the two religions' burial customs, particularly the shared reverence for the deceased.

The course, comprising both Jewish and Muslim women ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s, was created and taught by Shari Goldberg, an academic who's been leading Jewish-Muslim text study groups since 2003.

Before that, she was involved in Jewish-Palestinian dialogue of a political nature, but found religiosity to be conspicuously missing from these conversations.

She grew frustrated, she said, with how the talks "often degenerated into screaming matches."

Shifting to Jewish-Muslim dialogue that uses "classical religious texts as a springboard" has been a way to "start from a place of common ground, not one of conflict," Goldberg explained.

While strife between Israelis and Palestinians has put enormous strain on Jewish-Muslim relations globally, there are Canadians from both faiths who are quietly and persistently working to foster mutual understanding between the two communities.

Among those at the forefront of these efforts, a consensus appears to have emerged on how to best build bridges between Canadian Jews and Muslims. They maintain that friendship and trust must first be established at a grassroots, person-to-person level, and that without it, the prospect of broaching contentious issues like Israeli-Palestinian relations is a non-starter.

Students of Shari Goldberg's Jewish-Muslim women's interfaith text study course explored issues of gender and embodiment in Jewish and Islamic texts SHARI GOLDBERG PHOTO

One group leading the charge is the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM), established in 1996 with an objective to promote good relations between the two communities in Canada.

Barbara Landau, who co-chairs the organization with Shahid Akhtar, said the CAJM has been meeting with a renewed sense of purpose since 9/11, seeking to counter the inevitable rise of Islamaphobia by creating a strong model for Jewish-Muslim co-operation.

Landau and Akhtar composed a joint statement calling for peace that was read at a Toronto City Hall rally, and by Rabbi Debra Landsberg to her congregation at Toronto's Temple Emanu-El.

The statement stressed that "Muslims are about to face what Jews have faced for decades, if not centuries," Landau said.

CAJM also began convening Jewish and Muslim leaders and community members for regular dialogue programs, shared celebrations for holidays such as Eid al-Fitr, Chanukah and Passover, and, in Toronto and Montreal, an annual Weekend of Twinning, part of an international initiative led by the New York-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, which co-ordinates partnerships between local synagogues and mosques.

If Canadian Jews and Muslims get to know each other on a personal basis and come to more deeply understand the values of the other, people from both communities will actually care about what happens to one another, Landau stressed.

"It's so much easier to make friends than enemies when you're looking at the humanity of the other," she said.

CAJM doesn't typically address the subject of Israel, Landau said, but she noted it's "definitely the elephant in the room for Jewish-Muslim relations."

"Nobody's asking us to solve the Middle East," she said, "though, if given the chance, we probably could do so more effectively [than those holding power in the region] right now, because we actually care about what happens to each other's families... We've built the feeling we're in a community together... We all care about the loss of lives and vulnerable people. That's our common ground."

Human rights consultant and CAJM member Karen Mock, a co-founder of the left-leaning Zionist group JSpace Canada, said the key to the CAJM's effectiveness is the fact it operates on a grassroots level.

"The leadership never wanted it to be a formal political organization. It's about people meeting with people," she stressed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Helping our clients
focus on what really matters

Allan Newman
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Greg Newman
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Discretionary Asset Management can be an ideal solution for busy professionals, business owners, retirees, frequent travellers, or those who simply do not wish to deal with the **day to day demands** of portfolio management. Allowing you to take a hands-off approach, this full service program ensures that your financial goals are met with expertise, **convenience and peace of mind**.

www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489

The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI"). SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

We wish our members, their families and the entire community a happy Passover season filled with peace, prosperity and togetherness. We look forward to another great year.

Founded in 1926, Oakdale Golf & Country Club is one of Canada's finest golf & country clubs with 27 holes of golf (top 100 course in Canada), a beautiful clubhouse, clay tennis courts, and a 25 metre salt water pool, all centrally located in the GTA. In 2015, Oakdale was named "Private Club of the Year."

Last year, the Club fulfilled its $1 million pledge to each of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation and the Israel Cancer Research Fund, and this year, the Club has pledged a further $1 million to each of those organizations. Clearly, the Club's most precious asset is its members. Chag Pesach Sameach!

Oakdale Golf & Country Club

Welcoming a limited number of new members with initiation fees starting from $75,000 per family or $60,000 for a single
Returning members and the family of past and current members may be eligible for a preferred Welcome Back Rate
For more information please contact

Leave an empty seder chair for a Jew murdered by terrorists

Gil Troy

Sadly, I am updating something I wrote in 2003, when Palestinians terrorists were targeting Israelis – as they are today.

Once again, during this year's seders, we will celebrate our joyous holiday of liberation with heavy hearts. Even as we revel in our freedom as Jews in the modern world, our brothers and sisters in Israel are in pain. This year, in particular, we must rise to the challenge to reclaim our symbols, remember our losses and reaffirm our commitment to Israel, the Jewish People and a true peace.

Since last October, when the Palestinians turned toward violence yet again, too many have died and too many have been injured, on both sides. And too many seders will have empty chairs, missing husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, wives, mothers, sisters and daughters.

The seder's power comes from its ritualization of memory. It is a primal, sensual, literal, service. The seder plate – evoking the mortar used in building with charoset and the tears shed by the slaves with salt water – helps us visualize the trauma of slavery.

The physical acts of reclining, of eating special foods, of standing to greet Elijah the prophet, help us feel the joy of *Yetziat Mitzrayim*, of leaving Egypt. And, in an affirmation of the importance of peoplehood, we mark this special moment not as individuals, but as a community.

In that spirit, we cannot proceed with business as usual during these difficult times. We must improvise a new ritual that marks our present pain, that illustrates our vital connection with Israel and with Israelis today. Let each of us, as we gather at our seders, intrude on our own celebrations by leaving one setting untouched, by having one empty chair at our table.

Let us take a moment to reflect on our losses. And as we do that, let us take the time to find out the name of one victim of the current conflict, or one victim murdered years earlier – one Jew who cannot

> *We cannot proceed with business as usual during these difficult times.*

celebrate this year's holiday, one family in mourning.

Let us call out the name of Koby Mandell, age 13, a young American immigrant brutally killed in May 2001, whose father, Rabbi Seth Mandell, talks about the empty seat at his Shabbat table and shares the pain of watching other boys grow up, watching their voices deepen, their shoulders broaden, their gaits quicken, even as his son lies dead. Let us call out the name of Hadar Goldin, a 23-year-old soldier killed by Hamas in August 2014, but whose remains Hamas is holding in a cruel assault on Hadar's family – and civilized norms.

Let us call out the names of Rabbi Eitam and Naama Henkin, ambushed in October, slaughtered in the front seat of their car as their four children sat in the back. Let us call out the name of Ezra Schwartz, an 18-year-old kid from Massachusetts who was just trying to enjoy his yeshiva gap year and help out with tzedakah projects when he was gunned down at a traffic stop. Let us call out the name of Dafna Meir, a 38-year-old mother of six who was stabbed to death while painting the front door to her home, who died protecting her children as they remained safely inside.

As we call these names, let us commit to some action, to embrace the victims' families. Let us build a friendship with Israel and Israelis that's not just about politics and not solely about mourning.

And as we call out these names, unlike our enemies, let us not call for vengeance. Instead, as we mourn, let us hope. As we remember the many lives lost during this crazy and pointless century of war, let us pray ever more intensely for a just and lasting peace, and for an end to the terrorism afflicting Jews and non-Jews alike. ■

Remembering a mentor

Sara Horowitz

Young as he was when he found refuge from the genocidal net tightening over the Jews of Europe, Prof. Geoffrey Hartman reflected in his memoir: "The shadow of the Holocaust often waylays me like the sudden darkness of a storm in the middle of a sunny day." Despite that shadow – or perhaps because of it – Hartman brought light to many students and readers until he succumbed to cancer a month ago.

He was a master teacher. As complex and challenging as much of his scholarly writing was, he had the gift of inspiring students. He could open up a poem to a roomful of people who did not know they liked poetry. He could make a memoir speak in new ways, reading between the lines and reading silences. He could walk you through difficult and complicated ideas and make them understandable without simplifying. Even more important, he would make people understand why ideas mattered.

Hartman was never my teacher in a formal, classroom way. He was a professor of literature at Yale University, and I did graduate work at Columbia and Brandeis. But he taught me things about reading, writing and thinking – and about commitment, truth and ethics – that have deeply imprinted my work.

When I was a graduate student, he was already a super-star academic. If you are not part of the university world, that very phrase might seem like a contradiction in terms. But he was part of a small number of professors whose innovative and powerful intellect shaped a generation of professors, graduate students and thinkers, and whose name was on everyone's lips and in everyone's footnotes.

His work emerged at the intersection of literary criticism and philosophy. When he gave a lecture at my university, there was a buzz in the air. Already then, he had a bushy white beard, looking every bit the *éminence grise*, although he was still in his 50s. I met him briefly, part of a crush of graduate students at his talk. But it wasn't until a few years later, when our orbits again crossed, that he took me under his wing.

By that time, he was also serving as the first director of the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale, the first major project to collect videotaped recollections from Holocaust survivors and other eye-witnesses. At the age of nine, he had been among the many German children rescued from the Nazis by the Kindertransport. After the war, he ended up in the United States, where he later married a child survivor of Bergen-Belsen. The two helped found the Fortunoff Archive. And, over time, Hartman's stunning intellect turned increasingly not only to Jewish memory but to Jewish texts. He also helped found Yale's Judaic studies program.

Early in my professional life, I was among a cluster of junior professors presenting our research at a conference on Holocaust writing. After the conference, Hartman approached me and invited me to write a chapter in a book he was editing. The deadline was tight, and my chapter entailed several sets of revisions, all under the gun, so to speak. Mostly, what he wanted from me was boldness – to push further, to insist on ethics, to trust my intuition and my thinking.

To meet the deadlines but have maximum work time in those pre-email days, I sent off my revisions via FedEx. I learned that I could buy a few extra hours if I drove to the airport to dispatch my envelope. That experience marked the beginning of a mentorly relationship that lasted many years, even through his recent illness. Eventually, I was privileged to co-teach a seminar for university professors with him at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

We are now at the *shloshim* – a month after Geoffrey Hartman passed away. This personal reflection is a form of *hesped* (eulogy) on behalf of a valued teacher. May his name be for a blessing. ■

Portraiture and Jewish history

Michael Taube

A few weeks ago, apropos of nothing, I went to one of my bookshelves and plucked out something I've been meaning to read for a while.

In a section devoted to art books, one unusual title has been lurking in the midst: Richard Brilliant's *Facing the New World: Jewish Portraits in Colonial and Federal America* (1997).

My wife and I gave this book to my grandparents, Max and Rhona Alexandroff, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary in 1998. It was added to my collection when my grandfather died in 2003. (My grandmother followed him five years later.)

I've glanced at it several times, even read a few pages here and there. But I've never sat down and analyzed it until now.

Brilliant is the Anna S. Garbedian professor emeritus in the humanities at Columbia University's department of art history and archeology. His book was published in conjunction with an exhibit of the same name at the Jewish Museum in New York from September 1997 to January 1998, followed by one at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore from February to May 1998.

Then-Jewish Museum director Joan Rosenblum wrote in the book's introduction that it covered a "little-known but fascinating chapter of American Jewish life, culture and history." The artistic subjects were "typically leading members of their communities – men of affairs and women of good families." Prominent American artists, including Thomas Sully, John Wesley Jarvis and Gilbert Stuart, were commissioned to create these portraits.

Here's some perspective. America's Jewish population grew from about 1,300 to 1,500 in 1790 (when the first census was taken) to an estimated 4,000 in 1830. This comes out to roughly 0.03 or 0.04 per cent of the total U.S. population. In other words, the community was exceedingly small.

While some American Jews lived in poverty, a fair number were linked to mercantilism. This included Moses Raphael Levy, who owned ships, dabbled in real estate and conducted business both at home and abroad, and his eventual son-in-law, Jacob Franks, a businessman with shipping, wholesale and retail operations, domestically and internationally.

Hence, certain families had the ability – and disposable income – to hire portrait artists, a common practice among well-to-do Christians. Besides the New York-based Levy-Franks paintings, the book examines the artistic renderings of other families, including Etting (Baltimore), Myers (Norfolk, Va.), Israel (Wilmington, Del.) and Touro (Newport, R.I.).

There are some intriguing aspects in these portraits. Brilliant noted that Jewish portraiture in colonial and federal America "remained tied to an 18th-century bourgeois imagery of restrained sobriety, thereby maintaining the effective distancing of its subjects from the viewer." Most of these traditional paintings fit into the artistic movement of romanticism, although an underlying neoclassical theme is prevalent. A few portraits included objects (a chair, table, book or watch) that one would expect from this time period.

Anti-Semitism obviously existed in 19th-century America. Even in the cities, towns and villages where Jews had resided for decades, they were often seen as outsiders. Yet, there was "no overt attempt... to suggest the Jewishness of the subjects, either by including some elements of an allegedly distinguishing physiognomy – 'Jewish looks' – or by an identifying attribute, drawn from the world of ceremonial objects, usually found in Jewish homes but not in these portraits."

While their personal/religious lineage was important to them, their commitment and patriotism to America trumped all else.

"The very existence of these Jewish portraits," Brilliant wrote, "bears witness to the importance placed upon the deliberate confection of their faces and their fashionably clothed bodies as conventionally, and recognizably, 'American.'" Moreover, these portraits could be interpreted "as emissaries to a world indifferent or hostile to attempts to proclaim ethnic distinction."

There's much to be said about the great American melting pot. This thought-provoking book is proof that U.S. Jews used to take it seriously – and many still do. ■

The shepherd from Ramallah and Rob Ford

Bernie Farber

The circus that was Rob Ford came to a sad and tragic end on March 22 following his untimely death from a rare form of stomach cancer. Say what you will of Rob Ford, and many, including me, have had much to say, he was larger than life.

During my days with Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), I had the opportunity of meeting Ford on a few occasions. Bombastic, irreverent and obnoxious to a fault, you never knew what would come out of his mouth. Indeed, a few years after I left CJC, then-mayor Ford attended a meeting of Orthodox rabbis, ostensibly to discuss the establishment of an eruv. Ford's speech that day to these rabbis pressed them to "squeeze councillors" for his pet project, funding a casino!

Shortly after that, I was present at the CJPAC (Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee) Action Party in 2013. That evening, just prior to leaving, I ran into an old friend and a former mayoralty candidate, Sarah Thomson. We chatted briefly, and as I took my leave, I shook hands with what appeared to be a very inebriated Ford as he was charging his way over to Sarah. The next morning, I saw the story in which Sarah accused the mayor of touching her inappropriately and demanded an apology.

But probably the most significant episode that proved to me the enduring and international impact of Rob Ford's notoriety happened on a visit to Israel in April 2014.

At the time, I was working for my dear friend, philanthropist Dr. Michael Dan. Michael had a great many projects that he funded, ranging from helping to improve First Nations health and assisting reserves to build economic bases on their reserves to providing grants for homeless youth. I had the honour of assisting Michael in many of these worthwhile projects.

One project dear to Michael's heart was the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, which is the only charitable provider of eye care in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza. Treating patients regardless of ethnicity or religion and despite inability to pay, the hospital is a bastion of medical expertise and tranquillity in an area that knows little of peace and health.

> *Bombastic, irreverent and obnoxious to a fault, you never knew what would come out of his mouth.*

Michael was considering a large donation to their work and asked that I visit the hospital in east Jerusalem to get a first-hand view of its amazing efforts.

It was a first for me spending my time almost exclusively in the West Bank. I was taken to one of the eye hospital's mobile clinics in the softly flowing hills outside Jerusalem, not far from Ramallah. Here, hundreds of Palestinians lined up for their eye examinations. Mostly poor shepherds, children, elderly men and women waited patiently in line for their turn to be examined.

I had the opportunity, with an interpreter in tow, to speak with many of those in line. One elderly shepherd who spoke a smattering of English approached me.

"Who are you?" he asked.

I explained that I was from Canada on a visit to better understand the workings of this marvellous hospital. He nodded sagely. "Ca-na-da" he said enunciating each syllable with great care.

"Yes" I nodded.

"Where from in Canada?' he inquired.

"Toronto," I told him at which time he broke out into a wide, beaming grin. "Toronto," he exclaimed, "yes I know Toronto – Rob Ford!"

And there you have it. The notoriety and explosive character of our one-time mayor was known from the streets of Etobicoke to the Judean hills.

Rob Ford was a flawed man with characteristics many abhorred. And yet his death at such a young age should give us all pause. Despite his overblown and unwelcome antics, he was a beloved son, brother, husband, and father to two young children. He had a tumultuous time on this earth. I hope he has now finally found peace. ■

News

Premier lays out details of Israel trade mission

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has laid out the broad brush strokes of her upcoming trade mission to Israel, and the emphasis will be on mutual areas in high-tech, life sciences and information technology.

Wynne will also build on past partnerships with Israel, she told reporters April 6 after touring the Peter Gilgan Centre for Learning and Research at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

Wynne announced she would visit Israel last June, when she was presented the Words & Deeds Leadership Award by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The May 15-20 mission will take Wynne and leaders of some 20 Canadian companies to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, as well as Ramallah and Bethlehem in the West Bank.

There's no word yet on whether she'll meet with Israeli or Palestinian political leaders.

"Israel is a priority market for Ontario for trade and research," Wynne said. "In 2015, two-way trade between Ontario and Israel was valued at over $900 million, making Israel one of Ontario's largest trading partners in the Middle East."

The premier will meet business leaders, innovators and government officials to strengthen ties and encourage new investments and partnerships in Ontario, said a press release from her office.

"I'm very excited about it," Wynne said.

"Ontario and Israel share many common priorities," she added. "Both regions are hubs for R&D, for ICT [information and communication technology] and venture capital, and both are interested in developing strong, competitive business environments that spur innovation and growth. I think that innovation spark is very important."

Premier Kathleen Wynne at the announcement, with Health Minister Eric Hoskins, left, and Israeli Consul General DJ Schneeweiss. RON CSILLAG PHOTO

Wynne was joined by representatives from the Ontario Brain Institute, which was kick-started following a 2010 meeting in Israel between then-Israeli president Shimon Peres and former premier Dalton McGuinty.

The institute is a "perfect example of partnership," she said.

Wynne also cited the 2005 Ontario-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, in which each side committed about $1 million to facilitate a dozen joint economic ventures.

The MOU has helped connect more than 680 Ontario and Israeli researchers, generate 15 industry-led R&D projects and leverage more than $16 million in outside funding, she noted.

Both jurisdictions are leaders in life sciences, a sector that generated more than $38 billion in revenue in Ontario in 2012, Wynne's office pointed out.

"This mission will be a great opportunity for Ontario to build on its existing relationship with Israel, which is a strong one, and to find new ways for the two regions to work together across a range of research and innovation sectors," she said.

In response to a question from *The CJN* on whether she will bring any political messages to the region, Wynne said: "The message I will be bringing to Israel is an economic one. It is that Ontario is open and willing to find more ways to partner, and we consider Israel a very close friend and trading partner, and look forward to strengthening that relationship."

Accompanying Wynne at her announcement was DJ Schneeweiss, Israel's consul general in Toronto, who said his country is "very excited by this visit not only because it represents the strong friendship between Ontario and Israel but also because it will allow both Israel and Ontario to showcase and advance strong and mutually beneficial trade."

Schneeweiss pointed out to reporters that Israel is roughly the size of Lake Ontario.

"Nevertheless, there are immense opportunities for genuinely valuable collaboration between us and for both sides, based on life sciences, water, information technology, cyber security and many other areas. We have no doubt that the more both sides invest in Ontario-Israel ties, the bigger the return on investment will be for the citizens of both societies and beyond."

The make-up of the delegation wasn't announced. "The business delegates are still being finalized," said Gurvinder Singh, Wynne's press secretary. "As with other similar missions, business delegates will pay their own way."

Sara Lefton, the Greater Toronto Area vice-president of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, will be on the trip, CIJA said, while B'nai Brith Canada confirmed that its CEO, Michael Mostyn, will also go. ■

ATRIUM
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Discover Atrium. It's like finding the afikomen. Fifteen years of consistent high yields. The security of mortgages backed by real estate.

RAYMOND BOISJOLY
APRIL 14 – JUNE 5, 2016

OVER A DISTANCE BETWEEN ONE AND MANY

SPRING OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, April 14, 2016 | 6 – 9 PM | Guest Curator: Sarah Robayo Sheridan
In a new body of work, Vancouver artist Raymond Boisjoly continues his exploration of Indigenous identity within the context of change and cultural adaptability. Applying strategies that foreground the misuse of common consumer imaging technologies to Maya Deren's posthumously released film *Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti*, Boisjoly pressures the relationship of image to text, complicating their reading.

20

A Primary Exhibition of the 2016 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival | EXHIBITION HOURS: Tuesday to Friday, 12 – 6 PM | Saturday & Sunday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Toronto Arts Council | Conseil des arts de Toronto | Ontario Arts Council | Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada | Koffler Family Foundation | UJA Federation of Greater Toronto | CBC Wood Gundy

Raymond Boisjoly, Over a distance between one and many (digital sketch) 2016. Courtesy the artist and Catriona Jeffries Gallery.

koffler gallery

ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE | 180 SHAW STREET, SUITE 104-105, TORONTO
647.925.0643 | INFO@KOFFLERARTS.ORG | KOFFLERARTS.ORG

Let us do the cooking.

Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!

Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7933
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400

AMICA

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIALS
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM $389 (plus taxes $690)
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

	Passover	Summer
	Apr. 19 – May 01	July 03-14
		July 24 – Aug. 04
	Winter Break	Aug. 07-18
	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017	Aug. 21 – Sep. 01

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

Rights museum criticized for featuring Palestinian doctor

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

University of Manitoba professor Haskel Greenfield is expressing outrage about an exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that highlights, among others, the story of Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian doctor from Gaza who lost three daughters and a niece when an Israeli missile hit his home during Operation Cast Lead in 2009.

In Greenfield's words, the interactive exhibit that includes Abuelaish is "a disgusting, one-sided portrayal of a complex situation. It completely ignored the fact that Hamas used yards and roofs of residences, schools and hospitals to launch their missiles. The Palestinian family portrayed was a tragic example of collateral damage in a war started by their Hamas government."

Greenfield, a world-renowned archeologist and acting head of U of M's Judaic studies program, added that the individual explaining the exhibit to visitors showed "a total lack of knowledge of the incident and the larger context."

He said it's "very clear to me that the exhibit is not about human rights at all. It is an opportunity for Israel bashing and subtle anti-Semitism. The exhibit only focuses on what the Israelis have done to Palestinians – and, in particular to one Palestinian family – without any context as to why it happened."

The fifth-floor Rights Today gallery, one of 10 "core galleries" at the museum, opened in November 2014. A few of the other individuals profiled are Canadian folk singer Buffy Sainte-Marie and children's rights advocate Craig Kielburger. Museum spokesperson Maureen Fitzhenry said the exhibit is changed when its steering committee or researcher co-ordinator feels there's a need and resources allow.

Abuelaish, who is now an associate professor of global health at the University of Toronto, is scheduled to speak at the museum on April 20.

During the years that the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg was under construction, there was concern expressed that it would focus too much on the Holocaust. There were also concerns raised that Aboriginal issues wouldn't receive enough attention.

Greenfield's complaint is the first time the museum has come under criticism since it opened in September 2014, and the first time it has been taken to task for an exhibit connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, although at the official opening, a small group of Palestinians demonstrated against the facility.

Fitzhenry said Abuelaish's story is one of 17 profiles of a number of human rights defenders with diverse backgrounds that are currently being featured in the Rights Today gallery. "This particular exhibit… is intended to show how the challenge of defending and promoting human rights around the world involves many people, including Canadians, working in many different fields."

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg MYRON LOVE PHOTO

She noted that Abuelaish was born and raised in a refugee camp and grew up in dire poverty, but still managed to become a highly educated doctor who uses health care as way to promote human rights.

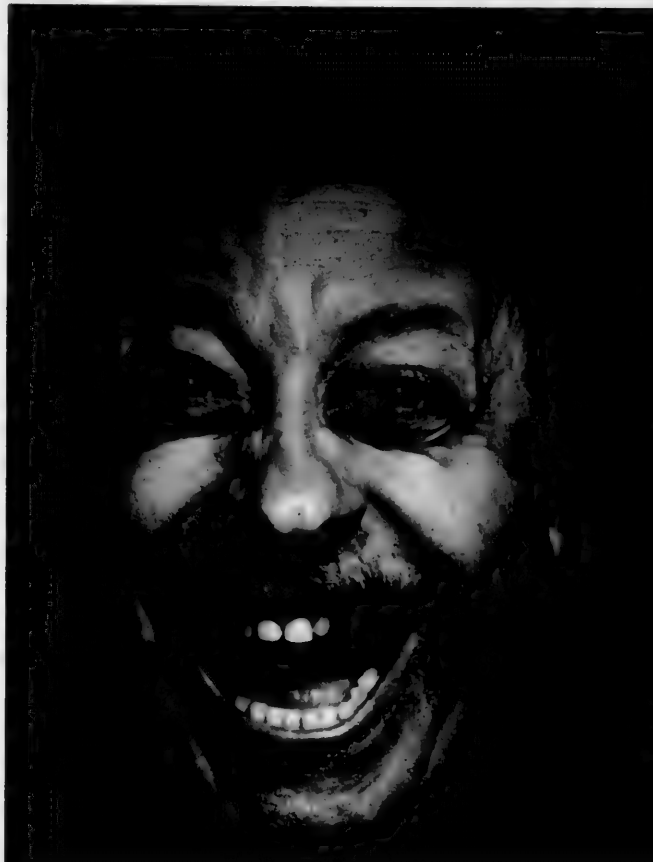
"He is also committed to helping women in the Middle East access post-secondary education, through a foundation he established after the death of his daughters," Fitzhenry said.

"His personal tragedy… is only one aspect of his story. Despite this tragic event, he refuses to hate. Instead he works for peace, understanding and reconciliation. He believes that if we treat each other with decency and respect, if we refuse to take sides, if we claim responsibility for our actions, then getting past the ugliness of war and conflict is possible. His story illustrates one way that an individual can take positive action for human rights."

She added that Abuelaish's "story is relayed in a factual and non-judgmental fashion. It's not focused on who was to blame for the death of the children, but explores how his personal experiences – including this tragic event – shaped the human rights work he does today."

The point, Fitzhenry said, is to tell his personal story and what has shaped his work as a human rights defender, not probe the causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Our aim is to explore Dr. Abuelaish's journey, demonstrate his ongoing commitment to peace, and encourage respectful discussion and dialogue."

In a *Globe and Mail* article in the summer of 2014, Abuelaish accused Israel of waging war against women and children, and practising genocide. "Battles should be directed against the occupation, which is the threat and enemy to all of us as Palestinians and Israelis," he wrote. ■



JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD PROUDLY PRESENTS

JEWISH FOLKS TELLING JOKES

AGAIN WITH THE JOKES?

FEATURING THE COMEDY OF ADAM GROWE,
HOST OF CANADIAN CASH CAB

MAY 31, 2016

TELUS CENTRE FOR PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING
KOERNER HALL, 273 BLOOR ST. W

7:30PM DOORS OPEN | 8PM JOKES BEGIN

$90 LIMITED UPPER BALCONY
$180 GENERAL ADMISSION
$360 VIP SEATING & RECEPTION

TICKETS ON SALE ON APRIL 18

WWW.JEWISHFOLKS.COM

LEAD SPONSORS
SHIRLEY GRANOVSKY
THE PROSSERMAN FAMILY

MAIN MENSCH SPONSORS
GANZ FAMILY FOUNDATION
BERT & MARILYN WINBERG

BORN TO KVETCH SPONSORS
RUTH & IRVING LEVINE
NATIONAL POST

SPONSORED BY:

BORSCHT BELT GAGS SPONSOR
CAROLE WINBERG

JEWISH MOTHER JOKE SPONSORS
THE ABBEY LIPSON FAMILY
THE AL GREEN FAMILY & MICHAEL AND STEVEN LATNER
Blaney McMurtry
Crowe Soberman
THE DIAMOND FAMILY
ELLEN & ALAN LEVINE & FAMILY

SUSY & MURRAY MILLER & FAMILY
HELAINE & LIONEL ROBINS
PAULA ZIVOT & GARY SAMUEL
JULIA & MICHAEL SAX
JACK & JUDY WINBERG & FAMILY

A RABBI, A PRIEST AND A MINISTER SPONSORS
FOREMOST FINANCIAL
Grant Thornton
An instinct for growth

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD

JOKES@JFANDCS.COM
416-638-7800 EXT. 6999

Jewish Heritage Month
Ontario

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 14, 2016

Composition of York U 'inclusion committee' criticized

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) said it's "a slap in the face" that one-third of York University's president's advisory committee on inclusion – formed in March after a controversy over a pro-Palestinian mural on campus – is made up of faculty who are on record as being anti-Israel.

In January, Toronto businessman Paul Bronfman made headlines when he announced he would withdraw financial support for the university's film and creative programs after the school said it had no jurisdiction to remove a mural in York's student centre that he considered anti-Semitic.

The controversy surrounding the mural also highlighted longstanding complaints about anti-Israel and anti-Semitic tensions at the university. Soon after, York president Mamdouh Shoukri announced he would form an advisory committee to "ensure inclusive respectful exchange of ideas, particularly on social and political issues."

The committee's membership was announced March 29. It consists of 16 York academics and administrators, one-third of whom Jewish groups say are anti-Israel.

"I think it's ludicrous the president of the university would expect Jewish students to engage with such a committee," Hillel Ontario CEO Marc Newburgh said.

"How could a sizable portion of the inclusion committee consist of members who have a clear record of anti-Israel activism?" he asked. "They couldn't find other members of the university community who had no position on Israel?"

Sara Lefton, CIJA's Greater Toronto vice-president, said it's "unimaginable" that a faculty member such as John Greyson – a former member of the defunct group Queers Against Israeli Apartheid as well as a filmmaker who withdrew his film from the Toronto International Film Festival in 2009 to protest its spotlight on Tel Aviv that year – would be asked to join the committee.

Other members who have expressed anti-Israel views include Faisal Bhabha, a law professor who spoke at an Israeli Apartheid Week event at Ryerson University, and liberal arts professors Saeed Rahnema and Narda Razack, both of whom support the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

"This was supposed to be what brought students together and made Jewish students feel safe, but it really is outrageous that this inclusion committee would consist of the some of the worst, most vocal anti-Israel activists at the university," Lefton said.

Mamdouh Shoukri

"We're at a point now where the Jewish community's frustration and anger with York University is quickly reaching a boiling point. We're looking at this committee, and it really is a slap in the face to the community... this is something that is going to cause more division. It is going to make our students feel even more unsafe, it is going to further anti-Israel environment on campus, but really, it's becoming more and more clear that York isn't interested in fostering an inclusive environment for its students, and that is the most difficult thing for our community."

Also on the committee are Carl Ehrlich, director of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies; history of science professor Bernie Lightman; and Lorne Sossin, dean of Osgoode Hall Law School.

In January, Sossin responded to the mural controversy with a post on York's website that said although he was "a proud member of York University's community and the Jewish community... [no one] should be able to unilaterally declare the views of others in our community as 'hate' and call on the university to censor them."

York spokesperson Janice Walls said the university is "disappointed" by CIJA's decision to express "outrage" about the committee, adding that "our policies do not support BDS or divestment from specific categories of companies... It is not in the mandate of the inclusion committee to discuss BDS."

Bhabha said a political opinion about Israel shouldn't affect his ability to sit on the committee. "My opinion about BDS is irrelevant and doesn't entitle anyone to be 'outraged' about my inclusion on an inclusion committee that nobody knows really anything about yet. The outrage appears driven more by bigotry and fear-mongering than reasoned objection," he said.

Rahnema agreed his support for BDS shouldn't be a factor. "Being critical of the policies of the Israeli government should not lead to misplaced 'outrage.' BDS has diverse support, including among many Israeli and Jewish communities who are worried about the worsening situation there," he said.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal for Holocaust Studies head Avi Benlolo also criticized the committee's composition. "This really is a missed opportunity," he said. ■

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto

APRIL 3 - 13, 2016

DONATE TODAY

SO ALL CAN CELEBRATE

Thank you for Caring for Our Community

DELIVERY DAY: APRIL 17, 2016 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

416.633.5100 · pfd@ncjwctoronto.org · www.PassoverFoodDrive.org · www.NCJWCToronto.org

Our Sponsors: **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** · Barrday · Dov Capital · Durante's No Frills · Pat's No Frills · Circle of Care · Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Foundation · Liberal · Great Gulf Homes · Carlo's No Frills · Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Jewish Family & Child · Brampton Brick · Metroland Media · Sobeys Hilda & Clarke · Terraplan Landscape Architects · DMS Property Management · Universal Lamp · Jewish Immigrant Aid Services · HomeSweetHomeToronto.com · Jewish Youth Network · Burnbrae Farms · Y5 Creative Studio

Panelists debate the future of European Jews

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Bret Stephens

Journalist Bret Stephens reached deep into the past for a look into the future, and what he found suggested European Jews ought to have their bags packed and be ready for a quick departure.

It was 1903 when anti-Semitic pogroms broke out in Kishinev, then part of the Russian empire, he recounted. Forty-seven Jews were killed, 500 injured and 600 homes were destroyed. At the time, Jews considered what to do. Some thought the troubles would pass, but his great-grandmother had a different perspective. It was because of her urging that the family packed up and moved to the United States, thus saving them from the fate of their co-religionists decades later at the hands of the Nazis.

Stephens, deputy editorial page editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, presented his dire prediction at a panel discussion at the Munk School of Global Affairs April 7. He was joined on a panel by Prof. Derek Penslar, the University of Toronto's Samuel Zacks chair in Jewish history, and Diana Pinto, an academic and writer who participated from Paris via Skype.

The topic under discussion was "European Jews and Israel: Security and Existential Dilemmas."

Stephens suggested a "bad smell" was permeating European society – the stench of anti-Semitism, which was never dispatched, despite suggestions after World War II that Europeans had finally put it behind them.

Stephens presented polling data that found in 2003 that 59 per cent of Europeans believed Israel was the greatest threat to world peace, and anecdotal evidence to show that anti-Semitism, often in the form of criticism of Israel, runs deep in European society. The evidence ranged from a British diplomat calling Israel "a shitty country" to the Spanish newspaper *El Pais* running a crude anti-Semitic cartoon of former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon.

The situation in Europe is being exacerbated by the immigration of one million Muslims, who bring with them anti-Semitic attitudes about Jews.

Stephens noted that 5,000 French troops were assigned to protect Jewish children at their schools and that approximately 8,000 French Jews left the country for Israel in 2015. (Only 1,775 emigrated in 2010 and 2,904 in 2013.) He wondered what it says about their view of France when they depart for a country where Jews are being stabbed in the street.

The trend is worrying, he said. "It would be foolish to wish [it] away."

Stephens' diagnosis and prognosis were disputed by both other panelists. Penslar suggested that this is not 1938 all over again. There is no state policy of anti-Semitism in any European country today, he noted.

If you focus on selective quotations from European leaders, you might ignore the fact that Jews have not seen their rights stripped, they have not been put into ghettos, and Jewish life in Europe is actually quite "robust," Penslar said.

"There is something to be said for cultural fluorescence and the desire to retain a way of life in light of physical danger," he added.

Penslar said factors other than concern over safety are prompting some European Jews to leave. In Antwerp, Jews are leaving for New York and London because the diamond industry is being taken over by Asians. The Orthodox are moving to Israel to live more fulfilling Jewish lives, he said.

Penslar noted that even former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert said Israel was no safer for Jews than other locations, though they could fight for themselves as Jews.

There is a psychological advantage from a sense of Jewish solidarity in Israel, Penslar said.

In the end, leaving France "is a very personal choice... Trying to find security in a world where security is rare, especially for Jews," he said.

Speaking from Paris, Pinto suggested the situation in France looks worse from the outside than it does within the country. There was solidarity with French Jews following the *Charlie Hebdo* and Hyper Cacher attacks in early 2015 and with subsequent terrorist events, it became clear the "war... is against all French life," she said.

Pinto, who has lectured widely on trans-Atlantic issues and Jewish life in Europe, said the complexities of modern life have also touched American Jews, where debates already experienced in Europe over boycotts, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are current. What's more, the traditional American relationship with Israel may be shifting, as the United States is influenced by domestic constituencies into becoming more Latin American- and Asian-oriented.

At a time when an Israeli NGO has opened an office in Berlin to assist Syrian refugees, "what you have now is complexity all over the place," she said. ■

111 CREDITVIEW RD. (HWY 400 & LANGSTAFF RD.) IN VAUGHAN

WILLIAM ASHLEY
SPRING 2016
warehouse sale!
STARTS TOMORROW - APR. 15TH
HOME DÉCOR · KITCHENWARE · TABLEWARE AND SO MUCH MORE!
30,000 SQ. FT. - OVER 25 DEPARTMENTS

6 DAYS ONLY
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!

Friday	April 15	10 am - 8 pm
Saturday	April 16	10 am - 6 pm
Sunday	April 17	10 am - 6 pm
Monday	April 18	10 am - 8 pm
Tuesday	April 19	10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday	April 20	10 am - 8 pm

SAVE UP TO 80%

WILLIAMASHLEY.COM/WAREHOUSESALE
PLEASE NOTE FOR SAFETY REASONS, STROLLERS AND CAR SEATS CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED.

My mother has dementia and her caregiver prepared eggs for dinner...again.

One Kenton Place's resident chef prepares a variety of nutritional, fresh food and pastries from scratch daily in our COR certified kitchen.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One.

• Activity based programming
• Personalized care plans for every need
• State-of-the-art dedicated residence

Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto

COR

I host Friday night dinners, they take care of the rest!

HELEN HOFFMAN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE JUNE 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTwell | CONSTANTIA retirement residence

784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. **289-588-0974**

Conditions may apply

Regavim seeks equal application of land laws

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Ari Briggs

Regavim is a small Israeli organization that's not afraid to take on much bigger opponents.

In the case of the 10-year-old Israeli NGO, it's the European Union (EU) that has come into its crosshairs recently for sponsoring at least 1,000 illegally constructed houses in areas in the West Bank that are under Israeli control.

Regavim, which calls itself a social movement that promotes "a Jewish Zionist agenda for the State of Israel," believes the EU is violating both Israeli law and international law in cahoots with the Palestinian Authority to establish facts on the ground, take over strategic land and blacken Israel's reputation when it responds as any sovereign nation would do to ensure the law is enforced.

Ari Briggs is director of Regavim's international department. He was in Toronto last week to publicize the organization's efforts to preserve Israeli sovereignty and reveal the steps taken by outsiders to undermine it.

Regavim asserts that between 2012 and 2014, more than 400 illegal buildings were constructed by the EU in the Adumim region of the West Bank.

The story has become a hot-button issue in Britain, which is considering leaving the European Union. MPs and others were asking why British funds were used by the EU to illegally build houses in the disputed territories that would ultimately be knocked down and even rebuilt.

Not only is the EU funding and constructing the structures, Briggs said, it's planting its flag on the buildings to deter the Israeli government from demolishing them. And it has claimed diplomatic immunity for its diplomats involved in the "humanitarian" construction.

Regavim claims Israel is ceding sovereignty over land to the Arab sector, including within parts of Israel proper. There is, Briggs has written, "a massive illegal construction in the Arab sector, in the south, centre and north of the country."

He cited the case of the town of Arara, where 20 per cent of homes were built illegally, even thought the town's municipal plan provides for the construction of thousands of additional residential units.

In addition, Arabs are building in nature reserves, creating a harmful environmental impact, and even within military "fire zones." The Palestinian aim is to hamper Israel training while the case winds its way through the court system, Briggs said.

Regavim's stated mission is "to ensure responsible, legal, accountable and environmentally friendly use of Israel's national lands and the return of the rule of law to all areas and aspects of the land and its preservation."

Regavim's legal and PR advocacy has raised hackles in some quarters, Briggs acknowledged, garnering bad press and the scorn of left-wing groups. Its Wikipedia entry, for example, cites critics calling it a "settler-colonial NGO" and one that aims to force the demolition of Arab homes and forced relocation of non-Jews.

Briggs disputes those characterizations. "We talk about the equal application of the law, which sounds like a liberal concept, but [left-wing activists] favour their own use of the law," he said.

With its resort to the courts, Regavim has taken a page out of the left-wing NGO playbook, and "they hate us for that. The court is one area that the left felt so comfortable in… We're catching them out at their own game," he said.

Briggs said illegal building violates the Oslo accords, under which the Palestinian Authority has control over areas A and B of the West Bank, in which 95 per cent of the Palestinians live. Israel controls Area C, a largely uninhabited area of state-owned land, and is responsible for all its building development. Regavim's research revealed that people in areas A and B were being offered free land, housing, water and electricity to move into disputed buildings in Area C.

Briggs rejected critics' claims the Palestinians are merely building on land they've always owned and Israel wrongly demolishes Palestinian dwellings while allowing Jewish ones to remain.

Regavim examined the data and found "it's 10 times more likely for judges to issue a stop work order for Jewish buildings than for Arab buildings," he said.

The public perception is the opposite, but that's "the big bluff" being advanced by anti-Israel activists, he added.

Regavim found 30,000 illegal Arab-owned structures in Area C and 6,000 illegal Jewish structures. Regavim uses drones to fly over territory under investigation, then compares before-and-after aerial surveys, which shows that the lands were unoccupied before Palestinian building began. ■

Inspiring your bathroom & kitchen designs for 32 years.

Riobel Paradox Single Hole Basin Faucet
Cast Brass with Ceramic Cartridge and Drain. Matches Paradox Complete Series.
$269

Aquadesign Glam Single Hole Faucet
Priced in chrome.
$179

AquaBrass Apex Single Hole Faucet
Solid Brass Construction. Recessed Aerator. Press pop-up drain with overflow included. Priced in chrome.
$249

Cabano Quadra Single Hole Basin Faucet
Made in Italy. Priced in chrome.
$249

Brizo Solna Articulating Kitchen Faucet
Put Italian into your kitchen with this dual spray pull-out faucet. Priced in chrome.
$659
Matte Black $789
Brilliance Stainless Steel $819

Aquadesign Tink D2 Kitchen Faucet
Put Italian into your kitchen with this dual spray pull-out faucet. Priced in chrome.
$349
Matte Black & Matte White $419

DXV Lyndon 1-Piece Toilet
Contemporary, crisp and unadorned styling. Elongated bowl design, EverClean® surface and dual flush technology. Priced in Canvas White.
$599

Oceania Influence Milano Freestanding Tub
One-piece Acrylic. Chrome drain and overflow factory installed. 67" x 33.5" x 27.5". Priced in white.
$2269
White/Black $2299

Riobel CS Exposed Riser Shower Column
Thermostatic Valve, Rain Shower Head & Hand Shower. Adjustable Telescopic and Swivel Riser.
$479

Rubinet Outdoor Shower
Pressure balance outdoor shower with foot rinse and 8" shower head. Priced in stainless steel.
$1749
Optional Shower Curtain Hoop Available (not shown) $349

Kohler Tresham 24"Vanity
Bring elegance and style to your bath or powder room. Simple Shaker-style design features a double-paneled door for attractive and convenient storage. Combines with the Tresham integrated sink for a complete vanity. Faucet extra.
$879

Pandora 28"Vanity
From the Pandora collection of Vanities. Crafted from Canadian components. Scratch-resistant acrylic. Made to match with the ArtCeram Gap basins in a variety of sizes. Available in 3 colours. 28" x 19 7/8" x 21 5/8". Faucet extra.
$1149

www.taps baths.com

TORONTO
1020 LAWRENCE AVE. W.
1 LIGHTS WEST OF DUFFERIN
416.785.0224 or 1.800.263.2976
Mon-Wed 9-5, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

TAPS
a WOLSELEY company
CELEBRATING 32 YEARS

MISSISSAUGA/OAKVILLE
3050 VEGA BLVD.
1 LIGHT EAST OF 401, NORTH OFF DUNDAS
905.569.1262 or 1.866.899.8801
Mon-Wed 9-6, Thurs-Fri 9-8, Sat 9:30-5

UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER

Jewish holidays are intertwined with the food we eat and the people we share it with. Sadly for many Jews all over the world poverty and hunger define the celebration.

Imagine you can be the change that helps a Jewish family put food on their holiday table.

globalseder.com

HELP JEWS IN TORONTO, ISRAEL, CUBA AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION CELEBRATE A MEANINGFUL AND JOYFUL PASSOVER BY DONATING TO UJA'S GLOBAL SEDER TO FIGHT HUNGER.

TO MAKE A GIFT, VISIT WWW.GLOBALSEDER.COM OR CALL THE UJA HOTLINE AT 416.631.5705.

For more information about Global Seder contact Rafi Yablonsky at 416.631.5820 or ryablonsky@ujafed.org.

With a donation of $100 you receive a set of 30 hand-crafted place cards for your Seder table.

With a gift of $500 you receive Passover-themed puppets as well as the hand-crafted place cards.

Dollars raised through the Global Seder support UJA Campaign allocated programs and services in Toronto, Cuba, Israel and the Former Soviet Union.

Orthodox rabbis take stand against assisted dying

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Orthodox rabbis from across the country are calling for an end to physician-assisted suicide.

Citing the need to maintain moral clarity and opposition to policies that devalue life, more than two dozen rabbis have signed a petition objecting to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the 2015 Carter case, which struck down a law against physician-assisted death (PAD), and to a recent parliamentary committee report that expands the scope of the court decision.

"We state that any participation in PAD is forbidden by Jewish law," the petition asserts. "While the Supreme Court has decided to the contrary, we cannot be silent in the face of what our religious teachings and our conscience tells us is contrary to what is good and moral. We are committed to continue advocating for the value of life within our society."

The petition was prepared by Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation and Rabbi Daniel Korobkin of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto. It lists six specific reasons for opposing the legalization and normalization of PAD. They are:

- Only God gives life and only God can take it away. "Even people who take their own lives are committing murder;"
- Every living moment is precious and "by diminishing the value of a terminally-ill patient's life, society demeans the value of all human life;"
- People who are suffering may fall into depression or mental illness and can change their minds when their condition improves. "Resorting to suicide, even in the face of terminal illness, is a permanent solution to what is often a temporary problem;"
- A "slippery slope" could lead the medical establishment to encourage patients to end their lives "so as not be a burden on their loved ones and on an already overburdened health-care system;"
- Concern that health-care professionals who oppose the practice will be put into a conflict that pits their personal conscience against the demands of Canadian law;
- Imposition of PAD and a requirement that health-care practitioners participate in it – as has been recommended by the parliamentary committee – could deter members of many faith groups from entering the medical profession.

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

Rabbi Strauchler said that following the court decision and parliamentary investigation into amendments to the law, members of the medical profession came to him for advice.

"They had tremendous concerns about how they would practice medicine," he said.

On March 9, his synagogue hosted a town hall forum in which the issue was addressed. At the same time, he and other rabbis reached out to other faith groups to see how they were approaching the impending changes to Canadian law.

After the meetings, "we felt it was important to offer a Jewish perspective coming from Orthodox rabbis," Rabbi Strauchler said.

The petition was prepared and circulated in Orthodox quarters. He is hoping politicians will consider it when drafting legislation that would take into account the High Court ruling and the committee recommendations.

Critics of the parliamentary committee argue its recommendations opens the door for "mature minors" to give consent to PAD, that patients with mental health issues will not be properly screened to see if they are competent, and that there will be insufficient safeguards for health-care providers to opt out of PAD.

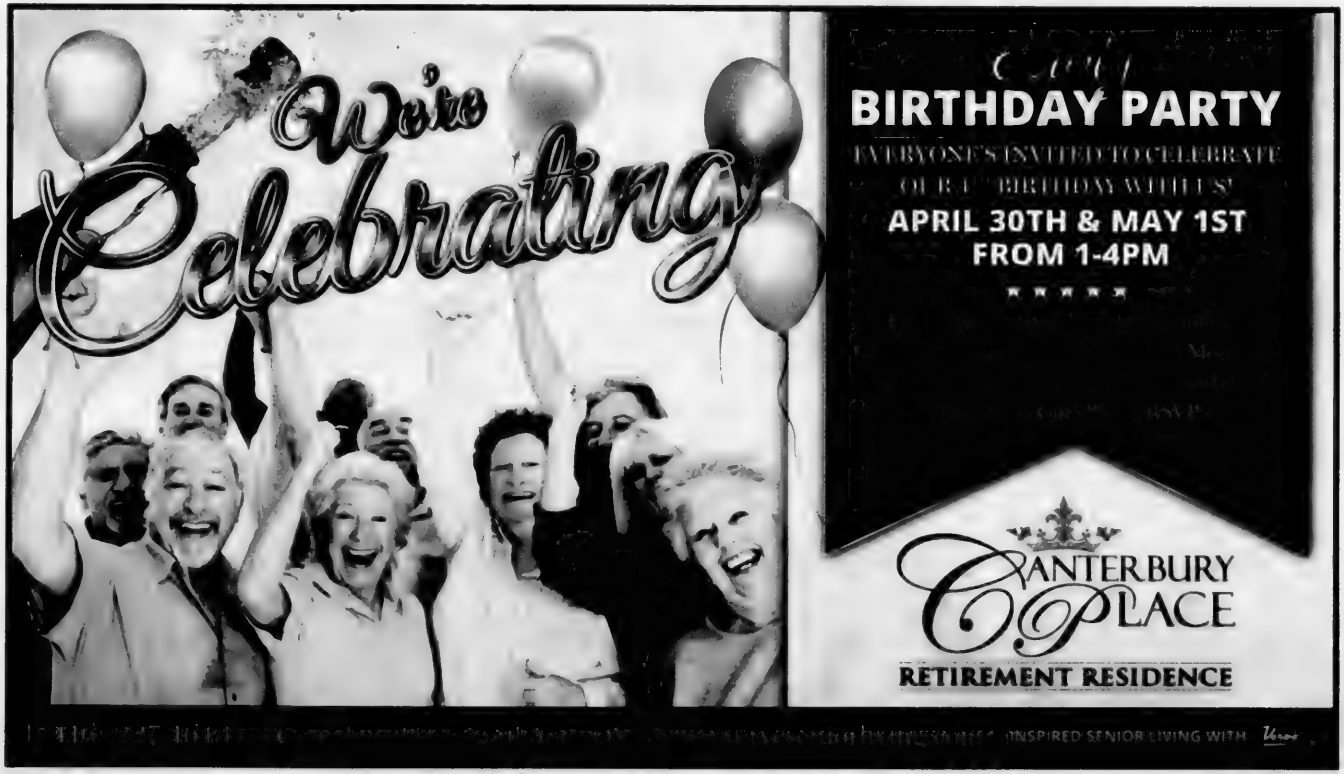
Rabbi Strauchler said the petition's signatories are hoping to keep alive the debate on PAD and on the value society gives to human life.

Despite the rabbis' unequivocal stand, Rabbi Strauchler said they're aware of the concerns of PAD advocates.

"When we hear voices on the other side of the issue, we do not believe them to be uncaring or acting with ill intent," he said. "We recognize there is great suffering at the end of human life.

"We recognize there is the other side to the issue and we hope to convince others of our position."

At stake, Rabbi Strauchler said, was nothing less that the "legal and cultural debate on the meaning of life." ■



Probe Laval graffiti as a hate crime, B'nai Brith urges

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

B'nai Brith Canada says the rash of spray-painted swastikas and other neo-Nazi graffiti in a Laval neighbourhood last month should be investigated as a hate crime.

"We get many reports of swastikas all over the city, but usually it is random. I have never seen that many [such symbols] in one place at one time," said B'nai Brith regional director Harvey Levine of the incident that occurred over the night of March 28-29.

"This took a certain sophisticated knowledge and research to know what these different types of symbols mean... It took time and effort to send this message."

B'nai Brith is convinced that more than one person was involved because of the differing styles of the drawings, he said.

Levine said that if incidents like this are not deemed suspected hate crime and rather treated as simple vandalism, the police generally give them a lower priority.

As of last week, Laval police were operating on the theory that a minor or minors are responsible for the graffiti, which appeared at 13 locations in the city's Laval-des-Rapides district.

Graffiti in Laval that was removed by Corey Fleischer FACEBOOK SCREENSHOT

The force's spokesperson Evelyne Boudreau said the graffiti, executed with the same paint, was confined to within about two blocks of Parc de Cluny. The park's chalet and benches were hit, as well as nearby homes, vehicles and traffic signs.

Because no religious or community institutions were targeted, the police have not deemed it a hate crime, she said. Very few Jews are known to live in Laval-des-Rapides.

Corey Fleischer, who owns a power-washing company based in Lachine, said he removed a total of 30 symbols himself, after the city of Laval had not cleaned off those on public property four days after they appeared.

On his Facebook page, Fleischer says he removed 22 swastikas; the rest included SS symbols, the code 14/88 (which apparently refers to a 14-word white supremacist slogan and "Heil Hitler," "h" being the eighth letter of the alphabet), and a Magen David with a line through it and the words "No thanks" above.

Fleischer, who for several years has been removing anti-Semitic and other racist graffiti in the Montreal area free of charge, believes what happened in Laval is a hate crime and is specifically directed at Jews. He feels the use of the Magen David leaves no doubt about that.

"[That] one, among all of them, resonates with me the most. If there was any question of who was targeted by these hate crimes, what ethnicity, this right here states everything," he says pointing to the Magen David in a video posted on his website.

Fleischer said he has removed many swastikas and the like in and around Montreal, in all kinds of areas, over the years, but not so many in one place. He warns of a dramatic increase in the prevalence of such incidents since 2014.

He is angry because he does not think government is taking it seriously.

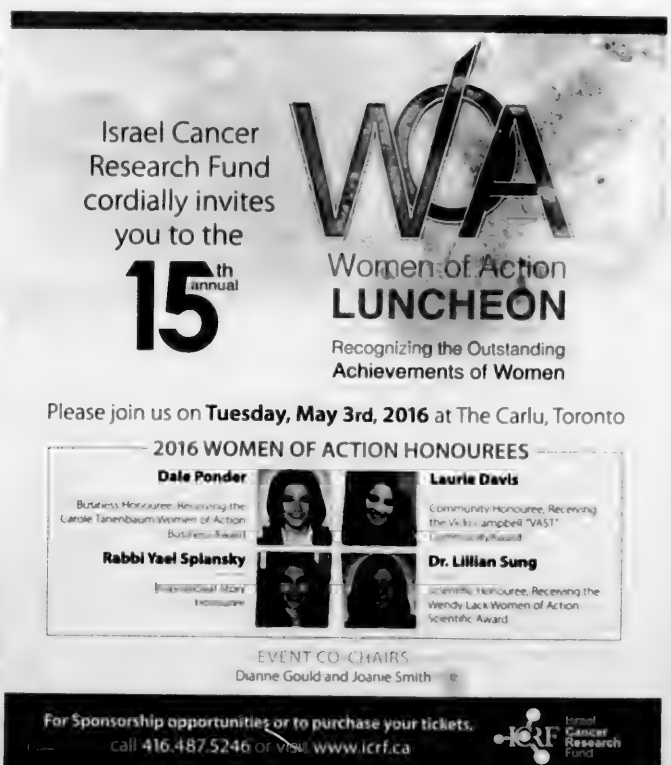
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is taking a muted stance on what happened in Laval.

"Obviously, any anti-Semitic graffiti is disturbing, but we will wait to see what the police investigation finds. We are confident the police are taking this seriously," said CIJA Quebec co-chair Rabbi Reuben Poupko.

Meanwhile, the Quebec minister for immigration, diversity and inclusion, Kathleen Weil, issued a press release on April 5 condemning a series of other recent "hateful" incidents that have been reported in the media.

She referred to the attack on the street of a Toronto man wearing a Sikh turban who was visiting Quebec City, threats made on social media against the co-president of the Association des musulmans et Arabes pour la laïcité au Québec (the Association of Muslims and Arabs for Secularism in Quebec), and insults directed at women wearing face veils on Montreal streets.

"The Quebec government condemns vigorously all words, threats and acts of a hateful, violent or racist character. These behaviours are unacceptable and have no place in our inclusive society, open to diversity," she stated. ■


Israel Cancer Research Fund cordially invites you to the
15th annual
WOA
Women of Action
LUNCHEON
Recognizing the Outstanding Achievements of Women
Please join us on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016 at The Carlu, Toronto
2016 WOMEN OF ACTION HONOUREES
Dale Ponder
Laurie Davis
Rabbi Yael Splansky
Dr. Lillian Sung
EVENT CO-CHAIRS
Dianne Gould and Joanie Smith
For Sponsorship opportunities or to purchase your tickets,
call 416.487.5246 or visit www.icrf.ca
ICRF Israel Cancer Research Fund

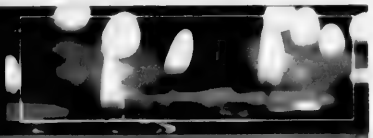
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre present

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
ISRAEL@68

Celebrate the birth of the Jewish State and the strength of its people!

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

Thursday, May 5 | 11 am | Free event | register at srcentre.ca
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821



YOM HAZIKARON MEMORIAL

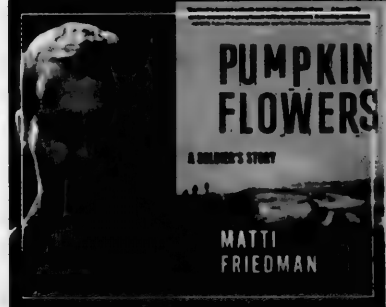
Wednesday, May 11 | 11 am | Free event | register at srcentre.ca
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821

COMMUNITY HAGIGA & SHUK

Sunday, May 15 | 9 am - 1 pm
free event - please register at srcentre.ca

MATTI CASPI IN CONCERT

Sunday, May 15 | 8 pm
Tickets at srcentre.ca | limited space available
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821



A CONVERSATION WITH MATTI FRIEDMAN

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **DAVID BEZMOZGIS & RAFI YABLONSKY**

Thursday, May 19 | 7.30 pm

Book Launch and Wine & Cheese reception | **tickets at srcentre.ca**

Matti Friedman is a former Associated Press correspondent and a regular contributor to *Tablet Magazine*. Two essays he wrote about media coverage of Israel after the 2014 Gaza war, for *Tablet* and *The Atlantic*, triggered intense discussion and have been shared together on Facebook more than 100,000 times. He was born in Toronto and lives in Jerusalem.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821

ISRAELI DANCE CELEBRATION WITH SAGI AZRAN & RONIT WEINREICH

Saturday, May 14 | 8 pm to midnight
Sunday, May 15 | 4 pm to 7 pm

tickets at srcentre.ca

Mizrachi Canada Yom Hazikaron - Yom Ha'atzmaut
Remembrance & Celebration | Wed., May 11 | 7 pm
Guest speaker: Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel.
Live music and refreshments to follow the formal program.

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto | 613 Clark Ave. West
For more information: 416.630.9266

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto | The Schwartz/Reisman Centre | Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

Montreal's Radio Shalom goes off the air

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

With the long-struggling Radio Shalom 1650 AM signing off for good on April 1, there is talk of whether some Jewish content can continue under the station's new managers, evangelical Christians.

Stanley Asher, who was responsible for much of Radio Shalom's English content over its history, said he may be approached about the possibility of contributing a few hours a week, but he has reservations about doing so.

"I'm not religious, but I would be a little uncomfortable doing a program and then someone else coming on afterward talking about how wonderful Jesus is," Asher said. "I'm not sure any other Jewish people would want to either."

Radio Shalom was run almost entirely by volunteers. It is believed, at its demise, to have been the last Jewish radio station in this position in North America.

Asher was hosting five or six hours of programming a week before Radio Shalom went off the air at 6 p.m. on April 1. As it had for years at this time, Radio Shalom shut down for Shabbat and handed over the spot on the band to station CKZW, whose self-descriptor is "le son gospel du Québec."

But when Shabbat ended this week, CKZW continued on the air.

Radio Shalom founder and president Robert Levy warned Dec. 30 the not-for-profit station would close permanently if it was not bailed out of its financial problems by Jan. 31. When that self-assigned deadline passed, Levy said it would be extended because talks were continuing with Federation CJA and other parties, including outside the Jewish community.

Radio Shalom had been on the AM dial for a decade and could also be heard on the Internet. For five years before it received its licence from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and took the call letters CJRS, it broadcast via a subcarrier. As listeners had to have a special radio to pick that up, Radio Shalom's audience was very limited.

The station's roots are in the Sephardi community, and about 60 per cent of its broadcasting was French. Patterned on Jewish-content radio stations in France, it was independent and received no regular funding from any Jewish organization.

CKZW is now on air around the clock, operating out of the facilities in the Town of Mount Royal industrial park that were Radio Shalom's. The Christian station's founder, André Joly, has made known his intention to acquire the station from Levy, pending CRTC approval.

Levy declined to comment for this story.

Asher said the new managers may be required by regulation to include programming other than its usual Christian content. Under the licence granted it by the CRTC in 2006, Radio Shalom undertook to provide 30 per cent of its broadcasting in English, at least 90 hours a week of local programming, and, of greatest relevance, to devote 18 of its 100 weekly hours of religious content to "programs intended to ensure balanced programming."

Fifteen per cent of the air time was to be turned over to "programs produced by other religious groups," a clause Radio Shalom apparently honoured by letting the evangelical Christian group and, earlier, other religious groups have Friday night and Saturday.

The licence, which expires in August 2017, does not specify that CJRS must be a "Jewish" station.

"Disappointed, but not surprised" was how Asher described his feelings.

"At one time, there was a Jewish radio station in New York, but that closed. If a city with a Jewish population of three million can't support Jewish radio, it's hard to imagine Montreal could – and we have the French and English issue, too," he said.

Radio Shalom president Robert Levy, left, with board chair Charles Barchechath

Though he finds it hard to imagine working with an evangelical Christian station, given this community's history of seeking the conversion of Jews, Asher admits he is tempted and has made no decision yet.

A retired teacher who had broadcast experience with CBC Radio, Asher, 81, said he put in many more hours each week in preparation beyond his on-air time. He was grateful, because he loves radio and it has kept him occupied during retirement.

How many people tuned into Radio Shalom was never documented reliably, but a survey of 469 Jewish community members by Federation CJA last July found Sephardim and francophones were more likely to listen. However, about two-thirds of Ashkenazi/anglophone respondents said they were aware of Radio Shalom's existence. ■

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
A Great SCHOOL

WE ARE SEEKING AN EXCEPTIONAL
CFO/Executive Director

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, a 100 year-old modern Jewish Community Day School with 1,400 students on four campuses is now searching for a CFO/Executive Director.

Reporting to the Head of School, the CFO/Executive Director is the Chief Financial and Operating Officer of the school. S/he is responsible for the following non-academic operations of the school, including but not limited to planning, preparation and implementation of the budget; financial, risk and facilities management; collection of school fees; health and safety; human resources including supervision of non-academic staff as well as oversight of payroll and staff records and IT; and support the administration and lay people of the Board of Directors.

Qualifications:

- A degree in finance, business administration or the equivalent
- Five or more years leading/managing a non-profit organization with a budget of over $5M, or demonstrated combination of for-profit experience combined with Board and volunteer experience
- The ability to work in an educational, religious environment
- Strong problem solving abilities, mature judgement, excellent ability to multi-task and prioritize
- Exceptional management, organizational, and interpersonal experience and skills
- A collaborative work style that fosters team-building and partnerships with staff, students, stakeholders and lay leaders
- A passion for community work
- Strong oral and written communications skills
- Fluency in IT applications

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume and cover letter in confidence to cfo.edsearch@ahschools.com by April 15, 2016

Rights hearing delayed

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

A Jewish hairdresser whose complaint of discrimination by his Jewish employer was upheld by the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Commission last fall is still waiting for the unsettled case to be brought by the commission before the Quebec Human Rights Tribunal.

Richard Zilberg worked for Spa Orazen (now Spa Liv Zen) from October 2011 to August 2012 when he was dismissed. He was forbidden from working on Shabbat by the business' main owner, Iris Gressy, because he's Jewish, Zilberg testified. Gressy, an observant Jew, operated the spa on Saturdays, but did not work there herself at that time. Zilberg said he was fired after telling clients about what he felt was an unfair directive from Gressy.

The commission recommended that Zilberg be compensated $20,000 by the spa and Gressy for material damages of loss of income and other hardship, moral damages, and punitive damages for intentional violation of his civil rights.

Zilberg's complaint was filed for him by the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), a non-profit organization combating discrimination. It took three years for the commission to release its decision, and the respondents did not pay him damages by the deadline set by the commission of Oct. 23, 2015.

Richard Zilberg

"Normally, in cases of non-compliance, the commission brings the file to the Human Rights Tribunal within a month or two," said CRARR executive director Fo Niemi.

The tribunal is a court.

"In our years of civil rights work, we have never seen this kind of prolonged delay, which is quite worrisome because employers and other institutional respondents will no longer take the commission seriously," Niemi said.

In January, CRARR wrote to commission chair Jacques Frémont about the the file and was told the lawyer in charge would follow up "in a few weeks." Last month, CRARR sent a second letter to Frémont and at time of writing, had yet to receive a response. The commission declined *CJN* requests to comment, citing confidentiality. ■

Debate over church tenancy turns ugly for Chabad

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Côte des Neiges-Notre Dame de Grâce borough councillor Jeremy Searle accused a Chabad rabbi of invoking anti-Semitism and trying to instil "Jewish guilt" in opponents of a proposed housing project on the site of the former St. Columba Church.

The April 4 borough meeting turned ugly after Rabbi Yisroel Bernath, director of Rohr Chabad of NDG, which occupies the hall adjacent to the main church building on Hingston Avenue, said the users of the centre have been the targets of "harassment, demonization and bigotry."

Searle said opponents have "put forward arguments, whether valid or not" as to why they're against the project that would have seen the main building demolished and seven townhouses built, while maintaining the hall. Chabad has been in the hall since September 2013 as rent-free tenants of the property's owners, the developers of the site.

Those in favour of the project, said Searle, have not made any argument, rather "just repeated the song of anti-Semitism... This is the Jewish guilt approach... because it's Jewish, you can't say anything against it... [It's] being used for all its worth."

He termed it "a vicious smear campaign."

Searle didn't stop there. If it's accusing opponents of a hate crime, he said, Chabad should press charges and prove anti-Semitism, which he denied had anything to do with the issue. Searle said he opposed the project because the modern design of the houses presented by the developers, principally Robert Blatt and David Kakon, did not fit into the neighbourhood where the high-value homes are often a century old. He said a more suitable project, including the hall's demolition, would likely have the neighbours' support.

Searle was reprimanded by borough mayor Russell Copeman and councillors Lionel Perez and Marvin Rotrand for his accusation. Rotrand said he was "personally offended" and Perez denounced it as "inappropriate and wrong."

Searle was alone among six council members in voting against a motion tabled by Copeman at the meeting to withdraw council's support for the development.

Copeman said because 224 residents had signed a register on March 17 opposing the project, well above the 166 minimum, the council had two choices: hold a referendum on the issue, which "I do not believe would be in the best interests of the borough," or abandon the rezoning bylaw.

"I'm disappointed, because I thought it was a good project," he said, adding that the former church has limited heritage value, a reason many opponents have cited.

The former St. Columba Church

Chabad's future in the property is uncertain. The developers have not publicized their intentions. Its understanding with them in 2013 was that it would buy out its share of the property within 18 months. Chabad estimated it needed to raise $1 million to cover the purchase and renovations to the building, which is about a century old.

That didn't happen, because even if Chabad had the money, it could not make the purchase because the land registry had not divided the property in two, and that won't happen until the developers secure the rezoning, Rabbi Bernath told *The CJN*.

At the borough meeting, held at Federation CJA's Gelber centre, Rabbi Bernath said that over the past two years, Chabad has been the target of "exaggerated and unfounded complaints... [and] unreasonable scrutiny" by local residents.

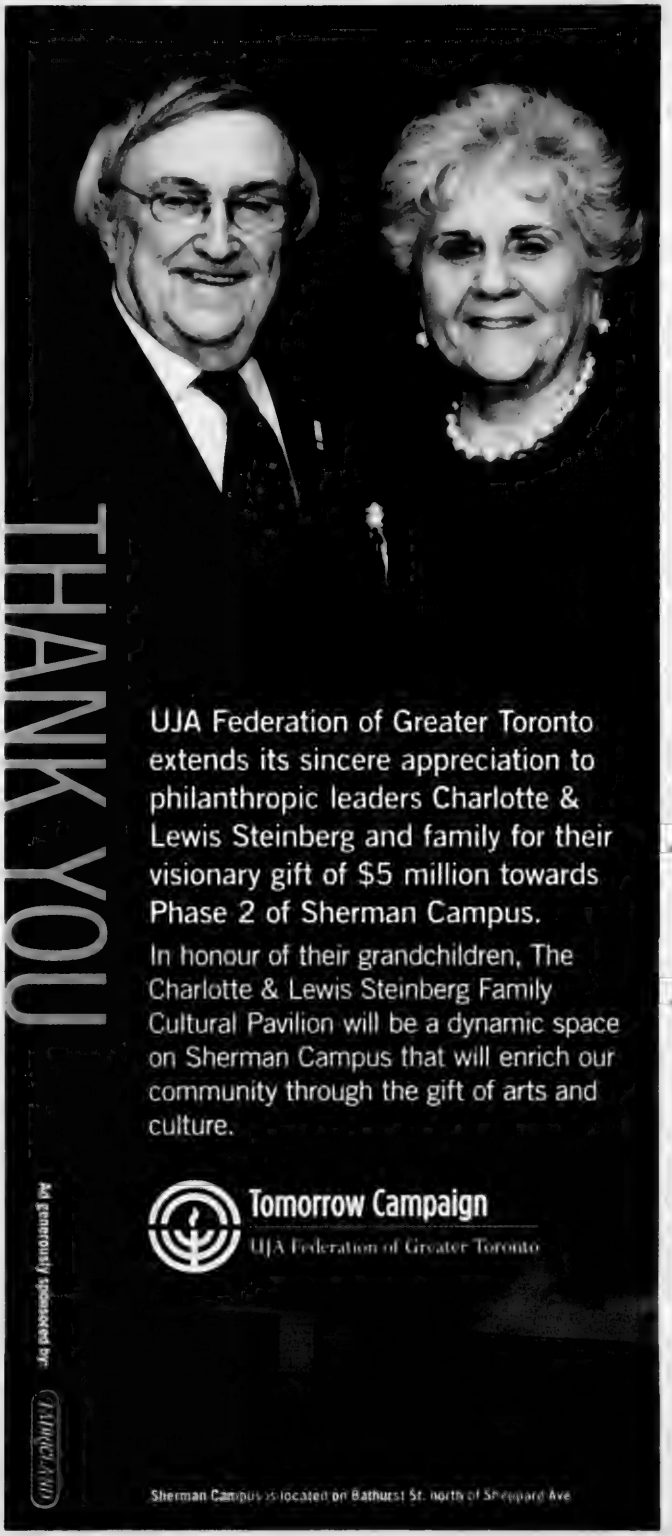
Perez, a Montreal executive committee member, said he's seen the debate "evolve" from mainly complaints that Chabad's presence represents a "nuisance" and even a security risk, and is bringing "unwanted elements into the neighbourhood," to being more about preserving a heritage site.

Copeman declined to assign a blanket motive to the opposition, but did recall a disturbing incident at a public consultation last fall, when a man made a Nazi salute at him. He said that was "clearly anti-Semitic" and reported the incident to police.

Diane Chambers, a 38-year nearby resident, said she signed the register because she felt the houses' design did not fit in, and that the entrance to a proposed underground garage was in an unsafe place.

The day after the meeting, a shaken Rabbi Bernath said he was "shocked" by Searle's comments. "I purposely have not raised anti-Semitism," he said, adding that Chabad is now "in limbo. The developers are not sure what they are going to do."

Chabad is almost able to buy the hall. "We do have money for a down payment and a mortgage is in place. We just need another $100,000 to make it work." Rabbi Bernath said the developers have offered to sell the entire property, but with a price tag of close to $2 million, that's "a very big decision." ■


THANK YOU
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto extends its sincere appreciation to philanthropic leaders Charlotte & Lewis Steinberg and family for their visionary gift of $5 million towards Phase 2 of Sherman Campus.
In honour of their grandchildren, The Charlotte & Lewis Steinberg Family Cultural Pavilion will be a dynamic space on Sherman Campus that will enrich our community through the gift of arts and culture.
Tomorrow Campaign
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
Ad generously sponsored by
Sherman Campus is located on Bathurst St. north of Sheppard Ave

Groups don't take stance on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The key to Jewish-Muslim interfaith work is understanding each others' histories and the persecution faced by others, said Shahina Siddiqui, president of the Canadian branch of the Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA), located in Winnipeg.

"We know that Jews and Muslims have always worked together historically and that Jews have, historically, sought refuge among Muslims," she said.

Developed in 2003 as an offshoot of the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit, ISSA Canada provides health and social services to members of the Muslim community and does interfaith work.

In collaboration with Jewish groups, ISSA has held forums on issues like anti-Semitism and Islamaphobia, and worked with Winnipeg's Congregation Shaarey Zedek, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg chapter of Independent Jewish Voices, which has been outspoken in its criticism of Israel and supports boycotting the Jewish state.

Several years ago, ISSA Canada collaborated with local Jewish groups to organize a protest against Quebec's proposed charter of values, which would have prohibited public sector employees from wearing religious symbols.

"Winnipeg is a small community... We may not do huge [interfaith] conferences, but on a person-to-person, community-to-community level, there's constant outreach between [groups]... I find it's important not to always talk through the lens of Israel and Palestine. That becomes a barrier," Siddiqui said.

While Israel can't always be excluded from the conversation, she said, it's important that the issue not define the Jewish-Muslim relationship in Canada.

"My Jewish friends and I are like family to each other, and we look at how to build our communities here rather than looking to an issue we may have different political views on... Interpersonal relationships – that's how you build understanding," she stressed.

Alia Hogben lives near Kingston and is executive director of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW).

Founded in 1982, the CCMW is committed to promoting equality and empowerment for Canadian Muslim women, and is also active in interfaith dialogue.

With chapters across Canada, CCMW has worked with, for example, Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and groups such as Na'amat Canada, which seeks to enhance the lives of women and children in Canada and Israel.

Hogben said CCMW deliberately takes no political stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We're very sorry about the whole thing, but we feel we can't resolve it... We keep it aside because there are many areas of common ground we *can* work on," she said.

Last summer in Montreal, representatives from the Jewish and Muslim communities met to discuss establishing greater contact and collaboration.

In December, the communities met again to talk about responses to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Rabbi Lisa Gruschow of Montreal's Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom, who was involved in both meetings, said she hasn't been aware of much Jewish-Muslim dialogue in the city since, speculating that it's because the refugee crisis seems to be "the area that's mobilizing people right now... this will hopefully lead to deeper relationships between our communities."

Students of Shari Goldberg's course also share music, art and writing projects. SHARI GOLDBERG PHOTO

Noting that, "the challenge will be taking the leap from positive feeling to organization," Rabbi Gruschow said that undertaking shared projects seems to be an optimal way to foster trust.

"At the summer meeting, we spoke about the importance of, as a minority community, feeling like other minority communities have your back," she said.

Several years ago, after violence broke out between Israel and Palestinian supporters at a pro-Palestinian rally in Calgary, local imam Syed Soharwardy reached out to Rabbi Shaul Osadchey of Calgary's Beth Tzedec Congregation, and the two founded what they call the Calgary Jewish-Muslim Council.

The group, which Imam Soharwardy said draws Muslims of varying backgrounds, meets monthly, and seeks to work at the grassroots level to bring Jewish and Muslim families together.

Last month, the group held what it said were milestone events: at the first one about 100 Jewish and Muslim families met at Calgary's Green Dome Mosque to learn about religious Muslim practices and share a meal. The following week, many of the participants attended a similar gathering at Beth Tzedec.

"It was eye-opening for those who previously thought Jews hate Muslims," Soharwardy said, noting that an initiative to get Jewish and Muslim families meeting in each other's homes is in the works.

"We think that having rabbis and imams talking to each other isn't nearly as effective as a Jewish girl talking to a Muslim girl, a Jewish family talking to a Muslim family, their children playing together. That's what will create friendship," he said.

This group also believes that it's not up to them to solve the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We wish and pray for it to be resolved, but we don't want animosity in our local community," Soharwardy said.

While the issue of Israel clearly lurks beneath the surface of Jewish-Muslim dialogue, many of those leading these activities maintain it can't be addressed before Canadian Jews and Muslims forge strong personal bonds – something that can be achieved by learning about other's customs and commonalities.

But are the grassroots Jewish-Muslim initiatives across Canada really laying the foundation for constructive dialogue of a more political nature?

And how do those at the forefront of these efforts envision a shift from friendship to serious political dialogue, and are there people who argue that the latter is simply not feasible?

It's a subject we'll examine next week in part two of our series. ■

Jewish exhibit planned to mark 150 years of Confederation

DIANE KOVEN
OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

Plans are underway for a major exhibit marking the contribution of Jewish people to Canada that will open in Ottawa in 2017 to coincide with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Under the leadership of committee head Tova Lynch, a small group of local volunteers has put together a proposal for what has been named "The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Tribute to Canada" (CJE) and is working hard at developing the various aspects of the project.

"Things are moving quickly," says Lynch. "Through our partnership with the National Capital Commission [NCC] which manages federal property in Ottawa, we now have an excellent downtown facility.

> *We expect to be ready to tell Canada's Jewish story to thousands of visitors*

Key people and organizations are coming on board and excitement is building. So we expect to be ready to tell Canada's Jewish story to thousands and thousands of visitors to the city in 2017."

The NCC has provided space in a building two blocks from Parliament Hill, in the shadow of the Peace Tower, which is an excellent location for tourists.

Three exhibit designers have been invited to submit estimates for construction of the exhibit and the committee is now actively soliciting funding from both public and private sources.

The estimated cost of the full project is $2.9 million, of which 40 per cent is expected from private sector corporations and government agencies. Fundraising is also targeting individuals, Jewish federations across Canada, private foundations and the corporate world.

In addition to money, organizers are seeking temporary donations of various other items, such as artifacts, medals of Jewish Canadian veterans, photographs, diaries and other appropriate items.

The exhibit will attempt to answer two questions: what has been the effect of the Jews on the identity of Canada, and what has been the effect of Canada on Jewish identity?

Volunteers from across the country will have a wide variety of opportunities to participate in the project, from acting as docents at the exhibit to helping organize cultural events, such as lectures and musical events, around the theme.

The CJE has the support of major Jewish groups, as well as Rabbi Reuven Bulka, rabbi emeritus of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas and a member of the Order of Canada, and Victor Rabinovitch, former longtime president and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (now the Canadian Museum of History) and the Canadian War Museum, both of whom are actively involved in the planning, organizing and fundraising.

To donate or volunteer, contact Lynch at tova1405@gmail.com or 613-680-8820. ■

INTERNATIONAL

Legendary spymaster speaks from the grave

NOGA TARNOPOLSKY
JERUSALEM

Meir Dagan came in from the cold, and out of the (political) closet, in 2012.

A year after he left the Mossad, which he led for close to a decade, Dagan gave a series of high-calibre, machine-gun-like interviews to *The New Yorker*, *60 Minutes* and to all manner of Israel media, in which he transmitted a single message: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bellicosity towards Iran is endangering Israel.

But, as it happens, he had much more to say.

Dagan, 71, who died last month after a long battle with cancer, took advantage of a malignancy he managed to keep at bay for some time to buy himself a rare luxury: a pointed, wide-ranging, final declaration from the grave.

Only, it didn't happen quite like that, said the investigative journalist and author Ronen Bergman, who spoke with Dagan in the context of 650 interviews he conducted for a history of the Mossad to be published next year by Random House.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Media Line*, Bergman told the story of the opportunity he offered Dagan, and Dagan offered him.

The conversations, running to a total of 400 transcript pages, took place during 2013 and 2014, after Dagan had broken the veil of silence during "what appeared to be a hopeful time," Bergman said. "We didn't speak in an atmosphere of deathbed confession... Neither he nor I were doctors, but he'd been through the transplant and while you could see he'd been sick, he was fine. But we both knew he had limited time left."

"I'd say that for Dagan, it was important to set the record straight."

"A lot had been said about Meir Dagan, not just about his time at the Mossad. I remember hearing that he'd been unhappy about an article saying that he'd been wounded in the Six Day War – which was untrue – so I came and said, here, you have the opportunity in the widest way to tell your side of the story."

For Israelis who saw a frail Dagan at a political rally against Netanyahu's 2015 re-election, his animosity towards the prime minister came as no surprise. But the vehemence of his condemnation still made headlines.

Netanyahu was "the worst manager I know," Dagan said, deriding Netanyahu for wishy-washy decision-making and for putting personal interests above those of the state.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lays a wreath at Meir Dagan's funeral last month. Dagan often criticized Netanyahu's bellicosity towards Iran. FLASH90 PHOTO

"The worst thing is that he's got a certain trait like (former Prime Minister) Ehud Barak – the two of them believe that they're the greatest geniuses in the world and that no one gets what it is that they really want," Dagan said. "He is the only prime minister – think about that – who reached a state ... in which the entire security establishment essentially didn't accept his position."

"The working assumption that it would be possible to fully stop the Iranian nuclear program by means of a military strike is incorrect," Dagan insisted, undoing the major talking point of Netanyahu's last two electoral campaigns. "That military capacity doesn't exist."

"If Israel attacks, (Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei will thank God," Dagan predicted. It would "unite the Iranian people behind the (nuclear) project and would allow Khamenei to say that the project was for peaceful purposes until now, but because we've been attacked by a terrorist state, we have to turn the project into a military project in order to defend ourselves."

Bergman believes that the most important issue for Dagan to get across was "his strategic understanding that war is a last resort and that force cannot resolve everything. It's a view he came to later in life."

"The whole subject of an attack on Iran was very important and part of this understanding, and within this, his sharp professional and personal dispute with Bibi," Bergman said, using Netanyahu's nickname.

Netanyahu and Barak did not shy away from attacking the erstwhile spy chief. "It is improper when former officials twist facts and attack their former bosses after they leave their post," a statement from Netanyahu's office read.

"It is not the job of a prime minister to rubber stamp his subordinates, but to craft policies based on a wide perspective of Israel's security and national interests, and that is what the prime minister did," the press release continued. "Dagan's statements during the battle against the Iranian nuclear program caused great harm to the struggle. Prime Minister Netanyahu will continue to lead the effort to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons."

Barak told Israeli media that he had "loved" Dagan, adding, "he was a great person who took the Mossad to new heights." But "every human being sometimes judges people through a personal filter."

In the paradox of his devotion to Israel and his opposition to its prime minister, Dagan left a unique legacy.

There's something more. Dagan, who fought cancer of the liver for several years, held an organ donor card. Last Tuesday, a 70-year-old woman who has not been identified and Avraham Gian, an 81-year-old Israeli, received the corneas of the former Mossad chief.

"I'm amazed to discover that the corneas of a hero of Israel like him were implanted in me," said Gian. "We are all in this man's debt, and now I most of all. Because of him, I can see."

It remains to be seen what the veteran Israelis will see through the old spymaster's eyes. ■

Themedialine.org

Half of Israeli Jews won't live in same building as Arab family: survey

JTA
JERUSALEM

While most Israelis oppose separation of Jews and Arabs in hospitals, nearly half of Israeli Jews would not live in the same apartment building as an Arab family, a survey found.

Some 49 per cent of Israeli Jews told Israel's Channel 2 that they would not live in the same building as Arab families, compared to 42 per cent who said they would be willing. Nine per cent said they were not sure.

The survey broadcast on April 9 comes after Jewish Home lawmaker Bezalel Smotrich said that Arab and Jewish mothers in Israel's maternity wards should be placed in separate rooms. His statement followed an Israel Radio report that some Israeli hospitals acquiesce to requests to separate Arab and Jewish patients.

Eighty-two per cent of Jewish-Israeli respondents said they would let an Arab doctor treat them, while 13 per cent said they would not.

Some 34 per cent of Jewish respondents said they supported segregation between Jewish and Arab women in hospital maternity wards, and 61 per cent said they should not be separated.

The survey was conducted on April 7 among 505 Hebrew-speaking respondents. ■

Israel to investigate firms identified in Panama Papers

Leaked documents reveal PA president's son holds $1million in shares in Palestinian investment company

JTA
JERUSALEM

Israel's Tax Authority will investigate the Israeli companies and individuals that were identified as having offshore accounts in a dump of leaked documents known as the Panama Papers.

The Tax Authority said it will look into whether the ownership of the companies and the assets held abroad were reported to the authority and if the appropriate taxes were paid.

Its director, Moshe Asher, told the daily newspaper *Israel Hayom* that some of the names on the accounts have not reported overseas assets. Asher said all the information in the leaked documents would be crosschecked.

Some 600 Israeli companies and 850 Israeli shareholders are listed in the Panama Papers as having offshore accounts. Among the companies are Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim.

The 11.5 million documents were published April 3 following a yearlong investigation of their contents led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the German daily *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

The leak has caused scandals throughout the world. They provided details on the offshore holdings of a dozen current and former world leaders, as well as businessmen, criminals, celebrities and sports stars.

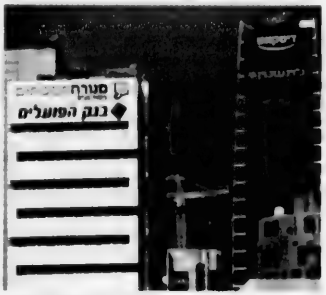
These have so far brought down the leader of Iceland and raised questions about the dealings of the presidents of Argentina and Ukraine, senior Chinese politicians and famous actors.

It has also turned up information that may be relevant in the restitution of Nazi-looted art.

The leaked data, which go back as far as 1975, came from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, which is known for creating shell companies that often conceal the ownership of assets in the accounts. It is legal to use offshore accounts.

Journalists from 76 countries, including Canada, reviewed the documents.

Among the Israeli public figures listed in the documents are attorney Dov Weisglass, former bureau chief of the late prime minister Ariel Sharon, and Israeli businessman Idan Ofer.



Israeli banks Leumi and Hapoalim are among some 600 Israeli companies listed in the Panama Papers. FLASH 90 PHOTO

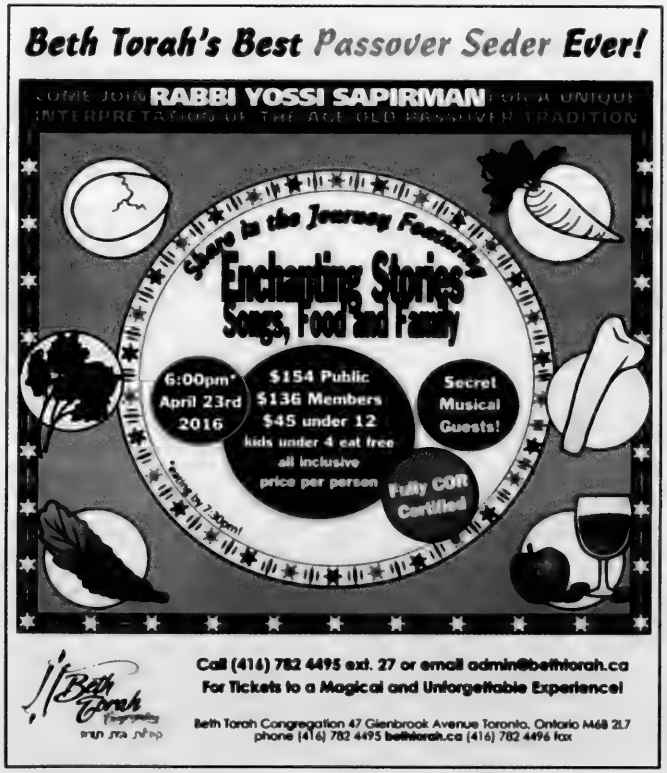
Also, the date leak revealed that Tareq Abbas, the son of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, holds $1 million (US) worth of shares in a Palestinian investment company with ties to the PA.

The Arab Palestinian Investment Company, (APIC) launched in 1995, is today a major financial player in the Palestinian economy, with involvement in the food, medical and automobile industries, as well as public relations and a host of shopping centers.

Abbas' son Tareq was appointed to the board in 2011, a fact that was public knowledge. However, his personal investment in the company – $982,000 as of September 2015 – had not been known, *Ha'aretz* reported.

The PA does not directly hold shares in APIC, but the Palestinian Investment Fund, which has close ties to the PA chairman, holds 18 per cent of its stocks, *Ha'aretz* reported. APIC's board of directors has historically featured members with close ties to the head of the PA – previously Yasser Arafat and now Mahmoud Abbas.

Speaking on behalf of the Abbas brothers and APIC, attorney Kareem Shehadeh told *Ha'aretz* the firm was regularly audited and supervised by the Ministry of Commerce and the Palestine Capital Market Authority. Another source said that Tareq Abbas is a salaried employee from before his father became president. ■



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
Recently Married ?
In honour of your marriage,
The Canadian Jewish News
would like to give you a 12-week subscription *
Go to www.cjnews.com/weddings-promo/ and complete the subscription form.
*CANADIAN DELIVERY, NEW SUBSCRIPTION ONLY
Doc key: W16FXCJN

OPINION

The lessons of the Exodus and political realism in 2016

Gerald Steinberg

Officially, the Passover seder is a joyous and optimistic celebration of the transition from slavery and oppression to freedom and liberation. But on closer inspection, the images and themes paint a picture of human society and politics that is often brutal and violent. The stories of Pharaoh's cruelty, including ordering the drowning of Israelite baby boys, and, on the other side, the pain inflicted by the 10 plagues, ending with the deaths of Egyptian first borns, are cautionary tales. Looking at today's headlines from Syria and elsewhere, it's clear that mankind's capacity to inflict pain and suffering on others has not diminished in 4,000 years.

For Jews, the dangers of persecution do not end with the liberation from Egypt and the entry into the Land of Israel. During the seder, we are reminded that "in every generation, they arise to strike us down." And before opening the door for Elijah and our plea for a speedy messianic redemption, we ask God to pour out his anger against the tormentors.

Today, the tormentors are vicious terrorists who target not only Jews. Islamic State (IS) and Hezbollah attack and kill each other, as well as anyone who is not "one of them." The jihadi attacks in Paris, Brussels, San Bernadino and elsewhere are aimed at westerners. This campaign serves a reminder that while Israel and Jews are singled out for particular hate, the world continues to be a dangerous place, where anarchy prevails. Periods of peace and security are exceptions, some longer and geographically broader than others, but eventually, they come to a violent end.

The Passover story that we celebrate and repeat in every generation is not of peace and harmony, but rather of struggle. The Israelite march to freedom was also accompanied by the beginnings of self-defence. They left "with out-stretched fists," which later became a full-fledged army. In order to survive as a free people, Israelites had to be able to defend their lives and land.

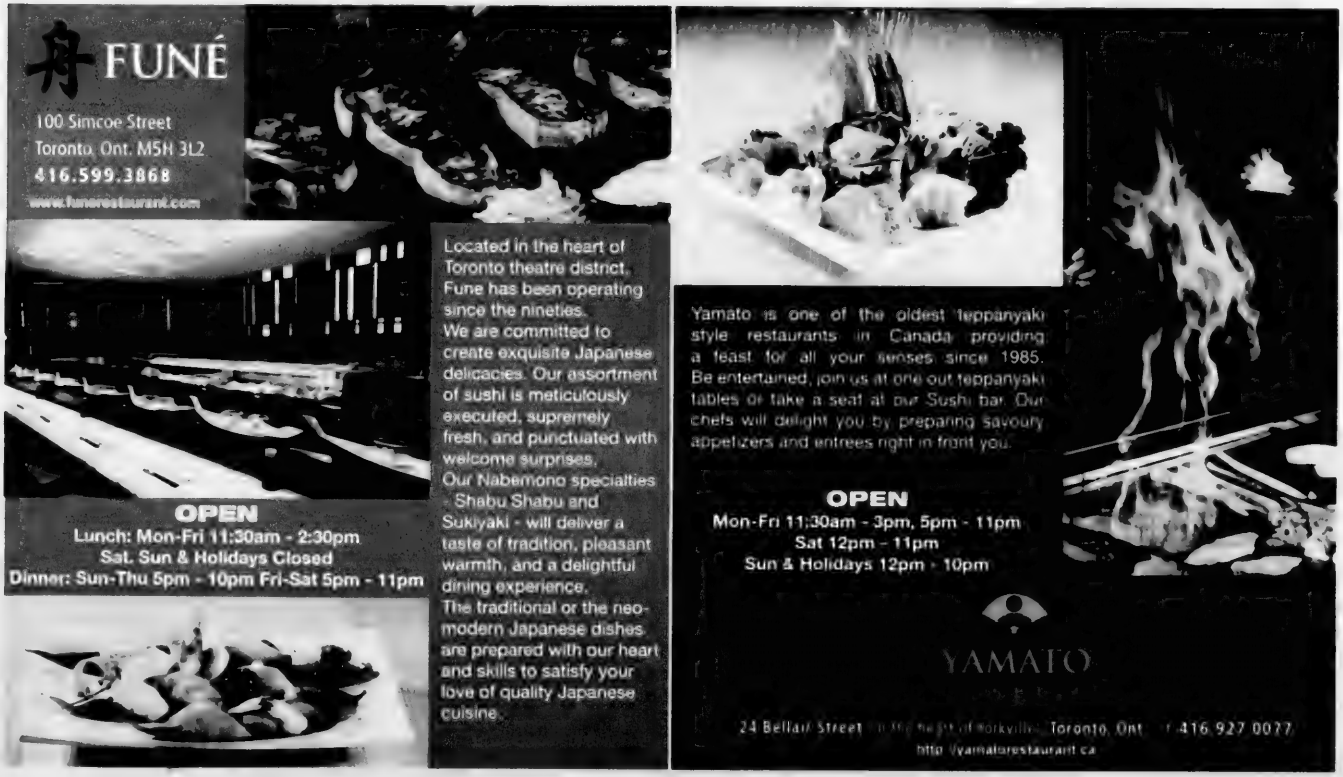
> *The Passover seder does a good job of separating the real world and the messianic ideal.*

In the Jewish tradition, war and outbreaks of brutality and coarse inhumanity are built into the human condition. And war will only end when the Messiah comes, according to the prophetic vision, and the existing natural order is replaced, the lion lies down with the lamb, and nation shall not lift up sword against nation. But until then, we must be prepared to fight and defend ourselves in order to survive.

For Thomas Hobbes, the 17th-century British political philosopher, this central part of political life was obvious. To Hobbes, the founder of political realism, who was greatly influenced by the Jewish Bible, the environment of political anarchy – "the war of all against all" – is the state of nature. And for leaders (Moses, Samuel, David, and others) and everyone else, the need to fight for one's rights and survival as a people is obvious. War (including terrorism) is an integral part of the state of nature, and to ignore it is particularly dangerous. Even God is a realist.

During Passover, we have the opportunity to contemplate these lessons from the Exodus – from the beginning when a small tribal family of 70 souls went down to Egypt to buy bread, through the enslavement and sudden liberation. And as part of the commentary around the table, we might consider how these essential political lessons apply to our condition and the world today.

I would argue that the tendency to replace the realism of Passover and of Jewish history with an intoxicating messianism is mistaken. Such messages are inspiring and provide hope for the long term, but it is a mistake to confuse them with reality. The Passover seder, with the matzah – the bread of affliction, and the maror – the bitter herbs, does a good job of separating the real world and the messianic ideal. ■


舟 FUNÉ
100 Simcoe Street
Toronto, Ont. M5H 3L2
416.599.3868
www.funerestaurant.com
OPEN
Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30am - 2:30pm
Sat, Sun & Holidays Closed
Dinner: Sun-Thu 5pm - 10pm Fri-Sat 5pm - 11pm
Located in the heart of Toronto theatre district, Fune has been operating since the nineties.
We are committed to create exquisite Japanese delicacies. Our assortment of sushi is meticulously executed, supremely fresh, and punctuated with welcome surprises.
Our Nabemono specialties - Shabu Shabu and Sukiyaki - will deliver a taste of tradition, pleasant warmth, and a delightful dining experience.
The traditional or the neo-modern Japanese dishes are prepared with our heart and skills to satisfy your love of quality Japanese cuisine.
Yamato is one of the oldest teppanyaki style restaurants in Canada providing a feast for all your senses since 1985. Be entertained, join us at one out teppanyaki tables or take a seat at our Sushi bar. Our chefs will delight you by preparing savoury appetizers and entrees right in front you.
OPEN
Mon-Fri 11:30am - 3pm, 5pm - 11pm
Sat 12pm - 11pm
Sun & Holidays 12pm - 10pm
YAMATO
24 Bellair Street Toronto, Ont 416.927.0077
http://yamatorestaurant.ca

Sanders seeks 'more balanced' position on Israel

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
WASHINGTON

U.S. Democratic party presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders said he was determined to take a "more balanced position" on Israel than other American politicians, rejecting the notion that he is more critical of Israel.

"Whether you're Jewish or not Jewish, I would hope that every person in this country wants to see the misery of never-ending war and conflict ended in the Middle East," he said in an interview April 10 with *CNN*'s *State of the Union* talk show. "It's a difficult issue and good people have tried to deal with it for years."

While the United States must support Israel, he said, "you cannot ignore the needs of the Palestinian people in Gaza right now: poverty, unemployment, their community has been decimated. You can't ignore that fact. And you can't just be only concerned about Israel's needs. You have to be concerned about the needs of all of the people of the region."

He also reiterated that Israel's response during the 2014 war against the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip was "disproportionate."

"Israel has a 100 per cent – and no one will fight for that principle more strongly than I will – has the right to live in freedom, independently and in security without having to be subjected to terrorist attacks," he said.

"But I think that we will not succeed to ever bring peace into that region unless we also treat the Palestinians with dignity and respect, and that is my view."

Asked about criticism from Member of Knesset Michael Oren, an American-born former Israeli ambassador to the US, who termed his comments a "blood libel," Sanders asked, "Who is Mr. Oren?"

Told who Oren is, Sanders said, "I see. And he's attacking me for a statement I did not make."

Meanwhile his Democratic party opponent Hillary Clinton took a differing stance on Israel, saying that the Jewish state was entitled to protect itself against Gaza's terror group ruler, Hamas.

"Hamas provokes Israel. They often pretend to have people in civilian garb acting as though they are civilians who are Hamas fighters," Clinton told the same *CNN* talk show on Sunday.

"When your soldiers are under attack, you have to respond," Clinton said.

"It's a very different undertaking for Israel to target those who are targeting them. And I think Israel has had to defend itself, has a right to defend itself."

Sanders has also come under fire recently for misstating facts, including an accusation that Clinton had said he was unqualified to be president and a claim that the pope had invited him a conference at the Vatican.

The senator has repeatedly in recent days cited grossly inflated numbers for the Palestinian civilian death toll in the 2014 war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

In a *New York Daily News* interview last week, he said 10,000 civilians were killed by Israel's "disproportionate" attack on Gaza targets during the conflict, more than seven times higher than the figure given by Hamas, and higher still than Israel's assessment of the casualties.

On April 7, Sanders and his campaign belatedly acknowledged that the 10,000 figure was wrong. According to the Anti-Defamation League, Sanders told its CEO Jonathan Greenblatt that he had accepted a correction provided during the course of that interview, and that he would henceforth "make every effort to set the record straight."

Speaking on MSNBC the next day, however, Sanders again cited an incorrect figure – though far less inflated this time. Acknowledging that he hadn't known "the exact number" when he spoke to the *New York Daily News*, Sanders said that, "according to the United Nations, over 2,000 civilians were killed" in the war, and repeated his allegation that Israel's military actions were "disproportionate."

In fact, the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) puts the Gaza civilian death toll in the 2014 war at 1,423, while Gaza's terrorist rulers Hamas cite a similar number of 1,462. Israel has argued that the figure for civilian deaths is likely lower, since Hamas fought out of uniform in some cases and also had an interest in misrepresenting dead gunmen as civilians. Israel has also stressed that Hamas deliberately placed Gaza civilians in harm's way by placing its rocket launchers and terror tunnel openings in civilian areas. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Subscription Rates

❑ 1 YEAR $60.00*
❑ 2 YEARS $114.00*
❑ 1 YEAR DIGITAL (eCJN) $33.84*

*TAXES INCLUDED Delivery made only to Canadian Addresses

How to Subscribe

Log on to:
bit.ly/cjnsrvc

Mail this form to:
PO Box 1324, Stn Main, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Call us:
416-932-5095 or 1-866-849-0864

❑ **YES,** I would like a subscription to The CJN

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY PROV. POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE EMAIL

✔ **Payment:** $_____

❑ Cheque Enclosed Charge my ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Amex

CARD NUMBER CVC EXPIRY
SIGNATURE

Doc key: S16PHCJN S1EWMCJN

It's easy to subscribe online

bit.ly/cjnsrvc

Temple Mount off limits, Netanyahu reminds politicians

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated his blanket ban on elected officials visiting the flashpoint Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem.

The move comes ahead of the Passover holiday, when many religiously observant Jewish politicians seek to visit the holy site in homage to the pilgrimages taken by Jews in biblical times.

Ministers and lawmakers, Jewish and Arab, were all told that the site, holy to both Jews and Muslims, would continue to be off-limits to politicians in a bid to prevent the stoking of further violence, the *Ha'aretz* daily reported April 10.

Netanyahu has also asked Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and the security services to distance firebrand Muslim preacher Raed Salah from the Temple Mount.

"This man should be in prison already," the prime minister said, according to the report. "We're seeing attempts by Raed Salah to heat up the Temple Mount area ahead of Passover. This man is a one-man detonator."

Netanyahu first ordered Jewish and Muslim lawmakers off the site late last year, after the outbreak in October of a wave of Palestinian violence and terror attacks centred around claims that Israel was attempting to take control of the Temple Mount.

Meanwhile, a Shin Bet official told the cabinet that new statistics show a significant drop in attacks on Israelis over the past weeks, but stressed that counter-terror efforts would persist.

The last few months have seen a "significant decline" in the number of attacks, including in the number of "significant" attacks, the security service reported.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on April 10 .
AMIT SHABI/YEDIOTH AHARONOTH/ISRAEL SUN PHOTO

The Shin Bet said figures showed three significant attacks in April, as compared to 20 in March and 78 in October, at the start of the uptick in attacks.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, the Shin Bet attributed the decline to Israeli efforts to foil attacks, along with "effective deterrent action" and "determined activity to counter Palestinian incitement."

The agency, which presented the numbers to the cabinet's weekly meeting last Sunday morning, said Israel's counter-terror activity has left the Palestinian public feeling that "escalation is pointless."

> *Israel's counter terror activity has left the Palestinian public feeling that 'escalation is pointless.'*

In a stark departure from the line maintained by Netanyahu – that incitement and Islamist radicalism are the prime drivers of violence – the Shin Bet said that most of the attackers were motivated by "personal issues," notably "a dire personal or financial situation."

Only some of the attacks were carried out due to "nationalistic motives," the ministers heard in the briefing.

Netanyahu alluded to the new figures, cautioning that Israelis shouldn't take the decline in attacks for granted.

"This drop isn't guaranteed," he said. "We can anticipate the possibility of severe terror attacks at any moment, but the fact is that we are acting against terror hotbeds, so that the terror we are contending with is mostly terror [carried out by] individuals."

Also on Sunday, Netanyahu equated his government's efforts in tackling a six-month surge in Palestinian terror attacks to the IDF's massive 2002 campaign to quash terrorism during the Second Intifadah.

"In 2002," Netanyahu said at an event in Jerusalem to commemorate Israel's deceased heads of state, "Arik [then-prime minister Ariel Sharon] decided to embark on Operation Defensive Shield, which received broad public support, to destroy the terror infrastructures in Judea and Samaria," the traditional Jewish terms for the West Bank.

The Palestinians learned at the time "that we don't hesitate to penetrate deep into [PA territory] in order to restore security for the citizens of Israel," he said.

Netanyahu asserted that his government has been acting according to the same principles, "entering everywhere, whenever it's needed, west of the Jordan [River]." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

PA condemns settlements in draft resolution

JTA
JERUSALEM

The Palestinian Authority (PA) is circulating to UN Security Council members a draft resolution condemning Israeli building in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The resolution, which PA President Mahmoud Abbas reportedly is hoping to bring to a vote in two weeks, was reported last week by *Ha'aretz*, which cited western diplomats and senior Palestinian officials.

In a statement issued in response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Abbas "is taking a step that will push negotiations further away.

"The only way to advance peace is by direct negotiations, and Abu Mazen is avoiding this," Netanyahu said, using Abbas' nom de guerre. "The Palestinians educate their children on a daily basis that the settlements are Tel Aviv, Haifa and Acre."

According to *Ha'aretz*, the move to condemn the settlements has been in the works since the beginning of the year. A senior Palestinian official told the Israeli daily that Abbas will be arriving in New York on April 22, Passover eve, to attend the planned vote.

Abbas is also expected over the next two weeks to make diplomatic visits to Paris, Berlin and Moscow to build support for the resolution.

The Security Council last voted on such a resolution in February 2011. It was approved but vetoed by the United States.

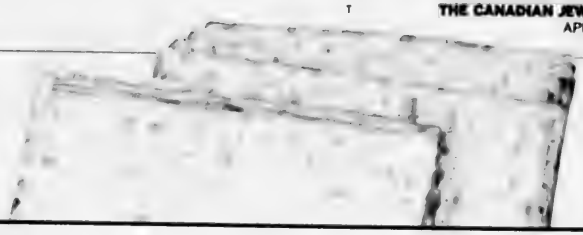
According to *Ha'aretz*, the draft states that the settlements are an obstacle to peace and Israel must stop construction. The resolution also condemns settler violence against Palestinians.

The *Times of Israel* reported that the draft begins by reiterating the Palestinian demand that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including east Jerusalem," which it calls Israel's "legal obligations in this regard."

The draft singles out Israeli settlers, calling for the prevention of "all acts of terror, violence, destruction, harassment and provocation by Israeli settlers, and calls for accountability for the perpetration of all such illegal actions."

While making no specific mention of Palestinian terrorism, the draft also calls for both parties "to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia, of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-state solution and creating the conditions necessary for promoting peace." ■

PASSOVER FOOD



Passover: 'Ta'am' to gather together around the table

NORENE GILLETZ
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

A Ta'am to Remember: Recipes and Recollections from the Terraces of Baycrest, is a heartwarming collection of 192 recipes from 73 residents of the Terraces. It also includes 40 recipes that are perfect for Passover. Each recipe is accompanied by the resident's personal anecdote. Their memories, both poignant and funny, are snapshots of Jewish life from the Great Depression, World War II, the postwar years, and up to the present.

A Ta'am to Remember was a grassroots project, eight years in the making. Dozens of volunteers tested recipes, interviewed residents, and were involved in other aspects of the project. Residents also assisted with the planning and sales. I was privileged to be the recipe editor and consultant (some of my favourite recipes have been included). Elaine Kaplan was the project co-ordinator, working with Sheila Smyth, former director of the Terraces, who continued to provide guidance and assistance even after she retired.

Sadly, only about a dozen of the residents are still alive. Most of them have passed away, including Rachel Orlan, who conceived the idea of publishing a cookbook as a Terraces fundraiser. Proceeds from the sale of *A Ta'am to Remember* support programs and projects by the Terraces Resident Council.

David (Sonny) Langer, a well-known Toronto caterer who was the first administrator of the Terraces, and his wife Lorraine, provided major funding for this cookbook project.

For more information, visit www.baycrestterracescookbook.com.

Easy gefilte fish

Rose Enkin

- ❑ 3 large onions, diced
- ❑ oil for frying
- ❑ 2 eggs
- ❑ 1 1/2 lb. minced fish
- ❑ 3 tbsp. matzah meal
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. pepper
- ❑ 1 1/2 tbsp. sugar

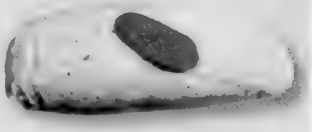
In a large frying pan, sauté onions in oil on medium heat for 10-15 minutes, but don't let them get brown. Cover pan so onions become translucent.

Put eggs, minced fish and sautéed onions in the food processor. Add matzah meal, pepper and sugar. Process until well mixed.

Before transferring fish mixture to the baking pan, test for flavour. Place a small amount of fish mixture into the frying pan used for the onions. Cook, then taste it and adjust seasonings as desired.

Transfer fish mixture to a greased 9-x 5-in. loaf pan.

Bake, uncovered, at 325 for 1 hour. Chill before serving. Slice, serve and enjoy. Yield: 8 servings. Do not freeze.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BAKERY

BAGEL NASH

Happy Passover

NOW OPEN

BAGEL NASH
Anytime Breakfast Special

$4.95
2 Eggs Any Style
REGULAR BUTTERED BAGEL OR TOAST AND A SMALL COFFEE

We feature baked "in-house" breads and bagels, salads and desserts.
Dine-in or Take-out.

81 Gerry Fitzgerald Drive
(SW corner of Dufferin and Steeles)
in the Superstore Plaza
416.736.8788

7355 Bayview Ave
Thornhill, ON L3T 5Z2
Tel: 905-763-7766

8707 Dufferin St, Unit 19
Thornhill, ON L4J OA2
Tel: 905-881-2424

Bagel Nash Eatery offers a great brunch menu.
Drop by our NEW location for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

We Cater For All Occasions.
Check out our website for all of our delicious items.

www.bagelnash.ca

BUY 6 BAGELS GET 6 FREE*
*expires 5/30/16.
Coupon must be presented for offer to be valid.
Not to be combined with any other offer.

Popular chicken

Dorothy Riegelhaupt

- ❑ 2 chickens (about 3 lb., cut in 8ths
- ❑ 1 jar (8 oz.) French or Italian salad dressing
- ❑ 1 jar (8 oz/250 ml) apricot or peach jam
- ❑ 1 pkg onion soup mix

Preheat oven to 325. Spray a roasting pan with nonstick spray. Rinse chicken pieces and pat dry. Arrange in a single layer in prepared pan.

In a bowl, combine salad dressing, jam and onion soup mix. Mix well and spread evenly over chicken. (Can be marinated overnight in the refrigerator.)

Bake, uncovered, for 1 1/2 hours until glazed and golden, basting occasionally.

Yield: 8-10 servings. Reheats and/or freezes well.

Terrace Tips

For a different flavour, combine Russian dressing with apricot jam and 1 tbsp. lemon juice.

Try this with Italian or balsamic salad dressing combined with orange marmalade or pineapple jam.

Passover mandelbroit

Goldie Lobel

- ❑ 4 eggs
- ❑ 1 cup oil
- ❑ 1 cup sugar
- ❑ 3/4 cup slivered almonds
- ❑ 1 cup matzah meal
- ❑ 3/4 cup potato starch
- ❑ 1/4 tsp salt
- ❑ 1 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. Grease two 9- x 5-in. loaf pans.

In a large bowl, beat eggs with oil and sugar until well mixed. Add almonds, matzah meal, potato starch, salt and cinnamon, mixing well after each addition.

Divide batter between prepared pans and spread evenly.

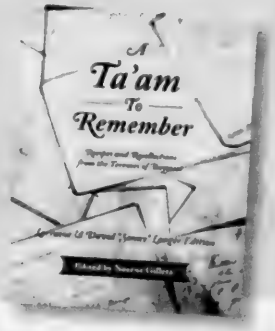
Bake about 40 minutes or until golden.

Remove loaves from oven and reduce oven temperature to 300. Let loaves rest slightly, about 5 minutes. Loosen edges of loaves from pans with a sharp knife and invert onto a cutting board.

Use a clean towel to hold the hot loaf. Slice as thinly as you can, about 1/2-in. thick. For best results, slice while hot.

Place slices cut-side up on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake 30 minutes, until dry and brown. Yield: 2-3 dozen. Freezes well. ■



Celebrate Passover

10 lb Bag
Yellow Potatoes
Product of Canada,
Canada No.1
10 LB BAG
2.49 ea.

DOM
Specialty Smoked
Steelhead Salmon
70 g
GREAT PRICE
1.99

Manischewitz
Matzo 5 x 454 g
GREAT PRICE
9.99

Manischewitz
Welch's Concord
Grape Juice 1.89 L
GREAT PRICE
3.99

Crown Deluxe
Pickled Cucumbers
653 mL
GREAT PRICE
1.29

Streit's
Matzo Ball and
Ball & Soup Mix
127 g
GREAT PRICE
1.99

Items & Prices Effective From April 14th to April 20th
at our Steeles & Bathurst locations only.

Price Chopper
LOW FOOD PRICES!
6201 Bathurst St.,
(south of Steeles)
FRESH
800 Steeles Ave W.
(at Bathurst)

Food can be healthy at Pesach too

JUDY BART KANCIGOR
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

If you never thought you would hear the words "healthy" and "Passover" in the same sentence, think again. "Quinoa is the greatest new addition to the Passover pantry," says Paula Shoyer, author of *The New Passover Menu* (Sterling Epicure) Gluten-free and high in protein, quinoa is a rich source of B vitamins, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and zinc. And although it resembles some Passover forbidden grains, it is considered a pseudocereal and is actually related to beetroots and spinach.

Because of its high protein content, quinoa is even being considered by NASA as a possible crop in their Controlled Ecological Life Support System for long-term space flights, but we love it as a welcome source of variety for the eight-day holiday. "It finally received definitive rabbinic approval for Passover in 2014," notes Shoyer, "after a rabbi was dispatched to Peru and Bolivia to see how quinoa is grown. He learned that quinoa grows at very high altitudes, while the grains that are prohibited on Passover are grown much farther below it. The authorities concluded that there was no risk of intermingling."

In addition to Shoyer's Crunchy Quinoa with Sweet Potatoes and Cranberries, she also recommends her Roasted Peppered Carrots, another healthful and vibrantly coloured addition to your Passover table. To prepare the dish, cut twelve large carrots into matchsticks, toss with 1-1/2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil and 1/4 tsp. black pepper, and roast at 400, stirring once or twice, until you can just pierce them with a fork, about 25 minutes.

It *is* Passover after all, and the old adage "everything in moderation" comes especially to mind for those mindful of their health and weight when faced with the endless and tempting Passover dessert buffet. What is it about the restrictions of Passover that seem to challenge Jewish bakers to create ever more unusual and satisfying desserts?

"Passover is the holiday when you have to be a home baker," Shoyer explains. "Even major cities have few bakeries, if any, that sell Passover desserts, and if they do, they are usually not worth eating. The packaged Passover cakes and cookies often taste like cardboard. If you want flavourful Passover desserts, you have to bake them yourself."

Fortunately Shoyer, a graduate of the Ritz Escoffier pastry program in Paris and widely known for her previous baking books, *The Kosher Baker* and *The Holiday Kosher Baker*, has provided a wide variety of Passover choices in her new book, including Triple Chocolate Biscotti, Glazed Chocolate Fudge Sponge Cake, Pistachio and Strawberry Roll, Pear Frangipane Tart and Cheesecake with Roasted Cashew and Chocolate Crust.

"Flourless chocolate cake is ubiquitous at Passover, but I began to tire of the same recipe year after year," recalls Shoyer, who adorns this version with a lovely, comforting marshmallow topping. And bittersweet chocolate is loaded with antioxidants, so enjoy!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Crunchy quinoa with sweet potatoes and cranberries

"My husband, Andy, eats quinoa for breakfast with blueberries all Passover long," says Shoyer. "This dish is a great combination of colour and texture."

- ❑ 1 cup quinoa, rinsed
- ❑ 2 cups water
- ❑ 1 tsp. salt, or more to taste, divided use
- ❑ 1 medium sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-in. cubes
- ❑ 7 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, divided
- ❑ 4 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- ❑ 2 tsp. honey
- ❑ 1 tsp. ground cumin
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- ❑ 1/3 cup pine nuts, toasted
- ❑ 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- ❑ 3 green onions, cut into 1/4-in.-thick slices

Preheat oven to 400.

Place quinoa in small saucepan with water. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer, covered, 15 minutes, or until water evaporates. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon salt. Off heat let quinoa sit, covered, at least half an hour. Quinoa may be cooked 2 days ahead and refrigerated, covered.

In roasting pan, toss sweet potato cubes with 1 tablespoon oil and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Roast 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until cubes can be pierced with fork. Set aside.

Dressing: In small bowl, whisk together remaining 6 tablespoons oil with vinegar, honey, cumin, cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper.

Assemble: Use whisk to break apart any clumps of quinoa; transfer to large bowl. Add dressing; whisk well. Add sweet potatoes, pine nuts, cranberries, green onions and salt to taste, if needed. Mix gently. Serve at room temperature. Serves 6-8.

YITZ'S

SELECT FROM OUR HOLIDAY MENUS OR CREATE YOUR OWN FROM OUR HOLIDAY FOODS

346 Eglinton Ave. W.
416-487-4506 • 1-800-283-1943

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

MENU #1
Sweet & Sour Meat Balls, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Chicken, Lockshen Pudding, Potato Pudding, Carrot Tzimmes, Cole Slaw, Honey Cake, Chocolate Brownies, Mandlebroit, Seder Plate, Charoses
$329.00 for 10 people

MENU #2
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Chicken, Roast Brisket of Beef, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Carrot Tzimmes, Cole Slaw, Lemon Roll, Macaroons, Chocolate Brownies, Seder Plate, Charoses
$369.00 for 10 people

MENU #3
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Cabbage Borscht, Roast Turkey Breast (precarved), Farfel & Mushrooms, Candied Yams, Green Beans Almondine, Cole Slaw, Fresh Fruit Salad, Passover Cookies, Seder Plate, Charoses
low fat menu
Only 20g Fat per person
$215.00 for 5 people

MENU #4
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Veal, Lockshen Pudding, Pan Roast Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Cole Slaw, Honey Cake, Chocolate Brownies, Seder Plate, Charoses
$220.00 for 5 people

MENU #5
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish, Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Roast Chicken, Roast Brisket of Beef, Green Beans Almondine, Lockshen Pudding, Chocolate Brownies, Seder Plate, Charoses
$199.00 for 5 people

MENU #6
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Poached Salmon, Pan Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Lockshen Pudding, Chocolate Brownies, Seder Plate, Charoses
$195.00 for 5 people

ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES
Roast Turkeys, Turkey Breast, Cornish Hens, Chopped Liver, Cabbage Rolls, Veal Roast, Flunken in Borscht, Roast Duck, Lemon Chicken Breast, BBQ Chicken Wings, Honey Garlic Wings, Chicken Fingers, Knishes -Potato or Beef, Kishke, Meat Kreplach

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetarian Loaf, Matzo Lasagna, Stir Fry Vegetables, Grilled Vegetables, Apple Farfel Pudding, Farfel & Mushrooms, Potato Latkes, Green Beans Almondine, Broccoli & Mushrooms, Handmade Egg Noodles, Seder Plates, Charoses

SALADS
Cole Slaw, Pickled Beets, Tossed Salad, Cucumber Salad

FISH
Poached Salmon, Sweet Gefilte Fish, Salt & Pepper Gefilte Fish

DESSERTS
Apple Flan, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Brownies, Chocolate Lemon Roll, Fresh Fruit Salad, Honey Cake, Macaroons, Mandlebroit, Mocca Cake, Passover Cookies

CHAG SAME'ACH from YITZ'S

KOSHER & NATURAL FOODS

FOR PASSOVER

- Gift Trays & Baskets
- Bulk Chocolates
- Dried Fruit & Nuts
- Box Gift Chocolates
- Hostess Gifts

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY PASSOVER

[illegible] BATHURST ST. [illegible]
WE DELIVER

Flourless chocolate cake with marshmallow icing

"Here, I've dressed up this classic dessert with a sweet cooked icing that perfectly complements the bitter chocolate cake," says Shoyer.

Cake:

- ❑ 1 tsp. oil, for greasing pan
- ❑ 10 oz. bittersweet chocolate, roughly chopped
- ❑ 1/2 cup (1 stick) margarine
- ❑ 6 large eggs, separated, whites at room temperature (see note)
- ❑ 1 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa
- ❑ 1/2 cup sugar

Icing:

- ❑ 1 cup sugar
- ❑ 1/4 cup warm water
- ❑ 2 large egg whites, at room temperature
- ❑ 1 tbsp. honey
- ❑ dash salt

Preheat oven to 350. With parchment paper, trace and cut out a circle around bottom of 9- or 10-in. springform pan. Grease bottom of pan with 1/2 tsp. oil. Press parchment circle on top. Grease top of parchment circle and sides of pan with remaining oil so finished cake will easily slide onto serving plate.

Melt chocolate and margarine over double boiler, or use heatproof bowl over saucepan filled with simmering water, whisking often until thoroughly melted. You can also microwave at 30-second increments, mixing after each heating cycle. Remove melted chocolate mixture from heat, add egg yolks and cocoa, and whisk well.

In separate bowl, with electric mixer on high speed, beat egg whites until stiff. Reduce speed to low, add sugar, a tablespoon at a time, and mix. Then turn speed to high for 1 minute.

Fold egg whites into chocolate mixture in four parts, mixing more slowly after each addition. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 35 minutes, or until cake is set when jiggled. Cake will puff up and look cracked on top, but will fall a bit when cooled. Refrigerate 4 hours to overnight.

To serve, open spring; remove sides of pan. With metal flat-blade spatula, separate parchment from bottom of pan and slide parchment and cake onto serving plate. Tuck waxed paper or parchment paper under cake to keep platter clean when icing.

Icing: Pour a few inches of water into bottom of double boiler or medium saucepan and bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium. Off heat, place sugar and warm water in top of double boiler, or in heatproof bowl that fits into saucepan without falling in. Whisk to dissolve sugar. Add egg whites, honey and salt; beat with hand-held electric mixer for 1 minute on medium-high speed. Place bowl over gently boiling water and beat with hand-held electric mixer on high speed a full 7 minutes. Remove from heat.

Trim any dry pieces from top of cake. If top of cake is uneven, place parchment on top of cake and turn over to ice bottom. With metal spatula, spread icing on sides of cake, then top. Smooth top and sides or, if you plan to toast them with a blowtorch, use small spoon to create waves or texture on top. Remove waxed paper or parchment pieces from under cake. Store cake in fridge. Use blowtorch to brown waved edges until golden-brown.

Note: To bring egg whites to room temperature in 10 minutes, separate eggs and place whites in metal bowl. Place bowl over another bowl filled with 2 inches of hot water. Stir eggs occasionally, and they will be at room temperature within 10 minutes. ■

metro
my savings & my metro
PASSOVER

KEDEM GRAPE JUICES OR SPARKLING DRINKS
650 - 750 ml
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $2.00
3.99 ea.

MOTOLA PICKLES
650 g
Selected Varieties
1.79 ea.

MRS. WAGMAN'S
Selected Varieties
1.79 ea.

GEFEN APPLE SAUCE
Selected Varieties
3.49 ea.

GEFEN ONION SOUP
Selected Varieties
2.49 ea.

NATURAL KOSHER SLICED CHEESE
170 g
Selected Varieties
SAVE $3.00
3.99 ea.

PLAZZ FRUIT SLICES
Selected Varieties
2.49 ea.

GLICKS POTATO CHIPS
170 g
Selected Varieties
1.69 ea.

YEHUDA OR MANISCHEWITZ CAKE OR MATZO MEAL
Selected Varieties
3.49 ea.

GOODMAN'S OR CROYDEN MATZO SOUP MIXES
Selected Varieties
1.99 ea.

YEHUDA OR AVIV MATZOS
2.26 kg
Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $7.00
12.99 ea.

ABE'S PAREVE/DAIRY ICE CREAM
1.65 L
Selected Varieties
5.99 ea.

GEFEN, GLICK'S, HADDAR OR MISHPACHA MACAROONS
Selected Varieties
3.99 ea.

MEALMART OR MANISCHEWITZ GEFILTE FISH
680 g
Selected Varieties
6.99 ea.

TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE
1.75 L
Selected Varieties
5.99 ea.

JUMBO POMEGRANATES
Product of Peru
2.99 ea.

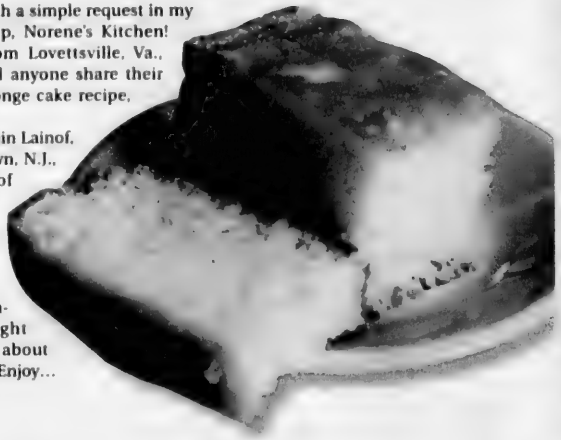
FRESH KOSHER WHOLE CHICKEN MARYUD POULTRY
2.88 /lb

STRAUS ORIGINAL DILLS
1 L
3.99 ea.

ALL PRICES & ITEMS ARE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 14TH UNTIL WEDNESDAY APRIL 20TH, 2016
AT THE FOLLOWING METRO LOCATIONS ONLY:
• 119 OSLER DR., DUNDAS • 1030 ADELAIDE ST. N., LONDON • 250 GREENBANK RD., NEPEAN • 291 YORK MILLS RD.
• 1060 DON MILLS RD. • 3080 BATHURST ST. • 600 SHEPPARD AVE. W. • 20 CHURCH AVE, NORTH YORK • 4111 THICKSON RD. N., WHITBY
• 730 COLLEGE ST. • 420 BLOOR ST. W. • 868 EGLINTON AVE., TORONTO • 18640 YONGE ST., NEWMARKET

Pan pals share favourite sponge cakes

NORENE GILLETZ
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



It all started with a simple request in my Facebook group, Norene's Kitchen! Joan Elkon from Lovettsville, Va., posted: "Would anyone share their Pesachdike sponge cake recipe, please?"

Elise Braunstein Lainof, now of Fair Lawn, N.J., and formerly of Calgary, posted her family's favourite sponge cake recipe and replied: "My mother-in-law taught me all I know about sponge cakes!" Enjoy...

Elise Lainof's Passover sponge cake

- ❑ 1 3/4 cups sugar
- ❑ 1 tsp. salt
- ❑ 9 eggs separated
- ❑ 1/2 cup cake meal
- ❑ 1/4 cup potato starch
- ❑ zest and juice from 1/2 lemon and 1/2 orange (Mom uses just a whole orange and no lemon)

Preheat oven to 350. Beat together egg yolks and sugar, adding the salt, cake meal, potato starch, zest and juice. Blend well.

Beat egg whites in a separate bowl until high peaks form, but not dry.

Fold whites into batter gently by hand.

Bake for 1 hour in an ungreased 10-in. tube pan. Let cool upside down (see tip, below). Yield: 15 slices.

Elise's chocolate Passover sponge cake

(Variation)
Same as above but substitute the citrus zest for the following:

- ❑ 4 tbsp. cocoa powder
- ❑ 1 tbsp. vanilla extract

Elise's tip: "I cool it upside down over a coke bottle or with the rim of the cake pan on coffee cups."

Editor's note: The idea is to raise the top of the upside down cake pan so that air circulates all around the cake.

•••

Later that evening, I met up with a close group of friends for a birthday dinner celebration. Of course, the discussion turned to food, and then to what we were preparing for Passover. We all love sweets, so of course we started discussing our favourite Passover sponge cakes. I convinced them to share their treasured recipes and recollections with you, my readers.

My friend, Elaine Kaplan, who prefers to edit rather than bake, commented: "Norene, you're 'sponging' off us! Now I will need to add everyone's cakes to my collection of recipes that I don't cook/bake!" Happy baking, happy, healthy Passover to all!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

HAPPY PASSOVER

HUGE PASSOVER SALE!!!

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO, 5LBS
9.99
HALF PRICE!!!

MANISCHEWITZ EGG MATZO, 16oz
2.99

WELCH'S MANISCHEWITZ 100% GRAPE JUICE, 1.9LT
NEW LOWEST PRICE
4.29

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO MEAL, CAKE MEAL OR MATZO FARFEL 16oz
3.99

1 Promenade Circle, Thornhill
893 Eglinton Ave West, Toronto
303 York Mills Rd, Toronto

FOODS

Giftware and Trays Overflowing with Passover sweets, chocolates, dried fruits and nuts.

Geri's GIFT BASKETS SINCE 1979

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

416-445-5504

1875 Leslie Street, Unit #5

Visit our website for a sampling of our Passover Selection at
www.torontobaskets.com

Good Idea For The Holidays from the
CENTRE STREET DELI
DON'T PASS-US-OVER

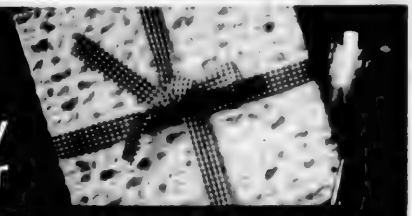
When planning your Seder dinners, give us a call.
From soups to appetizers to the main course & dessert,
we can provide you with it all. One call, that's all!

CENTRE STREET DELI
905 - 731- 8037
Open 7 days a week - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
1136 CENTRE STREET
(between Bathurst and Dufferin)
Please visit us at www.centrestreetdeli.com

CLOSED AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND, CLOSED SAT. APRIL 23 AND SUN. APRIL 24 AND SAT. APRIL 30TH
OPEN FROM 9AM - 3 PM APRIL 25TH - 29TH. RE-OPENING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON MAY 1ST

Coppa's

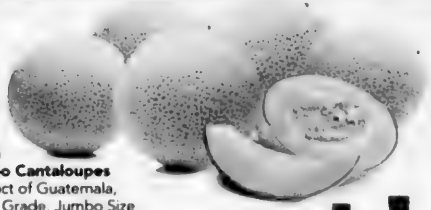
Happy Passover



Fresh Savings from Thursday, April 14th – Wednesday, April 20th

Kosher for Passover products available at the North York and Vaughan locations only.

Visit COPPAS.COM



2.99 each
Fresh Jumbo Cantaloupes
Product of Guatemala, No. 1 Grade, Jumbo Size

2.99 /lb
6.59/kg
Marvid Kosher Poultry Fresh Whole Chickens

1.49 /lb
3.28/kg
Fresh Red Delicious Apples
Product of Ontario, Fancy Grade

5.99 1.5L bottle
Kedem Grape Juice
Assorted Varieties

3.99 1L jar
Strub's Sour Kosher Dill Pickles

8.99 /lb
19.82/kg
Marvid Kosher Poultry Fresh Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts

99¢ /lb
2.18/kg
Fresh Green Zucchini
Product of Mexico

1.99 127g box
Streit's Matzo Ball or Matzo Ball & Soup Mix

3.99 283g pkg
Sabra Hummus
Assorted Varieties

10.99 1kg pkg
Western Baker's Special 4% Cheese

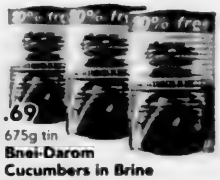
4.99 /lb
11.00/kg
Fresh Horseradish
Product of USA

9.99 pkg of 5x1lb
Osem Passover Matzo

19.99 1.36kg pkg
Migdal Cheese Slices White or Coloured

1.99 500ml tub
Western Sour Cream Regular or Light

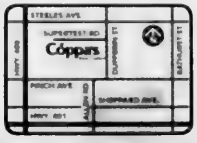
4.99 /lb
11.00/kg
Fresh Jerusalem Artichokes (Sunchokes) Product of Ontario



1.69 675g tin
Bnei-Darom Cucumbers in Brine
Bonus Size

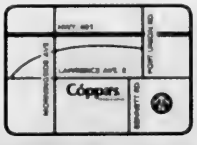
2.99 1.89L bottle
Lieber's Apple Juice

8.99 623g pkg
Ungar's Frozen Gefilte Fish
Regular or No Sugar



NORTH YORK
4750 Dufferin St.
at Supertest Rd.
(416) 736.6606

VAUGHAN
3300 Rutherford Rd
at HWY. 400
(905) 303.3999



SCARBOROUGH
148 Bennett Rd.
at Lawrence Ave.
(416) 282.5759

a World of Food

Fresh savings available at these locations from Thursday, April 14th to Wednesday, April 20th, 2015.

coppas.com

Sponge cakes are favourite ending to the seder meal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

Tolsa Greenberg shared: "I always used to make my mother's sponge cake and loved it – that was my tribute to her. But my aunt, Pearl Caplan, said one day: 'Bake Ma's cake (my grandmother's) instead – you'll find it more moist.' So now I make my grandmother's sponge cake and make my mom's coconut macaroons and mandelbroit."

Tolsa Greenberg's 'Ma Kate's' Passover sponge cake

- ❑ 1 cup potato starch
- ❑ 2 heaping tbsp. cake meal
- ❑ 1 orange
- ❑ juice of 1/2 lemon (fresh is better)
- ❑ 2 tbsp. wine
- ❑ 9 eggs, separated
- ❑ 1 1/2 cups sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Sift together potato starch with cake meal 6 times.

Squeeze juice from orange into a cup and add grated peel from top half of the orange. Add lemon juice and wine to orange juice. (Ma would always pour in a bit of water to wash the lemon off the squeezer.)

Beat egg yolks in large bowl of an electric mixer on medium high speed. Slowly pour in sugar and beat until light.

Add dry ingredients to yolk/sugar mixture alternately with juice.

In a clean bowl and with clean beaters, beat egg whites until stiff. Fold into yolk mixture.

Pour batter into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan with removable bottom and bake for 1 hour. Check with a toothpick for doneness.

Invert cake pan and let hang until completely cool. Remove from pan, using a metal spatula to first loosen cake from sides, bottom and centre tube. Transfer to a serving plate. Yield: 15 slices.

Variation: If desired, a cinnamon-sugar and nut mixture can be spread in the center when putting the batter into the pan.

Helene Medjuck emailed us photos of her favourite sponge cake. She had done a test run before Pesach to try it out, using chametz baking ingredients. "It's worth buying a can of potato starch to try it out before the big days. I do that sometimes with a new recipe to see if it's good before experimenting on Pesach. No time for flops then!"

Helene Medjuck's chocolate or vanilla sponge cake

(Gluten-free/non-gebrocht)

- ❑ 10 eggs, separated
- ❑ 1 cup sugar, divided use
- ❑ 1/2 cup oil
- ❑ 3/4 cup potato starch
- ❑ 1 pkg (3.3 oz) Passover instant chocolate or vanilla pudding
- ❑ Passover icing sugar and grated chocolate to garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 350. Place egg whites in large bowl of electric mixer and bring to room temperature. Beat whites on high speed, gradually adding 1/2 cup sugar. Beat until stiff, about 8 to 10 minutes. Set aside.

In another large bowl (or food processor), beat egg yolks with remaining 1/2 cup of sugar until well mixed. Add oil and beat until light. Add pudding mix and potato starch and mix just until combined. Batter will get very thick.

Using a rubber spatula, gently fold whites into yolk mixture, just until whites disappear. Make sure to fold in thick batter at bottom of bowl.

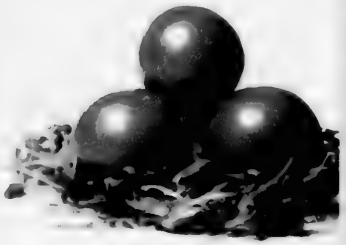
Pour batter into an ungreased 10-in. tube pan (preferably one with a removable bottom). Bake at 350 for 1 hour.

Immediately invert pan and cool completely.

Use a flexible metal spatula (or a knife) to loosen cake from sides, centre tube and bottom of pan. Remove cake carefully from pan and transfer to a cake platter.

If desired, sprinkle lightly with icing sugar and grated chocolate. Yield: about 15 slices. Freezes well. ■

Salads for Passover



DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Although tons of attention is devoted to the main course and the vegetables, especially on Passover, too often the salad gets relegated to last thoughts and hasty preparation. After all, what could be simpler than throwing together some greens and splashing some vinaigrette or dressing over them? I think salads are an essential part of any dinner and I actually think they're worth planning with as much energy as the brisket or the tzimmes.

Making vinaigrette is as simple as whisking together as little as three or four ingredients and usually benefits from an overnight stay in the refrigerator. A classic vinaigrette is usually three parts oil to one part acid – be it in the form of vinegar or lemon juice – but I tend to skewer the ratio a bit so that my vinaigrette has a bit more bite to it. The tang helps to counter the richness of the meal and pucker up your taste buds. But remember, vinaigrettes should just coat the leaves, not drench them.

There is such an abundance of different kinds of greens at the supermarket, that you can pick and choose, combining some bitter greens with more delicate leaves. And always remember to dress your salad at the very last possible moment, to keep the leaves as pert as possible.

Warm cherry tomato salad

- ❑ 1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ❑ 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ❑ 4 cups cherry or grape tomatoes
- ❑ 1/3 cup finely chopped red onion
- ❑ 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- ❑ 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme (about
- ❑ 5 sprigs)
- ❑ salt and pepper to taste

Heat the olive oil in a large non-stick skillet set over low heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the oil is perfumed with the garlic. Increase the heat to medium-high. Add the tomatoes. Stir-fry until the tomatoes just start to burst or wrinkle, 3 to 5 minutes. Immediately transfer the tomatoes to a serving bowl. Stir in the red onion, vinegar and thyme. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve immediately. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Mixed green salad with oranges, dried cranberries and jicama

Vinaigrette:
- ❑ 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- ❑ 2 tbsp cider vinegar
- ❑ pinch each salt and pepper
- ❑ 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Salad:
- ❑ 7 cups mixed baby greens
- ❑ 3/4 cup thinly sliced peeled jicama
- ❑ 1/2 cup toasted pecan halves
- ❑ 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- ❑ 3 oranges, peeled and segmented

Vinaigrette: In a small bowl, whisk together the orange juice, vinegar and salt and pepper. In a thin stream, very gradually whisk in the olive oil. (Vinaigrette can be made up to 24 hours ahead. Bring to room temperature before proceeding with recipe).

Salad: In a large salad bowl, gently toss together the greens, jicama, pecans and cranberries. Pour the dressing over and toss gently until all of the salad is well coated. Gently toss in the orange segments. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Arugula salad with garlic matzah crumble

Vinaigrette:
1 shallot, minced
2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
1 tsp. honey
pinch each salt and pepper
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Garlic Matzah:
2 sheets regular matzah
2 large cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

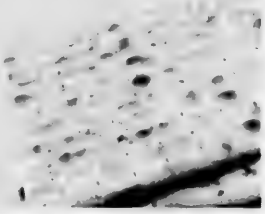
Salad:
8 cups baby arugula
1 bunch fresh radishes, stemmed and thinly sliced (about 8-10 individual radishes)

Vinaigrette: In a small bowl, whisk together the shallot, vinegar, honey and salt and pepper. In a thin stream, very gradually whisk in the olive oil. (Vinaigrette can be made up to 24 hours ahead. Bring to room temperature before proceeding with recipe).

Garlic Matzah: Place the two sheets of matzah on an unlined baking sheet. Preheat the oven to 350.

On a wooden cutting board and using the back of a knife or spoon, mash the garlic and salt together until a paste is formed. Transfer the paste to a small bowl. Stir in the oil; let stand for 5 minutes. Brush the olive oil, including bits of the garlic, all over the matzah. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned and crisp. Set aside.

Salad: Combine the arugula and sliced radishes in a large salad bowl. Pour the vinaigrette over, tossing gently until the greens are well coated. Break the matzah into pieces; toss in with the greens. Serve immediately. Makes 6 to 8 servings. ■



Matzah meal desserts

FRANCINE KURLANDSKI
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

There is a "half-baked" saying that when it comes to eating a Passover dessert, the best thing you could do would be to "pass it over." Matzah meal doesn't have to taste like sawdust, and to prove it, I am sharing some of my family favourites to give you an incentive to discover that Passover desserts can be both kosher – and tasty.

Passover traditions still hold sway, and it is wonderful to pass down recipes from generation to generation for delicious treats that will keep your family smiling.

Melting moments Passover cookies

- ❑ 4 eggs
- ❑ 3/4 cup Pesach oil
- ❑ 3/4 cup sugar
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. salt
- ❑ juice of 1 orange
- ❑ 1 cup cake meal
- ❑ 1/2 cup potato starch
- ❑ 3/4 cup of crushed pecans or coconut

Combine all ingredients in food processor and mix. Allow to stand 5 minutes.

Make dough into balls and dip into slightly beaten egg white. Roll into nuts or coconut. Place on a lightly greased sheet. Make a dent into the centre of the cookie ball. Bake at 350 for 5 minutes. Remove from oven. Place jam in the centres. Return to oven at 325 for about 10 to 12 minutes.

Lemon roll cake

- ❑ 4 eggs separated
- ❑ 1/2 cup sugar
- ❑ 1/2 cup cake meal
- ❑ grated rind from 1/2 lemon and orange
- ❑ 1/4 tsp. salt

Beat yolks with sugar until light. Add the cake meal. In another bowl beat egg whites until stiff. Fold the egg whites into the batter. Place parchment onto a cookie sheet and spread batter onto paper. Bake for 10 minutes at 375.

Remove from oven and place onto towel. Remove paper and roll up as for jelly roll and cool. Fill with desired filling.

Lemon filling:

- ❑ 2 well-beaten eggs
- ❑ 3/4 cup sugar
- ❑ 1 tbsp. potato starch
- ❑ 1 tsp. pareve margarine
- ❑ juice of 2 lemons
- ❑ 1 cup water

Mix sugar and potato starch. Mix all ingredients in a saucepan, except margarine until thick and clear. Add margarine last. Cool and fill lemon roll. ■

Passover apple pie

Dough:

- ❑ 1/2 cup matzah meal
- ❑ 1/2 cup potato starch
- ❑ 1 1/2 cups cake meal
- ❑ 3/4 cup Pesach oil
- ❑ pinch of salt
- ❑ 1 cup sugar
- ❑ 2 eggs
- ❑ 1 vanilla sugar package

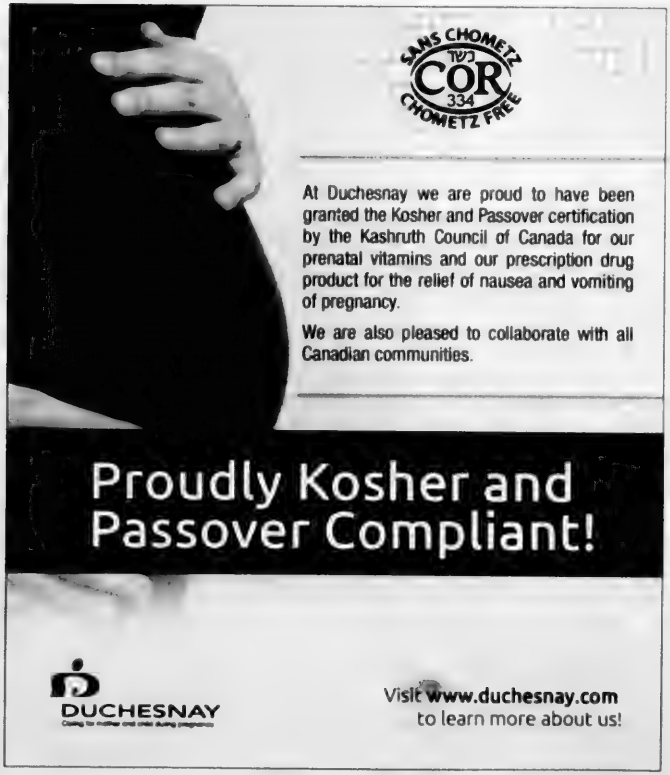
Place eggs, oil, sugar in food processor until nice and light. Add the rest of the ingredients. Dough will be sticky.

Filling:

6 to 7 large apples (I like Pink Lady) grated in the food processor
juice and chopped rind from 1 orange
1/4 cup sugar

Cook apples in a saucepan for a few minutes. Squeeze juice of 1 orange and orange rind chopped finely from the orange into a square pan that has been greased. Pat in half of the dough mixture.

Place the apple mixture on top. Top with rest of dough. Bake at 350 until nicely brown for approximately 3/4 hour.


SANS CHOMETZ
COR
334
CHOMETZ FREE
At Duchesnay we are proud to have been granted the Kosher and Passover certification by the Kashruth Council of Canada for our prenatal vitamins and our prescription drug product for the relief of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy.
We are also pleased to collaborate with all Canadian communities.
Proudly Kosher and Passover Compliant!
DUCHESNAY
Visit www.duchesnay.com to learn more about us!

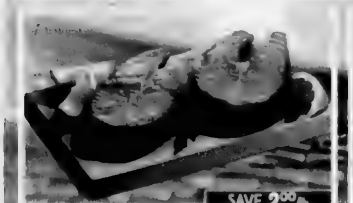
Sobeys

Chag Sameach
2016 / 5776

Stock up for Passover

Don't miss
Midnight Madness
Saturday April 16th
6 pm - Midnight
with a Live Jazz Band

More Great Specials in Store



Fresh Atlantic Salmon Steaks
19.82 /kg
SAVE 2.00/lb
8.99 /lb

Whole Pineapple
product of Costa Rica or Cored Pineapple 2.99
THIS WEEK
1.99 each

Cantaloupe
Product of Guatemala, no.1
THIS WEEK
1.99 each

Nanuk Smoked Coho Salmon
frozen, 454 g
SAVE 3.00
19.99 each

Holyland Matzos
5 lb box
SAVE 5.00
8.99 each

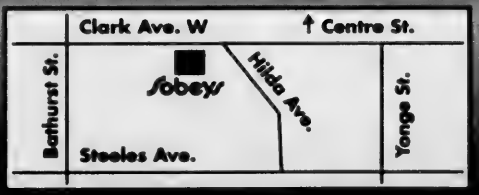
Schicks Seven Layer or Roll Cakes
16 oz
SAVE 1.00
12.49 each

Kedem Sparkling Juice
750 mL
SAVE 50¢
3.99 each

Abe's Parvelicious! Frozen Desert
165 L
SAVE 1.00
5.99 each

We've made a commitment to carry the largest selection of kosher products in North America, for all of your Passover Needs.

441 Clark Ave. West (at Hilda)
Store Hours: Sun 8am-10pm, Mon-Wed 7am-10pm,
Thurs 7am-11pm Fri 7am-10pm, Sat 8am-10pm
All Passover product is subject to availability, subject to change & while quantities last.
Prices effective: Friday, April 15th to Thursday, April 21st, 2016



Visit us at www.sobeys.com

Jewish Life

BOOKS | SPORTS | PARSHAH

Emotional book explores living with cancer

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

In-Between Days, a graphic novel that combines comics and short essays that explore what it is like to live with incurable cancer, is, all at once, heartbreaking and heartwarming, revealing and honest, all the while showcasing how beautiful and unfair life can be.

Diagnosed in 2013 at the age of 37 with stage four metastatic cancer, for which the median survival time is about two to three years, Teva Harrison sat down with *The CJN* to speak about her heavy-hitting, profoundly personal and emotional work in her west Toronto home (in front of a plate of homemade vegan, gluten-free cookies and a pot of chamomile and lavender tea).

Harrison explained that when she took to the Internet to learn as much as she could about her illness, statistics and clinical information abounded, but when it came to finding literature about living with terminal cancer, she couldn't.

"There really wasn't… something that addressed the emotional side, as opposed to the clinical, and I felt like that might be something I could contribute, that might be helpful to other people."

She explained that the book came about soon after she started a blog to share the comics she had drawn to illustrate her challenges, fears and experiences living with incurable cancer, with the intention of helping others.

She said a month later the Canadian magazine *The Walrus* offered to post the comics on its site, and a month later she was contacted by publishing company, Anansi to discuss the possibility of turning them into a book.

"The book wasn't my idea at all at first," she said.

She said she agreed to do it, "partly because a book is such a fantastically tangible legacy."

The memoir, which explores life with illness, as well as her relationships with her "perfect husband" and loving family, is full of dichotomies, such as balancing hope with pragmatism, or managing pain, while avoiding medicating to the point of sensory numbness.

One of the essays highlights an identity crisis brought on by her survival instinct. As a lifelong vegetarian, Harrison would not use products that were tested on animals – except for cancer drugs.

"I had people who were angry that I'm a vegetarian, but I am for animal testing for cancer drugs," she said.

When asked if writing the memoir made it harder to distract herself from her illness, she said, "I'm going to be honest, I can't distract myself from it. It's a pretty consuming thing. I'm at the hospital every week, I take drugs everyday that are thankfully, right now, keeping my cancer stable, but it is front of mind, regardless of whether I process it or not. I think that, for me, looking straight at something makes it more manageable than looking away. Processing in a really proactive way, what is going on with me, has been really helpful in terms of my mental health and stability."

Teva Harrison

What keeps her going is a kind of pragmatic hope that allows her to move forward and live her life as best she can.

"If I didn't have hope I don't know how I could move forward and that hope is in some cases, very practical. Like, I hope I feel well now, I hope I can have the vacation we're planning, I hope I can carry through the promotion for this book, and some of it is big hope. When I see things like advances in immunotherapy or new clinical trials and new types of approaches to slowing the advance of the disease. But I'm also realistic. I come from a family with a lot of cancer and I've watched people die."

Harrison said she's proud of the book, and her courage to share some of the more difficult aspects of her illness, including sexual dysfunction.

"That was the hardest part for me to talk about, and that was the hardest part for my husband to let me talk about, because our friends are going to read this book, and our family, and it is very personal, but it's also something within the cancer community that people don't talk about enough," she said.

"I'm also really happy that I was able to take that digression and talk about my family. I believe that we live on in other people and I am in such deep respect and awe of the things my family have done, the way they've lived in service, and being able to contribute to their continuance was really meaningful to me." ■

CHAT almuni reunite to stage production of Rent

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

I'm 24 years old and it's my first day at TanenbaumCHAT. No, I'm not a former student who's back for a reunion. Instead, I'm here to rehearse *Rent*, A107 Production's inaugural show.

Like many of my current cast and fellow ensemble members, I'd been searching for an opportunity to get back onstage. I also wanted to meet new, like-minded young people – a difficult post-grad task. But most community theatre troupes in Toronto are filled with children, and they don't cater to the schedules of busy 20-somethings.

"This is something that is specifically geared to young adults. And that's probably an element of the community theatre market that hasn't necessarily been tapped," says director Josh Sable. He's also a drama teacher and the director of student activities at CHAT.

For him, this process has been dually exciting. Not only is he launching a new community theatre initiative for Jewish young adults in Toronto, but he's also working with a group of his former students – about half of *Rent's* cast and crew members are CHAT graduates.

Russell Citron, left, and Ryan Peters and Lauren Mandel and Mitch Freed SAMANTHA APRIL PHOTOS

While some are carving out careers in the performing arts, many of us have rather unrelated 9-to-5 jobs.

"These are people who all have full-time jobs," says producer Danny Richmond. We're a group filled with lawyers, teachers and marketing professionals. But at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights those more sterile identities melt away as we belt out *Seasons of Love* and *La Vie Boheme*.

Like many theatre nerds, I discovered these songs as a tween. After all, *Rent* came out in 1996, but the movie version hit theatres in 2005 – that's when my *Rent* obsession really exploded.

And clearly I wasn't the only die-hard *Rent*-head excited about this performance. Our two-night run, April 18 and 19, at the York Woods Library Theatre sold out in less than six days. We've now added another show on Sunday, April 17.

Along with *Rent's* popularity, it has clear Jewish roots, making it an appropriate choice for this CHAT-alumni-and-friends production – it's also a show the high school probably never would have touched.

The late Jonathan Larson's semi-autobiographical rock opera follows a group of bohemians through New York City's East Village as narrator Mark Cohen (played by Ryan Peters) watches his friends struggle with love, heroin addiction and HIV/AIDS.

While the musical is set squarely in the late 1990s, the iconic piece still resonates today as it begs audiences to seize the day and to do their part to repair the world. So too does this production, as proceeds from all tickets sales will go directly towards Ve'ahavta, a charity that bills itself as a Jewish humanitarian response to poverty.

Richmond, who is Ve'ahavta's director of community engagement, sees parallels between his organization and the musical. "The show talks about, 'will I lose my dignity?'" he says. "It's that powerful question that we all wrestle with. And for Ve'ahavta, we work to help promote the dignity of others."

So far, it's unclear whether A107 will mount another show. When I ask Sable about it, he remains mum and instead chooses to quote *Rent*. "No day but today." ■

Tickets are still on sale for the Sunday, April 17 performance at www.nodaybuttoday.ca.

pet

PRICE MATCH

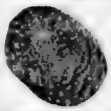
15% OFF
any purchase of $60 or more*
*Valid only at PET VALU Bayview and Laureleaf. Certain conditions apply. Expires April 30, 2016.

/PVBayviewLaureleaf
@PetValu_Bayview

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Minimum $50 order.

Bayview and Laureleaf Petvalu

Round, hand baked MATZAH SHMURAH



Available at $28 per lb.
at
CHABAD LUBAVITCH
COMMUNITY CENTRE
770 Chabad Gate

Certificate authorizing the sale of Chometz

I, _____
hereby authorize Chabad Lubavitch to dispose of all Chometz that may be in my possession wherever it may be at home, at my place of business, or elsewhere – in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law as incorporated in the special contract for the sale of Chometz.

Home address _____
Apt # _____ City _____
Business address _____
Suite # _____ City _____
Signature(s) _____
Date _____

Please complete and mail the form at once so that it reaches us no later than Wednesday, April 20th, 2016.

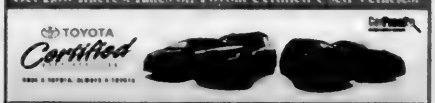
Chabad Lubavitch
770 Chabad Gate Thornhill ON L4J 3V9
Ph: (905) 731-7000

Your donation will help us provide a host of Pesach projects which reach all segments of the Jewish Community

BEST WISHES FOR A KOSHER AND ENJOYABLE PESACH!

Gideon Landau
Fleet Operations Manager
Wietzes Toyota
gideon.toyota@gmail.com

Get Low Interest Rates on Toyota Certified Used Vehicles!



Gideon Landau at your service
for Purchase of New or Used Vehicles
Selection of used cars with full warranty lowest price for a new car of any other vehicle manufacturer

Wietzes Toyota
DUFFERIN STREET
905-761-5133

For appointment, please call directly 647.284.7277

Bloomsday is coming, break out your Haggadahs

NORMAN RAVVIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

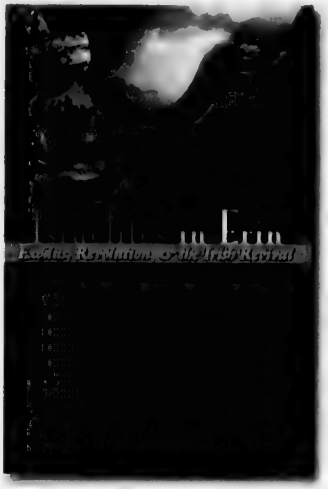
Opening James Joyce's *Ulysses* is like opening a prayer book in a language you learned long ago but lost: its 930-some pages, largely without paragraph breaks, run in great long printed blocks like a river. Here and there they are interrupted by combative, cajoling Irish voices, set off, not like usual dialogue with quotation marks, but with the hard printer's dash, as a sign of an opening in the talk.

The novel's action takes place on one day – June 16, 1904 – in Dublin, whose streets are explored by Joyce's iconic figure Leopold Bloom. We meet him first in the kitchen, where he thinks of the things he likes to eat: "thick giblet soup, nutty gizzards, a stuffed roast heart, liver slices fried with crustcrumbs, fried hencod's roes." Not too much later we find him in "the jakes," the most famous outhouse in literature.

Joyce's book sits astride the momentous political and literary events of Dublin's early 20th century, but an element of its genius, and its universal influence, comes of Joyce's portrait of Bloom, the son of a Hungarian-born Jewish convert to Protestantism and then Catholicism.

A large part of the novel's fame today resides in Bloomsday, a celebration that takes place around the world on June 16, and includes readings of the novel, alongside events and presentations related to all things Bloomian and Joycean.

In Montreal, the Jewish Public Library assumes the role of lone Jewish outpost among the many city-wide venues for Bloomsday. Its contribution to these events in 2016 is a talk by Abby Bender, a scholar at New York University, based in part on her new book, *Israelites in Erin: Exodus, Revolution, and the Irish Revival.*



Israelites in Erin: Exodus, Revolution, and the Irish Revival
By Abby Bender
Syracuse University Press

> *In Montreal, the Jewish Public Library assumes the role of lone Jewish outpost among the many city-wide venues for Bloomsday.*

There are many ways to pitch Bloomsday as a Jewish kind of carnival: in New York, one might have encountered Jerry Stiller in Bryant Park, with the none-too-easy task of reading the Hebrewish (Hebraish?) hodgepodge that runs through Bloom's head: "Aleph Beth Ghimel Daleth Hagadah Tephilim Kosher Yom Kippur HanukahRoschaschanaBeniBrithBarMitzvahMazzothAshkenazim Meshuggah Talith."

Bender is interested in the weird Jewishisms of Bloom's day in Dublin, but more so, she examines the attraction felt during the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries by Irish nationalist writers, political and religious leaders to the Bible's Exodus story. Political manifestos, Sunday sermons, and influential plays like Lady Gregory's *The Deliverer*, explored the idea of the Irish as a chosen people oppressed by a wicked power, whose leaders were flawed and great like Moses, and whose "promised land" was just out of reach.

Bender traces the fall-off of this intrigue with Jewish stories when actual Jews arrived in large numbers from Lithuania at the end of the 19th century. By the time of the Easter Rising in 1916, the ethos of rebellion had become suitably sacrificial, making use of Christian rather than Jewish narratives.

Although Joyce composed *Ulysses* in the years in which this shift was sweeping Irish national culture, his vision resists the nation's newly chosen "purifying" and insular themes. The novel's day-long journey around Dublin presents an idiosyncratic view; one that counters the Jew-baiting of Irish nativists with Bloom's wandering thoughts.

Mystified by his own ambiguous identity, he watches as a typesetter proofs type, thinking: "Reads it backwards first. Quickly he does it. Must require some practice that.... Poor papa with his haggadah book, reading backwards with his finger to me. Pesach. Next year in Jerusalem. Dear, O dear!"

Stiller is nearly 90, so he may have had his share of Bloomsday shenanigans. New Yorkers will fill the gap somehow, and the show will go on in far-flung locales like Trieste, Szombathely, Hungary and Prague. Montrealers will hear of Israel in Erin and try to make meaning from the riverrush of Joycean prose. ■

Norman Ravvin is a writer and teacher in Montreal.

BARON DE HIRSCH - BACK RIVER CEMETERIES
PRE-PAID FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
Keep your loved one's memory fresh...

year after year.
Call (514) 735-4696 for details.
E-mail: bdh@baronde hirsch.com

Baron de Hirsch Cemetery Inc.
5015 de la Savane, Montreal, Quebec H4P 1V1

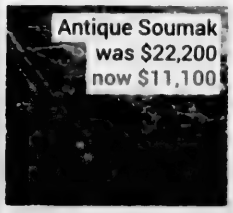
2016
FLORAL DECORATIONS ORDER FORMS MAILED ON JANUARY 17th, 2016

In order to guarantee your floral request all orders must be in by
APRIL 30TH
If you have not received your order form, please call the Cemetery office at: (514) 735-4696
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

CLOSING SALE

31 days left

After twenty-five years, Reznick Carpets is closing.
As we say goodbye to this Design District institution, take advantage of *once in a lifetime* liquidation prices on rugs and broadloom.



Thousands of rugs available:
modern
designer
traditional
tribal
& broadloom

Shop early for best selection.

REZNICK CARPETS
81 Ronald Av, Toronto. 416-787-7676
www.reznickcarpets.com

YIDDISH CORNER

מיר געדענקען דעם פּסח ווען יידן האָבן אַרונטערגעריסן די געלע לאַטעס פֿון זייערע קליידער און באַגריסט דעם שונא מיט נאַגאַנעס אין די הענט

GERRY KANE
yankele635@gmail.com

ס'איז אַ מנהג אין אונדזער מאָדערנע פֿייערונג פֿון פּסח צו דערמאָנען דעם וואַרשעווער געטאָ אויפֿשטאַנד קעגן די נאַציס – ווען אונדזער יוגנט האָט אַרונטערגעריסן די געלע לאַטעס, געמאַכט נאַגאַנעס אין די הענט און געוואָלן היסלערס מאַכט אַז "מיר זײַנען דאָ" און ווילן נישט גיין שטילערהייס צו דער שחיטה.

אין דער וויל נעטער איז אריסגענעבן געוואָרן אַ בולעטין וואָס מען האָט גערופֿן "צום מאָמענט." מיר גיבן דאָ איבער באַמערקונגען פֿון דעם בולעטין פֿון פּסח נינצנהונדערט דריי און פֿערציק. *"אונדז איז באַשערט שוין דעם צוויטן פּסח איבערצולעבן אין דער פֿאַרשפּאַרסקייט פֿון נעטא. מערקווערדיק סראַגישער גורל: קנעכטשאַפֿט אין אָנהייב פֿון אונדזער נעשיכטע און וויידער נעטא נאָך אן אָפּלויף פֿון דריי־סויזנט יאָר. דאָס פֿאַלק איז געבליבן, דאָס איז דער ג'רעסטער וווּנדער, אָבער זײַן גורל האָט זיך וויניק נעביסן. דאָס איז די גרויסע מוראדיקע רעסענישׂ.*

יציאת־מצרים, דאָס אַרויסגיין פֿון מצרים, איז נעוואָרן אַ וועגווּקנס אין אונדזער נעשיכטע. די באַפֿרייונג האָט ערשט נעעפֿענט דעם וועג צו זעלבשטענדיקייט און צו אַ פֿרייַען לעבן.

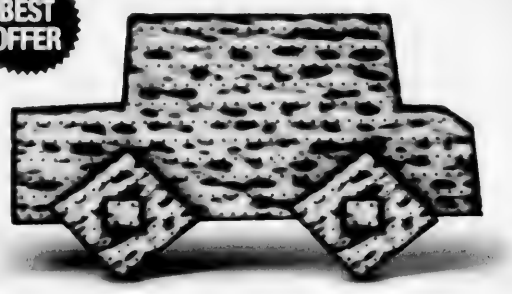
מיר נאַרן נאָך באַפֿרייונג. וויי פֿאַרשוועכט און פֿראָסטיסירט איז אין אונדזער ציַט נעוואָרן דאָס דאָזיקע הייליקע וואָרט. מען האָט באמת מורא דאָס וואָרט צו באַנוצן. מיר מיינען אַ פֿרייהייט, וואָס שליסט אין זיך איין דאָס פֿרייַע, גליקלעכע צוזאַמענלעבן פֿון מענטשן, אַ פֿרייהייט צו נעמען אָן אָנטייל אין קאַמף מיט דער נאַסור, כדי אַלע אין איר באַהאַלטענע אוצרות צו שטעלן אין דינסט פֿון דער מענטשליכער נעזעלשאַפֿט. פֿרייהייט באַדייט פֿאַר אונדז גלייך־בארעכטיקונג צווישן די ערלעך־שאַפֿנדיקע.

פֿאַרלוירפֿיק איז אונדזער לעבן וויער שווער. פֿאַרלוירפֿיק שטייט אונדזער לעבן איסלעכע רגע ביים האַנד פֿון ניס־זײַן. אָבער מיר האָפֿן נאָך אַלץ אויף אויסוועג. מיר האָפֿן אויף אן אויסלייזונג פֿון אונדזער פֿאַלק, אויף דעם, אז ס'וועט באַקומען דאָס גלייכע רעכט אויף לעבן און אַרבעט צווישן די פֿעלקער."

ס'איז שוין זיבעציק יאָר זינדס די אויוונס האָבן פֿאַרלאָשן זייערע קערפּערלעכע פֿייערס. די יידן וואָס האָבן זיך נעראַטעוועט האָבן זיך פֿאַרשפּרייט איבער דער וועלט און אויך נעבויט אַ ני לאַנד – ישׂראל. באַלד וועלן מיר זיך אוועקזעצן צום סדר טיש און עפֿענען די טיר צו אונדזער נעבויידע וועלט די הגדה רופֿט אונדז צו איינלאַדן די וואָס זיינען אַליין און אומעטיק צו זיצן מיט אונדז, דערמאָנען אונדזער באַפֿרייונג פֿון פֿרעהן און היסלערן און אויך דערמאָנען די מילאָנען מענטשן וואָס לחפֿן פֿון די נייַע מערדער וואָס האָסן לעבן. צוזאַמען, אין שלום זיינען מיר די לעבעדיקע עדות צו די ווערטער פֿון אַלע נעסאָ קעמפּער – "מיר זיינען דאָ."

IN ISRAEL...

BEST OFFER



RENT BLUE & WHITE
RENT ELDAN

Eldan, Israel's leading car rental company

eldan road
The Best Way to Experience Israel

rent.eldan.co.il/en | 1800-938-5000

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE* with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
94 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgrouphc.com

OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.

Historical novel 'sort of' set in Renaissance-era Europe

JOSEPH SERGE
jserge@thecjn.ca

"Events, destinies, the flow of the river of time…these are altered, often, by very small things." So writes Guy Gavriel Kay, the Winnipeg-based award-winning novelist in his book *Children of Earth and Sky* which will be published in May.

That sentence is one of the main themes in this historical/fantasy novel set during the Renaissance-era.

Sort of.

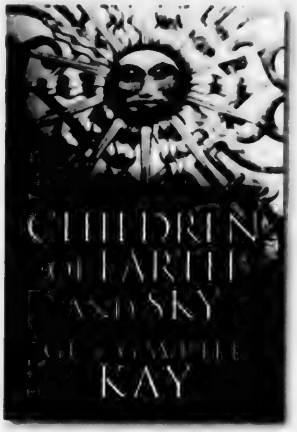
I say "sort of" because while Gavriel Kay grounds this novel in the real world, as he did with his two previous novels set in an alternate history of China, he uses fictitious place names and characters.

Children of Earth and Sky is set in what is obviously the east Mediterranean, shortly after (in real history) the fall of Constantinople and before the Turks set out to siege Vienna.

Except in this novel, the Turks are the Osmanlis, Venice is represented by Seressa and Rome, Rhodias. Drawing from his earliest novels, Gavriel Kay names the three major religions, Jaddites, Asharites and Kindath (Christians, Muslims and Jews, respectively, although their methods of worship are nothing like their real-life counterparts.)

The central plot of this novel is a journey that the three major characters take from Seressa across the Seressini Sea to Dubrava and further east to the fallen Jaddite city of Saratarium, now named Asharias by the conquering Osmanlis.

Pero Villani is a disgraced young artist living in Seressa, a merchant city state that depends heavily on trade. Although talented, Pero's second commission was to paint a contessa. The contessa was a beautiful red-haired woman, much younger than her husband and bored. Inevitably she seduces Pero who reflects her desire for him in his portrait. Found out by her husband, he is disgraced, blackballed and forced to make a living binding books.



Children of Earth and Sky
by Guy Gavriel Kay
Penguin Canada

He is rescued from this plight by the Council of Twelve, the leaders of Seressa, who tell him that the ruler of the Osmanlis, the Grand Khalif, wants a portrait done of himself in the western style. This would be a unique opportunity for the Seressans to study the machinations of the Osmanlis.

No one from the west has ever set foot in Saratarium since it fell, let alone spent time with the Khalif, the enemy of the west.

The mission carries a huge risk, of course. It's unlikely that Pero will ever be allowed to return home, but they promise him that should he return he would be in huge demand as an artist and they would commission him to paint a portrait of the Duke of Seressa himself.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Baskets n' Stuf

COR

At Passover treat your relatives and clients to:

- Custom baskets and trays filled with the finest kosher for Passover products
- Unique assortment of chocolates for Passover, including chocolate baskets filled with chocolates.
- Large selection of hostess gifts, seder & matzah plates and more.

6237 Bathurst Street, North York
416-250-9116
orders@basketsnstuf.com
www.basketsnstuf.ca

Delivery Available
Major Credit Cards

ICRI Cancer Research

END CANCER

Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe

Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

COMING SOON:
Look for our annual literary supplement in the April 21 PASSOVER edition of The CJN

Guy Gavriel Kay

With little to lose, Pero agrees and goes aboard a ship, the Blessed Ignacia, to sail to Dubrova from where he will be escorted with other merchants to Asharias.

He is not the only one travelling on the ship by order of the Council of Twelve. Also aboard is Leonora Valeri. The young noble woman was impregnated by her secret lover. He was found by her elder brother and cut to pieces and left for the wolves. Her father sent her to the Daughters of Jad, a retreat home to spend the rest of her disgraced life there.

The Council of Twelve also rescue her. They are sending a doctor to Dubrava (the Dubravae frequently send such requests to Seressa where the best doctors are often found.) The doctor is an older, single man. They want her to go over to Dubrava as his wife and be their eyes and ears in Dubrava, a competing state they distrust.

She agrees. Like Pero she has nothing to lose.

As it journeys across the Seressini Sea, the ship is boarded by a notorious band of raiders from Senjan, a walled town just north of Dubrava. One of the raiders is Danica Gradek, a brave, young and ambitious woman, talented with a bow and arrow. Her parents were killed by Osmanlis and her younger brother kidnapped by them. Her goal is to be able to avenge this.

Aboard the ship, through circumstance, Danica ends up having to kill a fellow Senjani raider to prevent a bloodbath. Not wanting to return to Senjan, where she will likely be killed, she offers to serve as a bodyguard to the ship's captain. Like the other two, her fate is set.

The first part of this book follows this journey. But soon the tales diverge as they each seek their own paths upon arriving in Dubrava.

Leonara pays a visit to a religious order on an island off Dubrava and gets involved in a plot that includes the island's secret guest, the surviving empress of Saratarium.

Danica comes across a band of notorious guerrilla-style raiders attacking Osmanli supply lines and realizes that her destiny lies with them.

Pero carries on to Saratarium/Asharias and becomes the Khalif's painter but soon becomes embroiled in an intricate power struggle. The choices he makes will have repercussions throughout the world.

And that is the central theme. No matter how insignificant, each person has a role to play in the political chess game of history. Sometimes you do certain things and life is altered, as Danica realizes aboard the Blessed Ignacia. Minor incidents change our fate. Life and death are random.

Sometimes Gavriel Kay repeats certain events from the different points of view of various characters. All this adds to the fluidity of the book and its characters. Life does not have one viewpoint.

A word about the Kindath. Set to represent the Jews, the Kindath don't play a major role in *Children*. However one of the interesting minor characters we come across is the Khalif's Grand Vizer, Yosef. As Gavriel Kay writes, "Vizers – indeed most high-ranking officials in Asharias – tended to be eunuchs. Sometimes, instead, they were Kindath, followers of a marginal, often-derided faith. The principle was the same: members of neither group could have any hope of achieving something dynastic. They would owe everything, including their continued existence, to the khalif's mercy and grace."

Gavriel Kay is known primarily as a fantasy writer. His novel *Ysabel* won the World Fantasy Award in 2008. This work is mostly grounded in the real world despite the not-so-subtle geographical name changes.

Yes, there are elements of fantasy. Danica has conversations with her long-dead grandfather, and Pero comes across some magical artifacts in the forest, but these moments are fleeting. While it is fiction, it is set in a real historical period around real events. Do not expect dragons. This is *Game of Thrones* for adults. ■

Calling all Canadian authors

The 2016 Canadian Jewish Literary Awards is looking for submissions, including self-published works. The deadline is May 30. Books must be written on subjects with Jewish themes or with significant Jewish content and must have been published between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016. For categories and submission information visit www.cjlawards.ca ■

RINA'S
HAIR • STUDIO • INC.
Tel: 905-764-6252
WE HAVE MOVED!
PLEASE COME VISIT US
AT OUR NEW LOCATION.
RINA AND FRANKIE ARE NOW AT
The Studio
Studio: 905-597-1450
531 ATKINSON AVE /N.E CORNER
OF BATHURST AND ATKINSON
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!
L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Spring has arrived at...
Shaynee's
GIFT SELECTIONS

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— or —
TRADE UP

If you don't mind getting more
MCD
JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

The boys of summer are back

HILLEL KUTTLER
JTA

Can the Jays' Kevin Pillar build on his strong 2015 campaign? Will Joc Pederson rebound from his second-half struggles of last season? Will injuries derail one-time MVP Ryan Braun?

These are some of the questions to be answered as these Jewish players and others get set for the Major League Baseball season which began April 3.

Pillar (Toronto Blue Jays), Pederson (Los Angeles Dodgers) and Braun (Milwaukee Brewers) – all outfielders – are among the position players who will start for their teams. They will be joined by second baseman Ian Kinsler of the Detroit Tigers, who also have a Jewish manager, Brad Ausmus. And Danny Valencia, a solid hitter, appears to be the starter at third base for the rebuilding Oakland Athletics.

Among pitchers, right-hander Scott Feldman will be part of the Houston Astros' starting rotation. And the Miami Marlins bullpen will include Craig Breslow, who has mostly made his living for 10 years as a lefty specialist, the last three with Boston. With the Red Sox he earned a World Series championship ring in 2013, then last year achieved a first: he started a game after making 522 appearances in relief.

In Oakland, outfielder Sam Fuld joins Valencia to make the Athletics the only team with multiple Jewish players.

Several others who have played in the majors weren't fortunate enough to make Opening Day rosters. They included infielders Nate Freiman, Ike Davis, Josh Satin and Cody Decker, as well as relief pitcher Josh Zeid.

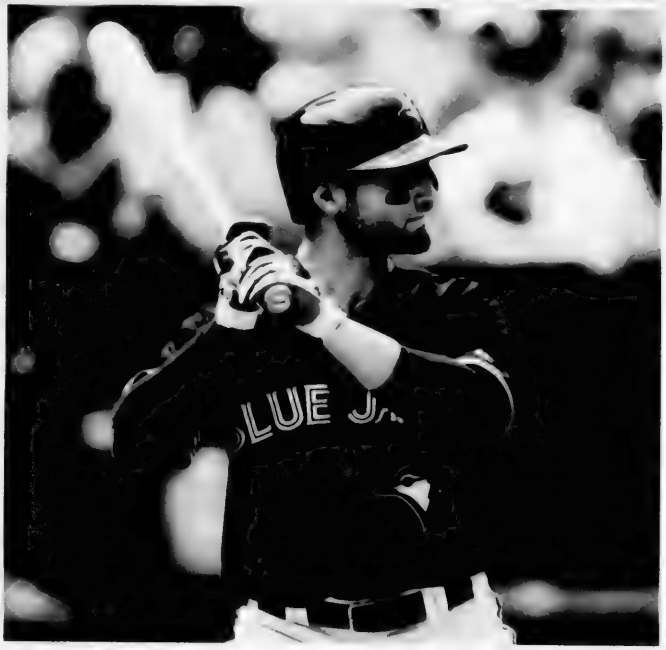
Up-and-comers include shortstop Alex Bregman, the second overall pick in last June's collegiate draft by the Astros, and Zach Borenstein, an outfielder in the Arizona Diamondbacks system. Bregman hit .294 for two of the Astros A teams last season, while Borenstein hit .281 in spring training before being demoted to the minors.

Pederson shouldn't have worries about being sent down, but will look to avoid the second-half doldrums he suffered last season. The centre-fielder had started for the National League in last summer's All-Star game as a rookie one night after finishing second in the home-run-hitting contest. But his horrid second half, which included his benching as the starter, saw his batting average fall to .210 and he finished with a team record-tying 170 strikeouts.

Pillar could be the real deal. He was outstanding in the field, finishing second among all centre-fielders in defensive ratings. While lacking Pederson's power, Pillar showed far better skills as an all-around hitter – so much so that he's been elevated to leadoff in the batting order of one of the majors' best offensive clubs. In 2015, his first full season in the majors, Pillar hit .278, socked 31 doubles and stole 25 bases.

"Pillar is probably the best of them all now" among Jewish major leaguers, Ephraim Moxson, co-publisher of the *Jewish Sports Review* newsletter said. "He's got a good glove, a good bat and speed."

Braun, a left-fielder starting his 10th season, possesses those tools, too, and remains the brightest light on a rebuilding Brewers team that finished last a season ago in the National League Central. But he's coming back from postseason lower-back surgery that affected him even through spring training.



The Blue Jays' Kevin Pillar

Last year Braun made the All-Star team for the sixth time and is steadily building a Hall of Fame-level career – if his suspension in 2013 for using performance-enhancing drugs can be overlooked.

The Tigers are also looking to return to contention and will need Kinsler to have a typically solid season, as he did in 2015 batting .296, though driving in 19 fewer runs than the previous campaign. A sharp falloff in pitching doomed the Tigers, who finished with the American League's second-worst record and last in the Central Division.

In Houston, Feldman provides veteran leadership to a young staff headlined by Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel. Feldman missed half of 2015 with knee and shoulder injuries, making just 18 starts as the Astros emerged as a wild-card team. Feldman could find himself pitching with much more at stake in October, as the Astros are favoured by some to contend for the World Series this year. Pillar's Blue Jays will provide stiff competition, as Toronto is the consensus pick to reclaim the A.L. East crown. ■

Feeling forgetful?
You're not alone.

Learn about how memory changes with age, get support for adopting a memory-healthy lifestyle, and practice proven strategies to help you remember the things that are important to you.

Memory and Aging Program

5 weekly sessions, 9:30 to 11:30 am, fee $140
New series begins May 5, 2016

For more information or to register call
416-785-2500 ext. 2445

Baycrest
3560 Bathurst Street, Toronto
www.baycrest.org/memory
Memory aging

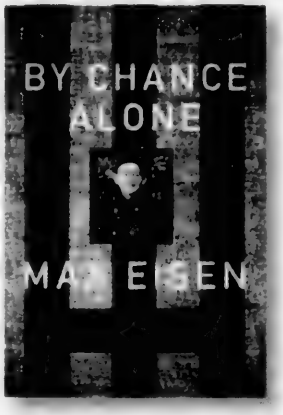
BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
DIAMOND CUTTERS & JEWELLERS
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small REPAIRS
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

LOOK FOR FRESH STORIES UPDATED DAILY ON
CJNEWS.COM

Max Eisen bracingly honest in his Holocaust memoir

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



By Chance Alone
Max Eisen

HarperCollins

All memoirs by Holocaust survivors deserve to be read.

But some are better than others.

And a survivor's memoir that is accepted by a "name" publishing house is almost always excellent.

So it is with Max Eisen, a force of nature in Toronto's Jewish community. Even at age 87, Eisen's memory is a thing to behold. Whether on his rigorous schedule of speaking about his Holocaust experience to school kids, at community events or as a fixture on the annual March of the Living, one can't help but be amazed at his recall, not only of places and dates, but of smells, sounds, tastes, pains – a full palette of sensory impressions, many of them horrible. And he's done it unflinchingly.

He was one of three Canadians who testified last year at the trial of former Auschwitz SS sergeant Oskar Groening, and recently at the trial of Reinhold Henning, a former Auschwitz guard.

It comes as no surprise, then, that Eisen's memoir, *By Chance Alone*, is a gripping, harrowing read, chock-a-block with pulse-quickening detail.

If there is a trick to this genre, it might be to strike a balance between turning readers off with too much horror, and pulling one's punch with too little. Eisen is bracingly honest in his telling; while not sparing the reader tales of brutality, deprivation, death and gore, he manages to be cool enough to make one want to turn the page.

In his book, the devil really is in the details, which are plentiful and gruesome, and narrated in a way that is impassioned yet measured.

Eisen's story begins in the town of Moldava, Czechoslovakia, and a large, Orthodox family that was content and well-off. The extended clan numbered about 60, many living together in a family compound. The author relates a happy early life, with summers spent on a farm.

The war-era chaos came early when, in March 1939, the eastern part of Czechoslovakia was ceded to Hungary and Hungarian fascists took over, bringing with them "an overt ideology of anti-Semitism," Eisen writes.

By 1940, anti-Jewish edicts banned Jews from owning radios and forbade them from selling alcohol and tobacco, meaning his father was out of work and an income. The next year, all Jewish males between the ages of 18 and 45 – including Eisen's father and uncle– were shipped to forced labour battalions, including Eisen's father and uncle. All members of his mother's family were deported.

The year after that, Eisen, his two brothers, mother and aunt were ordered to pack. After three weeks aboard trucks and trains, the deportation was called off, but the episode served as a taste of things to come.

Jews in Hungarian-speaking regions remained relatively safe until the spring and summer of 1944, when in a span of just eight weeks, some 437,000 of them were deported to Auschwitz, Eisen among them. His descriptions of the three-day cattle-car ride and, on dazed arrival, of blinding floodlights, shouts of "*Raus! Schnell!*" (Out! Fast!) and prisoners' striped uniforms aren't new but they are no less searing.

There's far worse.

His mother (holding her baby girl), grandparents, aunt and two younger siblings were marched away and gassed. Eisen, his father and uncle were tattooed, given uniforms and taken for slave labour. It happened almost that quickly.

But Eisen does pause for many asides (the barely edible rations, the sickening smell of burning flesh, the dead-eyed prisoners) and to describe one scene readers are not likely to forget. While showering, a young prisoner's glasses slipped off and he got down on the floor to search for them. "A guard came over and kicked him in the side of the head with his jackboot," Eisen writes in an almost matter-of-fact way that so jars with the content. "The young man rolled over and the guard stomped on his chest. I could hear the cracking of ribs. The guard, who was now in a frenzy, continued to stomp on the man until he was dead."

Caught loafing on his work detail one day, Eisen himself was beaten and thrown in a ditch to die with a head injury. Carted back to the camp's hospital (which existed for guards as well as inmates; Eisen explains why), he received surgery, survived and was appointed the operating room's cleaner and all around surgical assistant.

He worked 19 hours a day in relative safety and saw more broken bones, spilled guts, flesh-eating disease and bullet wounds than he ever imagined.

A later task involved removing the gold fillings and crowns from the teeth of the recently gassed. Their owners had been alive just a few moments earlier, Eisen pondered. "And now they were just a pile of ash." He worked there for six months.

The reader is reminded of Miklos Nyiszli's book, *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*.

Eisen also witnessed the hanging in January, 1945 of four young female prisoners who had smuggled gunpowder into the camp in a successful bid to blow up one of the crematoria. He relates how before being executed one at a time, each spoke the final Hebrew words "*chazak v'amatz*" (be strong and brave).

There followed a death march to two other concentration camps and finally, liberation, but in such ill health, it spawned words no teen should wonder on his birthday. "I turned 16 years old. Would I make it to 17?"

Eisen's postwar meanderings took him through Austria, back to his much-changed hometown, to a battle with wet pleurisy and recovery under the wing of a Jewish organization in a Czech town where he lived for three years; a hair-raising escape from newly-communist Prague, a displaced persons camp, and finally, arrival in Canada in 1949 with images from Jack London novels dancing in his head.

Of about 60 members of his extended family, just Eisen and two cousins survived the war.

There is no shortage of stories from survivors. Make sure, though, that this lucid, chilling one is on your list. ■

Eisen's book will be launched "in conversation" with Heather Reisman, CEO of Indigo, at the Indigo outlet in the Yonge Eglinton Centre on April 19 at 7 p.m.

Katz's Deli
& CORNED BEEF EMPORIUM
- EST. 1970 -
3300 Dufferin Street · 416 782 1111

Special for Passover:

Uncooked Beef Brisket.....$7.99lbs
Uncooked Single Beef Brisket...$9.50lbs
Passover Kishka.....$8.95lbs
Chopped Liver.....$8.95lbs
Beef Back Ribs (USDA)...$5.99lbs

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 14, 2016

Along the Pacific Coast Highway

The author at an organic farm and elephant seals along the highway. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NANCY WIGSTON

NANCY WIGSTON
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

We've embarked on one of America's iconic drives – the Pacific Coast Highway, winding south from San Francisco to Los Angeles. On the morning of our departure, the sun shines bright and clear. Soon we're cruising the highway, also known as Cal-1, with a few other travellers, and the sights are indeed spectacular.

A word of caution: for the height sensitive, this drive is beautiful and terrifying in equal parts. Our first few hours yield heart-stopping views: sandy brown cliffs high above the Pacific, blue surf crashing onto the rocks below. Way below. The husband-driver loves it, his wife-passenger not so much, despite assurances about the cliff-side guard rail.

An organic farm sign beckons to the east, so we pull in, to sample farm-grown pumpkins made into pie – just delicious. Then it's back on the curving highway, where a friend's daughter once rode her motorbike all the way to Los Angeles. Not nearly so ambitious, we're content with frequent stops to sample seascape panoramas. Reaching the pines of Big Sur country, we pull into Lucia Lodge, an old-fashioned, welcoming place, where the fish tacos are as fresh as the breezes from the Pacific.

After a relaxing night at Cambria Pines Lodge, we double back to the cultural phenomenon known as Hearst Castle. Ever since reading about a Hearst Castle-like creation –"Gothic, medieval, baronial…the nightmare on the hilltop"– in Aldous Huxley's 1939 satire, *After Many a Summer*, the idea of an art-stuffed castle on the California coast has intrigued us. Huxley ruthlessly skewers a Hearst-like tycoon in what the *New York Times* called his "Hollywood novel."

Newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst spent himself into near bankruptcy building this monument. It's hard to know where to start when describing this castle – four separate tours cover different aspects of its 156 rooms – so it's best to just dive in, like the Hollywood starlets plunging into the terrace pool in Hearst's home movies from the 1930s.

Here goes: Greek and Roman statuary, Renaissance textiles and tapestries, Oriental carpets, Italian paintings, sculpture upon sculpture – Conova's 18th-century "shy Venus," is now valued at $3,000,000 – a Rubens, Tiffany windows, 3,000 year-old Egyptian goddesses, the largest collection of carved antique ceilings in America, masses of rare books and papers, Greek pottery (800-1500 BCE), a Roman-style indoor pool decorated with more than a million Murano glass tiles, some layered with gold leaf, and the remains of what was once the largest privately owned zoo in the United States. That's just an overview.

Hearst Castle, given to the state by his heirs, remains today the astonishing site that greeted Huxley's scholarly Englishman in the 1930s: an over-the-top testament to manic between-the-wars spending, artfully designed by architect Julia Morgan. Over seven million people a year come to wonder at it. "Wasteful Willie," the sole heir to his father's fortune, was born to shop. "Willie has a mania for antiquities," his mother wrote to her husband, when the boy was just 10 years old. Neither modern works nor landscapes ever interested him.

The feeling of strolling through movie sets of vanished worlds permeates the castle – after all, that's Alex Trebek's voice narrating the Hearst story on the bus from the parking lot. Strongly drawn to Hollywood through his long-time romantic partner, actress Marion Davies, Hearst's guests included stars like Cary Grant – then married to heiress Barbara Hutton – who were flown up to what the older man called his "ranch." Far from louche Hollywood, guests were encouraged to drink little and exercise much. No golf was played – Hearst considered golf a game for "sick old men" – but horseback riding, swimming and tennis were all on the menu. Grant joked that one riding session was so long that they almost made it back to Los Angeles. In addition to Hollywood stars, Hearst hosted political luminaries like Winston Churchill and a young John F. Kennedy.

"We've been lucky," says our guide, touching on the delicate subject of the return of stolen art. Only three Hearst paintings have been identified as Nazi loot, and have been returned to the Oppenheimer family after a lawsuit was brought by the heirs. "Hoarder" and "shopaholic" are used by castle guides to describe the man who once owned 26 newspapers, 18 magazines, eight radio stations, two movie studios, nearly 100 businesses, multiple homes, and five warehouses "crammed full" of his purchases.

As if anticipating criticism, our guide stresses that Hearst "was not pillaging Europe, Europe was pillaging itself" – a statement that would surely have piqued the interest of Aldous Huxley, among others. Huxley's 1930s satire contrasts the ragged, fruit-picking "transients" from dust bowl Kansas with the lavish opulence on the hill.

Often reviled in his time for his sensational practice of "yellow journalism" and his dubious "populist" politics, Hearst has become notorious as a model for the character that Orson Welles called Citizen Kane. Perhaps the greatest American movie ever made, the 1941 film was never reviewed in a single Hearst newspaper. Despite having to sell many objects to pay his debts, Hearst left behind enough things to qualify his castle as a museum, "the only thing like this on the coast" between San Francisco and L.A.

Hearst had wanted a museum here, but after his death, UC Berkeley turned down the idea, and, our guide tells us, the castle "almost became a bed and breakfast." Then his sons by his first marriage gave the castle to the state, protecting the land from development. The first tours began in 1968. The family runs the ranch still, raising grass-fed cattle on its 97,000 hectares.

Exiting the grounds, we see another weird sight. A herd of zebras are grazing on the vast green hillside, the wild offspring of Hearst's zoo. More wildlife draws crowds on a nearby beach – these are the strange, gigantic creatures known as elephant seals. The females, having given birth to their young, laze about on the sand, while the males occasionally rise up and trumpet at one another –it's as entrancing a scene as any we've seen thus far, another wild and unusual pleasure offered by driving California's Pacific Coast. ■

If You Go: www.visitcalifornia.com; hearstcastle.org; www.LuciaLodge.com

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Lydia Hazan, Frederic Bettan, Myriam Ifrah and Philippe Hazan

Carole Cohen, Karine Hazan and Patricia Vanounou

Patrick Roche and Ravit Suissa

Eric Teboul, Morley Garfinkle and James Boumandil

Stephane Amara and Valerie Zrihen

Masquerade Ball

A little snow didn't stop the partygoers from donning their masks and intriguing costumes for a night of mystery and fun at Campagne Sépharade's Purim Masquerade Ball. Guests danced the night away with live entertainment and DJ YO-C. Purim – Montreal style. Magnifique! ■

– *The Socialite*

Caroll Azoulay and Gailth Hetzroni

Patrick Toledano, Shirit Sebag and Lydia Hazan

Mona Moussa Zini and Daniel Zini

Joanne Teboul, Sylvia Amar and Edith Teboul

Jonathan Dresner, Yael Soussana, Dana Dayan and David Carre

Meyer Elbaz and Valerie Benchimol

All dressed ready to party

PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

APRIL 14 - APRIL 21

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, April 14

THE HISTORY OF UNDERGARMENTS
Professional bra-maker **Leah Hoogkamp** discusses "The history of the undergarment," 8 p.m., Temple Har Zion, $3/$6.

Friday, April 15

SHABBAT TOGETHER
PJ Library presents Tune into Tots, for children 12 to 36 months, 9:30-11 a.m., Temple Sinai. Register at www.tuneintotots.eventbrite.ca

Saturday, April 16

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE
Rabbi Tzvi Marx is the scholar in residence at Adath Israel Congregation this weekend. Saturday, during services he discusses "The key to Pesach: committing to God by living or dying." Sunday at 10:30 a.m. he speaks on "Choosing life over martyrdom," and at 7:30 p.m., "Navigating double loyalty to Israel and to humanity under the shadow of terror in the 21st century." No charge.

Sunday, April 17

MATZAH BAKE
PJ Library and Makom Creative Downtown Judaism host an outdoor matzah bake, noon-2 p.m., Dufferin Grove Park, 875 Dufferin St. Register at www.matzabake.eventbrite.ca

DR. SLEPKOV HONOURED
A dinner honouring **Dr. Howard Slepkov** will be held at B'nai Israel Synagogue, 190 Church St., St. Catharines, at 5 p.m. For tickets, 905-685-6767.

BUILDING RESILIENCE
Dr. Jonathan Golden from Jewish Family and Child discusses "Tools for building youth and adolescent resiliency," Temple Sinai, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of April 28 is April 18. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Bringing Purim joy

Teen volunteers from Jewish Youth Network recently visited Viva Retirement Community in Thornhill to prepare Purim baskets and to bring Purim joy to the residents.

GHETTO UPRISING REMEMBERED
A commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Centre, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Guest speaker is **Paula Draper.**

RESISTING INJUSTICE
Hartman Scholar **Noam Zion** leads a webinar on "The first Righteous Gentiles – a reading of the book of Exodus," 1 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam.

Monday, April 18

SPRING LECTURE SERIES
Temple Emanu-El's spring lecture series continues with **Sergei Plekhanov** discussing "A disobedient Russia," 2-4 p.m. $45/series/ $15 lecture. 416-449-3880.

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE
Dr. Kathy Siminovitch discusses "Personalized medicine: are we there yet?" Temple Sinai, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

LUNCH AND LEARN
Cantor Eyal Bitton and **Michele Tredger** present a musical lecture/recital about "Jewish women in song," Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 12:10 p.m. RSVP 416-221-3433.

WONDERFUL WOMEN WRITERS
The Wonderful Women Writers Series features four Jewish women, **Dawn Promislow, Cynthia Holz, Gail Benick** and **Nora Gold**, reading from their work, 5:30-9 p.m., OISE, room 2-279.

YIDDISH PLAY WORKSHOP
The Committee for Yiddish is holding a 10-week play-reading workshop of *The Golden Land*, April 19-June 21, Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., led by **David Gale.** Script available in transliteration. To register, email CFY@ujafed.org

Thursday, April 21

BOOK LAUNCH
Canadian book launch of *Marek Edelman: being on the right side*, about the hero of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by **Witold Beres** and **Krzysztof Burnetko,** 7 p.m., Consulate General of Poland, 2603 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Sponsored in part by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada.

Et cetera

PASSOVER SEDERS
- Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a seder, April 22, 6 p.m., for teens and adults, 175 St. Clair Ave. W. $45. RSVP roby@oraynu.org or 416-385-3910.
- Miles Nadal JCC hosts a Passover seder, April 22, 7:30 p.m. For tickets and prices, Chabad of Midtown, 416-516-2005 or Jewish Family and Child, 416-961-9344.
- Congregation Darchei Noam hosts a seder, April 23, 6 p.m. Register by April 15, www.darcheinoam.ca/event/secondseder. $25/$50.
- Congregation Habonim hosts a seder led by **Eli Rubenstein, Avrum Rosensweig,** April 23. Free, donations welcome. Register at www.congregationhabonim.org
- Temple Har Zion hosts a seder April 23, 6:30 p.m. Register by April 15, 905-889-2252, ext. 108.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS
Circle of Care, in partnership with Jewish Family and Child, is looking for volunteers to join the hospice program team. Volunteers receive a 30-hour training program which starts May 16. Call **Arnold,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or email afoss@circleofcare.com

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE
Registration closes April 17 for Peace of Mind's Warrior Obstacle Course Challenge, to be held May 8 at Downsview Park. Courses for kids and adults. Register at www.pomcanada.com/ocourse

ART SHOW
Smadar Meiri exhibits her paintings at the Bathurst Clark Resource Library, 900 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill, to April 30.

SONATAS AND SONGS
Semmy Stahlhammer, First Concertmaster of the Stockholm Royal Opera, presents "Sonatas and Songs: A selection of music from Bach to the Beatles," April 25, 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El. $10. RSVP reception@templeemanuel.ca

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Call Shawna Sidney, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Widows/ Widowers over 65: A 6-session group for men and women over 65 who have recently lost a partner or spouse. Starts April 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Passover seder, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, May 3-June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; Yom Hashoah commemoration, May 5, 1:30 p.m.
- **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Periodontist **Yair Lenga** discusses "How old is your mouth, April 27, 6 p.m.; Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. April 19, **Faye Kellerstein** discusses "Yiddish musical theatre," 10 a.m.; April 20, Women's discussion group, 2:30 p.m.; April 21 wellness lecture on "Does posture matter?" 1:30 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama May 11; Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; barber/hair stylist April 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Seniors Lunch and Learn: Sgt. Bob Paterson** discusses "Emergency preparedness," April 14, 11:30 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation. Register at 905-886-3810, ext. 119.
- New Horizons is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
- Adath Israel Congregation. Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. Judi, 416-785-0941.
- Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- Beth Emeth Synagogue. Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838; Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
- Temple Har Zion. Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m.
- Beth Sholom Synagogue. Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
- B'nai Brith Seniors Program. Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Amy, 416-633-6224, ext. 134. Call Maureen, 416-781-3514.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Family ceramics runs Sundays, noon or 2:30 p.m.; jazz, hip-hop and funk classes for children aged 3 to 9, Mondays; Art adventures for children aged 4-6 offered Wednesdays, 4:45 p.m.
- Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Degas and his dancers," May 3, 10 at 1 p.m.
- Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," May 4-25, 1 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- *Scots Jews: Identity, Belonging and the Future* is on display at all 3 JCCs until April 27.
- Improv for adults, with Second City Training Centre, April 14-June 9, 7-9 p.m. Learn the basics of improv in a fun supportive environment.
- Under Cover, presented by Momentum Dance Theatre, April 14-16, Al Green Theatre.
- Sipur Yeladim- Hebrew-language Passover story for children ages 3-10, April 17, 5 p.m.
- Everybody dance, accessible to all people with **DJ Layah Jane,** April 17, 2:30 p.m.
- Bel Canto concert featuring **Alvaro Lozano Gutierrez,** April 18, 8 p.m.
- ASL: Passover edition. Learn signs and Passover songs in both ASL and Israeli/Hebrew sign language, April 20, 7 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Against the odds: celebrating female artists," May 9 and 16, 1:30 p.m.
- Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6;30 p.m.
- Klezmer ensemble conducted by **Eric Stein,** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.
- Red Cross babysitting course for ages 11 and up, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Make baby hand and footprint keepsakes, May 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Register now for parent and tot dance, jazz and hip-hop; kids cooking and arts and ceramics classes for children.
- Yom Hashoah commemoration May 5, 11 a.m.; Yom Hazikaron commemoration, May 11, 11 a.m.
- Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 26, 1 p.m. ■

WRY BREAD

Breaking news: Celebrities achieve peace in the Middle East

David Levine

Peace has finally arrived in the Holy Land.

After weeks of marathon negotiations and unprecedented concessions from both sides, a bipartisan consortium of international celebrities has succeeded in brokering a historic peace treaty that has been embraced by Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

"This is a crucial accord, unrivalled in complexity, outstanding in both scope and nuance," said Roger Waters, former lead singer of Pink Floyd and chief negotiator on the issues of taxation and marine rights.

"I could not be more proud of my colleagues on both sides of the table."

Even before Palestinians and Israelis began the process of implementing the recommendations of the accords – destroying arms and expanding bilateral infrastructure – celebrations had erupted on the streets of Jerusalem and Ramallah and throngs of ecstatic citizens have come together in song and dance.

Tamar, an 84-year-old Israeli grandmother, wipes a tear from her eye. She says she has lost too many friends and relatives to a cycle of violence that she feared was endless:

"So many generations have dreamt of this moment, prayed for this moment. All who have worked for peace and all who will live in its bounty owe an eternal debt to One Direction's Zayn Malik."

Although celebrities have long been considered the world's leading experts on the Israel/Palestine conflict (as evidenced by their substantive tweets), many were skeptical that they would succeed where so many scholars and governments had failed, despite being steeped in the history and minutiae of the issues - but the unbounded joy that can be felt across the land today is a testament to the group's dedication and diplomatic skill.

"Everyone has been making (peace) seem so hard to achieve," said Penelope Cruz, spokesperson and star of *Zoolander 2*. "If you want it bad enough, anything is possible."

"I don't know why we didn't do this years ago."

"People were quick to discount our intellect, our ability to negotiate," agrees radio pioneer Howard Stern, "but it's important to understand that we surpass regular human beings in every possible way."

The eyes of the world were fixated on the secretive negotiations - which got off to a shaky start, after sources reported both sides were threatening to walk out over basic ideological schisms ranging from the lunch menu to the available brands of bottled water. Once these issues were addressed, however, the collective experience and education of the negotiators propelled the treaty forward:

A working group led by Roseanne Barr, star of *She-Devil*, and FIFA world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo presented an elegant (and universally approved) solution to the issue of Palestinian statehood; *Nanny McPhee* star Emma Thompson and ur-Jerseyan rocker Jon Bon Jovi co-authored a white paper outlining a comprehensive framework and action plan addressing issues of settlement and occupation; using the Internet, *Clueless* actress Stacey Dash and Disney property Selena Gomez were able to resolve the right of return in under 90 minutes.

After signing the accord, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas embraced openly, calling the moment "the end of history, and the dawn of a new day."

World leaders from America to Iran have expressed their unqualified support for the so-called Planet Hollywood Accords. Political observers have been quick to praise the plan's intricacies.

"This agreement and the solutions it outlines are nothing short of genius," said Henry Kissinger.

"In a lifetime of diplomatic efforts, I have not seen their equal. I wish to convey my most sincere appreciation and admiration to Javier Bardem, Jon Voigt, and all these dedicated celebrity diplomats. You have quite literally changed the world today."

Among the ephemera of the moment, a newly formed artist's collective, made up of Hamas leaders and IDF soldiers, has already started work on a statue, a lasting monument to peace in their time, to stand at the gates of Jerusalem's Old City. Entitled *Visionaries* the work will depict Vanessa Redgrave and Joan Rivers, embracing atop a red carpet. ■

Follow A. David Levine on twitter at @adavidlevine

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Bebe & Howard Brazilier are very happy to announce the engagement of their son Jeremy to Aliza, daughter of Maurice and the late Leah Perez.

Happy birthday Ruby! Mazel tov on your chai times five birthday! You are an inspiration and role model. Much love from us all.

Mazel tov to Shirley & Mickey Katz as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on April 8! Much love from their children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Marlee Schnider & Eric Landy on their recent engagement. Much love and best wishes for a lifetime of health and happiness always!

Happy 65th birthday Shlomo Tevel Much love and best wishes for good health and "long life" from all the family, both here in Toronto and in Israel.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to chloe@mosaictheatre.com or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Happy 90th birthday to Florence (Fimmy Starr). Love, your children and grandchildren.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

FOREST HILL/CENTRAL PROPERTY

MOVE IN CONDITION BATHURST AND LAWRENCE!
10/10! Large Yard. A Must See! Daniel Weisberg* Dean Aronovici** 416-785-1500

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

BEST VALUE IN AREA! $268,800 PERFECT CONDO!
New Bathroom And Paint Throughout. Walk To Eaton Center, Ryerson, Subway And Restaurants. Adele Aston* 416-785-1500

THORNHILL - 2 BEDROOM PLUS DEN.
1350 Sq. Ft. Bright Space. Eat-In Kitchen. Hardwood Laminate Floors. Walking Distance To Synagogue. David Birnbaum* 416-785-1500

PRESTIGIOUS FOREST HILL CODE CONDO
Boutique Building By Blvd & Lifetime Developments. 6th Floor Unit Overlooking The Village. 750 Sq. Ft. 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath. 200 Sq. Ft. Terrace Equipped With Gas Hook Up And Water Bib. Debbie Ekonomou* 416-785-1500

RENTAL PROPERTIES

LOWER VILLAGE GATE - 2BR P.H AVAIL. IMMED!
$4,200 mo Incl. All Utilities! Newly Reno'd Kitchen, 2 Prkg, Many Upgrades. Steps To TTC, Subway, Shopping. Carol Greenglass* 416-226-1987

368 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,275-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Luxurious+New Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2103-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$1,690/Mo! Value Packed 1Br+Den North Facing Suite W/ Panoramic Views! Outstanding Complex! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987 LEASED

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

3028 BATHURST STREET! NOW $2,500/MONTH!
Just S/Lawrence! Unbelievable! Approx 950' Storefront W/Rear Deck+Bsmt! 2 Entries! 2Car Parking! Was Restaurant! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL UNIT 5,100 SQ. FT. FOR LEASE
Great Opportunity For Successful Business. Zoning Allows To Establish Car Repair Or Body Shop Business. $5,200/Month. Anzhelika Liubchenko* 416-226-1987

YONGE & EMPRESS 2 STORY BUILDING FOR LEASE
The Building Is Suited For A Different Kind Of Business. High Traffic Area Easily Accessible Via Transit, 2,600 Sq. Ft.. $6,500/Month. Anzhelika Liubchenko* 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!
ROYAL LEPAGE
Elli Davis
416 921 1112 www.ellidavis.com
800 622 9536 mail@ellidavis.com
Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli

SELLING YOUR HOUSE?
33 Jackes Avenue $2,250,000
Grand suite of approx. 3,000 sq ft! Steps to Yonge/St. Clair/Summerhill shops and amenities. Direct elevator access, 2 bedrooms + den, reno'd kitchen. 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Stellar service, valet parking, indoor pool, sauna, exercise room & party room

Downsize Your Home. Upsize Your Life.
Creative solutions for Buying, Selling and Renting.
kw KELLERWILLIAMS
647-333-5530 Vivien@VivienSharon.com
www.VivienSharon.com

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, lndry. indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT

Teacher (female) seeking a room in a house or apt. for May 1. Prefer to live with other professionals. Please call: 416-638-6838

84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT

Teacher (female) seeking a room in a house or apt. for May 1. Prefer to live with other professionals. Please call: 416-638-6838

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Print Production Coordinator/ graphic designer: 1 year maternity leave position w/potential for a full time graphic design position. Proficient in OSX, Adobe CS (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator). Photography & video editing a plus. Excellent English, read/write Hebrew. Cover letter & Resume to: careers@ketubah.com.

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE
Thornhill Woods
8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan
Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.
Interested Physicians call
416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Live-in caregiver for elderly exper. w/ refer. salary negotiable. 416-460-2854/416-656-8863

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Exper. caregiver w/refs., avail. to care for elderly Mon. to Fri.19 yrs. experience. 416-878-7854

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

368 CARPETS

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

445 MOVING

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

570 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
COR
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave W Toronto
416-782-3302
www.bistrogrande.com

575 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.567.6144

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

595 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

604 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old, refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

650 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT.** 416-459-1383.

695 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Regluing, Custom, reas. **416-630-8487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

800 TUTORING

Exper, professional English & ESL tutor for individuals & small groups. Speaking, reading and writing skills. Essay writing at all levels. Test & exam prep. Excel. refer available. Contact helenswolfe@gmail.com or call 416-668-7292.

ATE
Reach qualified buyers
Advertise your listing in the CJN classifieds and
GET RESULTS!
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

Hip hop: It's not just for teens anymore

Artists participate in Jerusalem for 30 Under 30 Summit

JESSICA STEINBERG
JERUSALEM

Arab rapper SAZ

London-based star Little Simz

Hip hop, that rhythmic, rhyming speech pattern that has become one of the most popular music forms worldwide, provided a way of life for the three musicians sitting under the hot Jerusalem morning sun on a recent April morning.

The three artists, British star Little Simz, Okieriete Onaodowan from the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton* and Arab rapper SAZ, were on hand at the Forbes 30 Under 30 Summit EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa). The summit is part of the *Forbes* magazine annual 30 Under 30 events, that brought together 600 young entrepreneurs from the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Africa for five days of collaboration and exposure to Israel last week.

"Three-quarters of the people here have never been in Israel before, so for them to come to a summit and experience this entrepreneurial place adds to the experience," said Randall Lane, editor of *Forbes* magazine.

The 30 Under 30 participants were sprawled on bean bags and pillows in Jerusalem's Israel Museum sculpture garden. Onstage, next to the iconic Robert Indiana Ahava/Love sculpture, the three artists – moderated by *Forbes* senior editor Zack O'Malley Greenburg – talked about the genre of hip hop, and how each of them became inspired by it at different points in their lives.

Hip hop, pointed out Greenburg, is having its global moment in the mainstream, given its exposure in Broadway hits like *Hamilton*, in which playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda tells the story of American revolutionary Alexander Hamilton in rap form; television show *Empire* about the hip-hop industry; and the 2015 film *Straight Outta Compton*, depicting life in southern Los Angeles, where the genre was created.

Oak, as Onaodowan calls himself, said he discovered hip hop on his own as a young teen. His family is Nigerian and while he was raised in the United States, his family's culture was more influenced by their native land than American culture.

"I discovered things myself," said Onaodowan. "I just loved listening to hip hop, I love the words. The angry words resonated with me."

In *Hamilton*, which has grossed $61.7 million (US) since moving to Broadway from Off Broadway last July, Onaodowan plays the roles of president James Madison and Hercules Mulligan, a tailor who spied on the British.

Little Simz, a North London hip-hop artist who self-released her critically acclaimed debut album *A Curious Tale of Trials + Persons* – named one of the best albums of 2015 by *Vogue* – said she first heard hip hop when she was around nine years old. She's now 22.

"I was listening to [hip hop artists] Missy Elliot and Ludacris, and what drew me to it was the visual," she said. "As I got older, I got more into the concept of it and the storytelling and what people actually had to say."

Lauryn Hill, said Little Simz, referring to the former lead singer of The Fugees, was an early influence, quoting Hill's line from her song *Lost Ones*: "It's funny how money change a situation/Miscommunication leads to complication."

"That will never get old for me, there's so much truth in that bar, right there," she said.

SAZ, who was raised in Ramla, a mixed city of Arabs and Jews, said he hadn't heard of hip hop until he began doing a freestyle kind of rap as a young kid, and was sent some discs by his cousins who lived abroad.

For all three artists, hip hop resonated as a musical form for people who felt they didn't have a voice.

"As long as there are those paradigms, people will gravitate to the music," said Onaodowan. "The beats are just primal, if you think of banging on the drum, it's almost like a war cry."

The genre also operates as an entire culture, pointed out Little Simz.

"There's dancing, DJing, there's so much that kind of fits under the umbrella of hip hop," she said. "Hip hop was the only thing I was good at and felt I could be 100 per cent me and be expressive. Another 22-year-old can hear what I'm going through and connect to it and relate to it."

SAZ felt the same way when he first heard hip hop, he said. There was an instant connection with the words and meanings, despite the fact that he was an Arab from Ramla and the artists he was listening to were African-Americans living in the United States.

"I felt a lot of similarity and more in common with black people than I do with Israelis who live around the corner from me," said SAZ. "I got beaten by the police when I was 14. When I heard what [hip hop artist] Tupac said, to take this misunderstanding happening in my life, so hip hop for me was a place where I can express myself and take this rage to help change my life."

The Ramla rapper currently tours in Israel and around the world, and was a celebrity contestant in the 2012 second season of *Chai be La La Land*, an Israeli reality show about singers hoping to achieve that near-mythical dream of celebrity success.

He wasn't the only Arab gaining strength from the rhythms of hip hop. Tupac Shakur, the famed rapper who was killed in a drive-by shooting in 1996, is famous in the Palestinian world, said SAZ, and "every second home has a CD of Tupac because even if they don't understand English, they understand the meaning and the vibe."

The speech of hip hop, said Onaodowan, is the essence of the genre, and therefore is accessible to anyone who can speak.

"It's just speaking, something you do every day," he said.

"With *Hamilton*, what's cool about the show is that even super-old white people come to see the show and hang on every word, it's that good," said Onaodowan, "and I'm like, 'it's just talking, it's hip hop,' and you just have to find the right things to say and be willing to listen. They were willing to listen to what we were saying."

The success of *Hamilton* demonstrates that it needs to be multiplied in order to create more roles for people of colour, producing "more versions of us being seen," he said.

Hip hop, said SAZ, offered him a way of dealing with the conflict that forms the backbone of his life.

"As an artist, I prefer to be the bridge rather than the bomb," he said. "There's been too much bloodshed since 1948. I live in both worlds. I live in the West Bank and here, so for me, I'm part of the conflict and culture took away the bad vibes and the hating. I'm showing love because as a Palestinian, we don't have any solutions in life. The true image isn't really out there so I'm sending a new image. We want to change and are part of the change."

"For me," he continued, "performing is part of my struggle. I'm not doing it to get money, I'm struggling."

The three artists were joined by several others April 6 at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem, where Forbes 30 Under 30 hosted a live musical performance synced to virtual reality, in which all attendees of the concert wore virtual reality headsets and enjoyed a simultaneous virtual reality experience during the concert. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Sarah Fulford and Naomi Zener talk media and women

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

On April 4, Genesis, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Centre for Jewish Innovation, hosted a panel discussion featuring *Toronto Life* editor Sarah Fulford, and Naomi Zener, a lawyer and vice-president of business and legal affairs for Vice Media, Inc. in Canada. Zener is also a published novelist and the writer of a satire fiction blog, SatiricalMama.com.

The panel was held at the Design Exchange.

The CJN spoke to Zener before the event on April 4 and to Fulford after the event.

Naomi Zener, left, and Sarah Fulford at the UJA's Centre for Jewish Innovation April 4 panel.
MICHAEL GELMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Why do you think Genesis, UJA Federation's Centre for Jewish Innovation asked you to appear on this panel?

Fulford: I think you'd have to ask UJA Genesis! But I'm certainly glad they did. I'd never met Naomi before, and now we're friends. That's a surprise gift. Plus, I met a dozen or so other great women that night.

Zener: I work at an international youth media company that has a variety of channels. We're the pre-eminent brand for millennials who are looking for news, lifestyle, information and entertainment. Because we started in traditional media, then exploded as a digital company and are now exploring and exploding traditional avenues of distribution, people look at us as an innovative company to watch.

What will be/what was the focus of the talk?

Fulford: It was wonderfully unfocused. We covered a ton of territory: the digital revolution in media, balancing family life with work life, and what it means to be Jewish in 2016. It was really fun.

Zener: I think it'll be about how Sarah and I have gotten where we are in our careers to date – not just as individuals but as women – and about how we balance our lives as executives, spouses, parents etc., and also find ways to pursue our passions in our spare time. I think we'll give advice, based on the experiences we've had, to people early in their careers, mid-career or people who are looking to switch careers.

What sort of things does your job entail?

Fulford: As editor of *Toronto Life*, it's my job to ensure that the magazine and its website resonate with readers. I work with writers and editor colleagues to identify stories we think are relevant and compelling. Then we do our best to bring them to life in the most engaging way possible, with great storytelling and powerful images. It's pretty terrific, actually. There's something magical about working with smart, creative people all day long.

Zener: I manage all business and legal affairs matters for Vice in Canada. I deal with all legal or business affairs issues that arise and help with strategic planning and growth initiatives for our television, film and digital content production, advertising, our creative services division, sales and branded content. I work with our joint-venture partners and advise on a bevy of matters, from labour and employment to broadcast and regulatory matters. My days are quite varied.

How has your publication managed to stay relevant in a challenging and quickly evolving media landscape?

Fulford: Funny you should ask! This fall, *Toronto Life* will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Over the last few months, I've been spending time in the magazine's archives, and I've seen that certain core elements of *Toronto Life* haven't changed: the magazine has been covering restaurants, real estate, politics, culture and society for five decades. It has deliberately played a role in creating the city's self-image and self-understanding. But the city itself has changed so much. It's become so much more sophisticated and complicated – our stories reflect that.

As for the changing media landscape, we believe that people want excellent editorial content now just as much as in the past. People just want it on a variety of platforms – in print, on their phones, tablets and desktop computers. Our award-winning long-form journalism is just as popular online as it is in print, and sometimes more so, because people share our stories on social media, so we regularly reach people outside our core print subscription demographic. That's a real joy. The digital space has also allowed *Toronto Life* to be a lot more than a monthly print magazine. We publish many stories on our website each day on a variety of subjects and a variety of formats.

Zener: I'm not working on the creative or editorial side, but I can say we have a very raw, immersive approach to telling stories, and we tell stories that are under-represented. We do so honestly, and I think our audience appreciates that.

Are there particular challenges that you've experienced as a woman in charge of a large operation (or in charge of part of an operation)?

Fulford: I was appointed editor of *Toronto Life* in 2007, and at first, I was worried I wasn't going to be taken seriously because I was just 33 years old and a woman. I was following in the footsteps of a widely admired, firmly established, veteran male editor. Then I took over in 2008, right around the time the Great Recession hit, and my Number 1 challenge was dealing with a massive decline in advertising revenue. I spent my first few years on the job looking at spreadsheets, trying to figure out how to maintain quality while reducing expenses. It was a trial by fire, and it totally eclipsed any issues around my age or gender.

Zener: I think being a woman in any workplace means having unique challenges that have been widely discussed, and remain true, by public figures such as Sheryl Sandberg and Anne-Marie Slaughter. From my perspective personally, I think being a woman and a mother lets me bring to the table a whole set of skills that a man wouldn't necessarily be able to bring. Simply having to juggle a busy career and motherhood is a unique challenge that many women in the workforce face and have to find a way to navigate.

Would you say your writing or editing is in any way driven by a feminist perspective?

Fulford: That's really hard for me to judge. It's possible I'm more curious about stories by and about women than some male editors, but of course, *Toronto Life* is a general interest magazine, so we curate our stories to reach both men and women.

Zener: I see myself as a feminist, and I believe in intersectional feminism. I think we have to look at feminism from a global, wholesale perspective. The satire and short fiction on my blog can be inspired by anything. It's not strictly from a feminist perspective. It could be anything from, for example, a legal decision to something going on in the world to my husband saying something completely ridiculous – any of these things can inspire me to write abut something or satirize it.

How does your Jewishness factor into your work as a journalist or a writer, if at all?

Fulford: I wouldn't say it plays a direct role in my work. However, there is something powerful about belonging to a group of people with a long history, and being aware of that history. Especially in a city like Toronto, where there are people from all over the world, it's important to know we all have roots that go deep, and that worldviews are informed by generations.

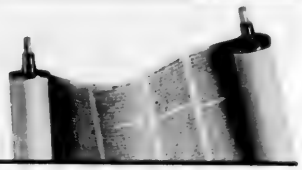
Zener: I think my humour comes from a very Jewish place – from the family I was raised in, from my grandmothers, who had the immigrant Jewish experience and this very unique way of speaking. My maternal grandmother, especially, never lost her sense of humour, despite surviving the Holocaust.

Those unique immigration stories and the approach to telling them have helped mould how I view things, and I think that comes out in my writing. It's a certain bluntness. There's no sugar coating. ■

These interviews have been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Parshah

Metzora | Leviticus 14:1-15:33



Rabbi Aaron Katchen evaluates Elijah, one of Judaism's most complex figures
Rabbi Michal Shekel considers the dangers of languishing in a mindset of slavery
Rabbi Howard Morrison explains why the Haggadah is the textbook of Jewish values

Aaron Katchen

"Lo, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord" (Malachi 3:23).

Shabbat HaGadol is the Shabbat that precedes Pesach. Historically it was one of two times a year that the community rabbi or rosh yeshiva (head of academy) gave a major sermon. Although today many rabbis speak often, we have maintained the custom in many communities for the rabbi to give a longer, more elaborate sermon on this Shabbat. Lo, *The CJN* does not afford me this privilege.

My youngest son had his brit milah the week of Shabbat HaGadol, and his name comes from the Haftorah read on Shabbat HaGadol. The Haftorah comes from the last chapter of the last book of the Prophets, Malachi, Chapter 3. The last two verses of Malachi talk about the return of Elijah the prophet, preceding the messianic era. Normally Elijah is referred to in Hebrew as Eliyahu, but here he is called Eliya.

Elijah is a complex figure. He is known and (mostly) exalted for being zealous for God – *kanai l'HaShem*. His zealotry was intended to return the Jewish People to worship God. Unfortunately, it was met with mixed results, and many people couldn't handle his zeal. He ultimately could not complete his mission through zealotry.

Eliyahu was a *kanai*, a zealot, but our verse is speaking of Eliya, the *mevaser* – announcer of the Mashiach. Here the medium is the message. Zealotry is not a bad thing when directed inward, but most people have trouble responding when it is directed externally.

Instead of being a zealot, Eliya(hu) now joins with us at the times close to redemption: at a brit milah, at Havdalah, and at our Pesach seder. By focusing his message on the positive and aspirational "awesome day of the Lord," Eliya will succeed where Eliyahu could not. ■

Rabbi Aaron Katchen, who is based in Toronto, directs Ask Big Questions Canada in partnership with Hillel.

Michal Shekel

The psalmist wrote: "Purge me with hyssop till I am pure." (Psalms, 51:9) This humble plant was a crucial item in the purification rites. In this week's parshah, hyssop is used to purify the *metsora*, the person with a particular skin affliction that is often translated as leprosy.

Hyssop plays an important role in another ritual. When our ancestors in Egypt were commanded to paint their doorposts in blood, the "brush" they used was hyssop.

According to Ibn Ezra (Exodus, 12:22) hyssop is called *za'atar* by the Arabs and oregano in a "foreign language." He goes on to ponder why the hyssop is paired with the cedar in the purification rite for the *metsora*, pointing out that the cedar is among the largest of trees while the hyssop is the smallest of plants.

The answer may be found in Midrash Shmot Rabbah, which teaches that in God's eyes, the great (cedar) and the small (hyssop) are equal. Both the *metsora* and our ancestors saw themselves as lowly beings, whether because of who they were or because of what they did. As God's redemption elevated us when we left Egypt, so too, the priestly ritual welcoming the *metsora* back into the community symbolizes the potential of the individual. While we may see ourselves as the hyssop, the Divine sees the shoot of a cedar.

The symbols surrounding the approaching holiday of Pesach are imbued with humility: matzah is the simple bread of poverty, the lowly hyssop dipped in blood marked the doors of the Israelite slaves. These are reminders of our past, our humble roots. The danger is that we could languish in the spiritual mindset of that slavery.

Perhaps a little *za'atar* on our matzah this year may remind us of the redemptive Divine potential that sprouts within us all. ■

Rabbi Michal Shekel is the executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Har Tikvah Congregation in Brampton, Ont.

Howard Morrison

Shabbat HaGadol, the Great Sabbath, is the special designation for the Shabbat prior to Pesach for many reasons. In talmudic literature, a *gadol* refers to one who is considered adult and is obligated to observe mitzvot. Shabbat HaGadol suggests that at this season of the year, the Israelites became adult as a nation and now assumed the obligations concerning the mitzvot associated with celebrating Pesach. The word *gadol* appears in the special Haftorah of the day. We read that the great and awesome day of the Lord will come when the heart of the parents is restored to the children, and the heart of the children is restored to the parents. At this season of the year, we are advised to lessen the gap between the generations.

How appropriate a message this is, given that many of us will be seated around a multi-generational seder table just a few days later. Some have suggested that the special name of the day instead be "Shabbat Haggadah," referring to the practice that on the Sabbath prior to Pesach, it's customary to study the Haggadah in advance of the festival. This opinion makes a lot of sense. To merely read through the Haggadah at the seder without sufficient preparation could have little constructive impact for those attending. Conversely, to carefully study the Haggadah in advance could help the leaders of the night establish meaningful goals for the variety of ages and backgrounds that will attend.

While many of us will spend considerable time preparing for all kinds of details associated with Pesach, the designation of Shabbat HaGadol reminds us to reflect on our personal Jewish obligations, to unite the generations, and to treat the Haggadah as a central textbook of Jewish values, which are always relevant and which need to be refreshed from year to year. ■

Rabbi Howard Morrison is senior rabbi – mara d'atra at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

The Belleville Jew and Orangeman

Backstory

ALLAN LEVINE

Oh ladies and gentlemen,
While I've nothing to do,
I'll just sing a song
About the Belleville Jew.

— Dr. John Barker, *Kingston British Whig*, April 1836

The acclaimed 19th century Canadian author Susanna Moodie is best remembered for her popular account of the trials and tribulations of pioneer life in Upper Canada, most notably in her classic book *Roughing It in the Bush* published in London in 1852. Moodie had a keen eye for details. She was intelligent, progressive and fought against slavery. But she also had a bad temper, especially when she believed someone had wronged her husband, Sheriff J.W. Dunbar Moodie of Belleville, Ont.

In 1843, she sought her revenge against George Benjamin, the British-born and Jewish publisher and editor of the weekly *Belleville Intelligencer*, who had harshly criticized Dunbar's alleged bias as a returning officer in a United Province of Canada election. The sheriff subsequently lost his job as the returning officer and the Moodies, rightly or wrongly, blamed Benjamin. Moodie wrote a four-part story for the *Literary Garland*, a popular magazine published in Montreal, entitled *Richard Redpath: A Tale*.

In her story, which partly takes place in Jamaica, there is a Shylock-like character named Benjamin Levi, "the Jew editor" of the *Jamaica Observer*. There was little attempt to disguise the blatantly anti-Semitic portrait of George Benjamin as Levi, as Moodie readily admitted in her correspondence.

Benjamin was one of the more peculiar individuals in Canadian Jewish history. As his biographers, Sheldon and Judith Godfrey, relate, Benjamin's real claim to fame was his career as a municipal and provincial politician. In 1836, he won election as a clerk of the Thurlow Township, and thus was the first Jew elected to a municipal office in pre-Confederation Canada. This was one of many municipal posts he held over the years. Two decades later, in 1856, he was elected to the Province of Canada's assembly and again had "made history," as the Godfreys put it. "Benjamin was the first Jew to be elected to the Canadian parliament," they write. "He was the first Jew whose right to be seated in a British North American legislature was not contested."

But the curious thing about Benjamin was that he spent his entire adult life shunning and hiding his Jewish roots, living as a Christian. Benjamin was also likely the only known Jew to become a grandmaster of the Orange Lodge, the Protestant organization highly critical of Roman Catholicism. And yet, one of his most cherished possessions was a Hebrew prayer book in which he kept a record of his life and the births of his children.

Benjamin was born in 1799 in Brighton, England, as Moses Cohen to a family with Sephardi ancestry. Believing that being a Jew was an obstacle to success, he initially changed his name to George Benjamin (taking his mother's maiden name.) In his new guise, he immigrated to the United States and lived for a time in North Carolina, where in 1832 at the age of 33 he met and married Isabella Jacobs, a Jewish girl who was a few months shy of her 13th birthday, a young bride even for those days. They had 14 children, 12 of whom survived to adulthood. They arrived in Toronto in 1834 and then soon moved to Belleville.

While Benjamin did not advertise that he was Jewish, his critics and political opponents, like John Barker, the editor and publisher of the *Kingston British Whig*, a Reform newspaper, did not hesitate to bring up the fact.

Benjamin's political career ended in 1863 when he opted not to stand for re-election. By then, most of his children had been baptized. Nine months before he died in September 1864, and to ensure that he and Isabella would be buried in Belleville's St. Thomas' Anglican Church cemetery, the two were also baptized. Other Jewish politicians of this era did not feel the need to go to such extremes. Yet George Benjamin, who had willingly shed his identity as Moses Cohen, was not the last Jew to perceive that being Jewish was a liability to success. ■

Historian Allan Levine's most recent book is Toronto: Biography of a City.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Khaliavskaia, Anna	March 30, 2016	Private
Newman, Albert Lawrence	March 31, 2016	Private
Morris, Mel	April 1, 2016	110 Promenade Circle
Levy, George	April 3, 2016	28 Lansbury Crt
Yunusov, Grigory	April 3, 2016	15 Torresdale Ave

LIONEL SEYMORE BALINSKY ז"ל
January 7, 1922 – April 10, 2006

In loving memory of a wonderful husband, a devoted father and grandfather, a loyal friend, "a real mensch", who is greatly missed and forever remembered with love by his wife, children, and grandchildren.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Leah Berenstein	Mar 27/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Lanny Himelfarb	Mar 28/16	71 Moorcrest Drive
Julius Mandel	Mar 28/16	25 Brunswick Avenue
Larry Ungerman	Mar 27/16	561 Avenue Road
Gertrude Dvorkin	Mar 26/16	775 Manning Avenue
Joe Halawani	Mar 31/16	28 Blue Grouse Road
Max Shapiro	Apr 1/16	7460 Bathurst Street
Dr. Michael Goldberg	Apr 1/16	85 Skymark Drive

HEBREW BASIC

Raisa Grosman	Mar 29/16	4300 Bathurst St.
Katerina Jurecky	Apr 2/16	39 Chaplin Cres.

BEING JEWISH DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE EXPENSIVE!

THE ISRAELI SOURCE
2006-2016
10 YEARS OF SAVINGS!

LET MY PEOPLE SAVE!

YOU CAN EXPECT CANADA'S BEST DEALS ON ALL YOUR PASSOVER NEEDS

SHMURAH MATZAH • SEDER PLATES • PASSOVER COOKBOOKS
KITCHENWARE • HOSTESS GIFTS • TOYS • ARTS/CRAFTS • GREETING CARDS

AFTER

NOW!

IN PRIZES TO BE GIVEN OUT IN OUR AFIKOMAN RIDDLE CHALLENGE! VISIT ISRAELISOURCE.COM/AFIKOMAN TO PLAY!

SAVE UP TO 70%!
FROM $9.99 PER 500g (1.1 lbs)
Handmade Shmurah Matzah Mehadrin, Product of Israel

SAVE 50%!
$2.49 BUY 10 AND GET ANOTHER 2 FREE!
Rabbi Nathan Goldberg Haggadah Hebrew/English

SAVE 33%!
$99.99
Shabbat & Yom Tov Warming Tray Large Size, Stainless Steel Finish

SAVE $$$!
FROM $24.99
Kiddush Cup Sets Nickel or Silver Finish

SAVE 66%!
FROM 49¢
26-Hour Yahrzeit Candles

SAVE 40%!
FROM $74.99
Shabbat & Yom Tov Compliant Kitchen Water Pot

SAVE 60%!
$9.99
Acrylic Flip-Top Lid Matzah Box For Square Machine-Made Matzah

SAVE 25%!
$199.99
Aluminium Seder Plate, Multicolour By Yair Emanuel

SAVE 25%!
$14.99
"Who Am I?" Headbanz-Style Passover Game

SAVE 20%!
$25.99
Haggadah, Hebrew/English with R' Steinsaltz's Commentary

SAVE 80%!
FROM $9.99
Antique Finish Seder Plate Nickel or Pewter

SAVE 72%!
ONLY $99.99
96-Piece Kosher Kitchen Colour-Coded Accesory Set

SAVE 30%!
$13.99
"Tic-Tac-Toad" Wood Passover Game

SAVE 33%!
$7.99
Disposable Crystal-Effect Wine Cups, 8-Pack 3oz Size - Perfect for Seder!

SAVE $$$!
FROM $11.99
Matzah Covers, 3-Layer Satin, Assorted

SAVE 20%!
$23.99
Haggadah, Hebrew/English with Rabbi Sacks's Commentary

SAVE 43%!
FROM $3.99
Welch's Manischewitz Concord Grape Juice, 1.9L
Suitable for Kiddush and 4 Cups

SAVE 38%!
$59.99
Veggie Bug-Checker Light From the makers of KosherLamp

SAVE 50%!
FROM $19.99
Stain Resistant Tablecloths 90"x132"

SAVE 31%!
$8.99
Bib, "Who Stole My Matzah?"

SAVE 50%!
$39.99
Seder Plate, Wood with Silver Effect 3 Legs

Prices shown are guaranteed maximums from April 7 until April 13, while supplies last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Some items may be final sales, check at point of sale. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion, and we cannot be responsible for typographical errors in product prices or descriptions.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE
SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 16TH, 10:00PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT
HUGE SAVINGS AND AN AFIKOMAN HUNT WITH FREE PRIZES!
SEE www.israelisource.com/midnightmadness FOR DETAILS

SUN APR 17	MON APR 18	TUE APR 19	WED APR 20	THU APR 21	FRI APR 22	SAT APR 23
10-6	10-7	10-7	10-7	10-8	10-3	CLOSED
SUN APR 24	MON APR 25	TUE APR 26	WED APR 27	THU APR 28	FRI APR 29	SAT APR 30
CLOSED	12-4	12-4	12-4	12-4	CLOSED	CLOSED

60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill · info@israelisource.com · (905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

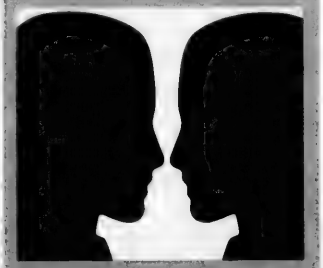
CJN

APRIL 21, 2016 • NISSAN 13, 5776

$2.00 • 120 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

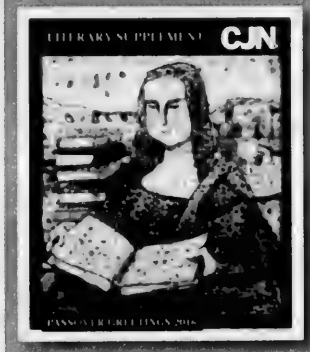
Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside



What can be achieved by Jewish-Muslim dialogue?

Proponents say mutual trust is key, but is that even possible? **PAGE 22**



Our annual celebration of Jewish literature

Featuring new fiction from Nora Gold and Judy Batalion. **SPECIAL SECTION**

Pesach

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:50 p.m.	8:57 p.m.
Montreal	7:32 p.m.	8:40 p.m.
Ottawa	7:40 p.m.	8:48 p.m.
Toronto	7:52 p.m.	8:58 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:16 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
Calgary	8:26 p.m.	9:42 p.m.
Vancouver	7:58 p.m.	9:11 p.m.

Why be Jewish? Here's why

In a new book, the late Edgar Bronfman considers how Judaism has survived for 4,000 years and determines that it starts in the family home. **Excerpt PAGE 8**

This debate is a family affair

Barbara Kay and Jonathan Kay explore the motivations of left-wing Jews. **PAGE 32**

Next year in Hamilton?

New initiatives offer alternatives to the high cost of living in Toronto. **PAGE 12**

When 4 questions just aren't enough

The reality of Jewish families turns the modern seder into a lesson in inclusion. **PAGE 56**

Kinky Boots
WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY PASSOVER!
FINAL SHOW MAY 15
ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE 416-872-1212 mirvish.com

Harper advises Jewish Republicans, and a Panama Papers painting

Alive and well in Las Vegas

The suddenly reclusive Stephen Harper turned up in Las Vegas to advise U.S. right-wingers on how to unite fractious parties. The defeated Conservative prime minister spoke at a private dinner April 7 hosted by billionaire Sheldon Adelson at his Venetian Hotel, as part of the Republican Jewish Coalition's spring meetings, *Politico* reported. Harper's spokesperson said his talk demonstrated his continued support for Israel. "He was not paid to attend the event and was not paid to speak," she told *Huffington Post*.

Artwork held in Geneva

An alleged Nazi-looted painting by Jewish artist Amedeo Modigliani was seized in a criminal investigation in Geneva, earlier this month. Ownership of the 1918 work, *Seated Man with a Cane*, was disclosed as part of the leak of the Panama Papers, the 11.5 million documents from Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca related to off-shore accounts that's causing scandals worldwide. The painting was revealed to be owned by Jewish art dealer David Nahmad through his International Art Center (IAC), a firm set up by Mossack Fonseca that bought the work in 1996. It's worth up to $25 million(U.S.).

Modigliani's *Seated Man With a Cane*

The Nahmad family had denied owning the painting, which was stolen from art dealer Oscar Stettiner, who fled Paris in 1938. The Nahmad family now says the IAC bought it in good faith and there's no proof Stettiner ever owned it. The Nazis auctioned the painting in 1944. Stettiner filed a claim to it in 1946, but died in 1948 before recouping it. A grandson has been trying to recover it in the U.S. courts. He hired Mondex, a Toronto art recovery firm, to find it in 2011.

Maybe if you listen very hard...

A California judge ruled this month that a trial will be needed to see if Led Zeppelin stole the opening notes for its 1971 classic *Stairway to Heaven* from the mid-'60s song *Taurus* by late Jewish guitarist Randy Wolfe, who fronted the band Spirit. Wolfe's estate argues Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page and Robert Plant heard *Taurus* when the bands played at some of the same festivals in the 1960s. The trial is slated to start May 10. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Passover Food	41	What's New	62
Perspectives	7	News	12	Jewish Life	47	Q&A	68
Cover Story	8	International	36	Social Scene	60	Parshah	70

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Gematria

174

The number of Oberlin professors who signed a letter condemning an anti-Semitic Facebook post by colleague Joy Karega.

$700,000

The U.S. dollar value of a Google grant to Tikkun Olam Makers, an Israel-based initiative producing technology to help people with disabilities

Quotable

"

A lot of it is just socio-babble joined together by one very strong ideological filament.

— Jonathan Kay on left-wing nostrums being taught at U.S. liberal arts colleges. See p. 32.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz looks at seders for people who find themselves far from home.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

מצבות המפעל

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

• Monuments Available Within 1 Week
• Cemetery Lettering and Restoration

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.
DOWNSVIEW

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Happy Passover

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Gaza doctor replies

I just read the article, "Rights museum criticized for featuring Palestinian doctor," (April 14):

It was sad to see an academic judge without knowing and that *The CJN* gave him a stage. I expect *The CJN* to spread tolerance, truth, kindness and wisdom. There is enough hatred and suffering for all.

I would like to invite Haskel Greenfield to attend my lecture and have a sincere and authentic dialogue about what can be done to have Palestinians and Israelis living together as equal citizens and being free in independent states.

Izzeldin Abuelaish, MD
Toronto

Talking about the elephant

It's so nice to see Canadian Jewish and Muslim women engaging with each other in such a friendly, non-threatening way ("The state of Jewish-Muslim dialogue in Canada," April 14). If only women in, say, Israel and Palestine could take a page from this group and involve themselves in creative movement and discussions about empowerment, there could finally be a true and lasting peace.

Just kidding, of course. In the real world of the Middle East, Israel must continually assert its right to exist in the face of Arab/Muslim rejectionism, a state of affairs that has its origin in Islam's sacred texts, which record the prophet Muhammad's "Jewish problem."

I have no objection to Barbara Landau and her group shmoozing like crazy and dancing up a storm. I do, however, object to the idea that it will lead to anything of value in the larger scheme. How could it when everyone is deftly avoiding the ever-present elephant in the room: the Jews' sovereignty over their ancient, ancestral homeland and the Islamic belief that once a land has been conquered for Allah, there's no going back?

Mindy G. Alter
Toronto

The courage of Rabbi Cardozo

As co-ordinators of the David Cardozo Academy Think Tank in Jerusalem, we know Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo well, though we do not agree with all of his views (such disagreement is something he himself encourages). We are some of the people who "relieve Rabbi Cardozo's religious loneliness," as Rabbi Dow Marmur wrote, ("A timid hero," April 7).

While we appreciated Rabbi Marmur's call against isolationism and for uniting to take action, in Rabbi Cardozo's case, throwing in his lot with the progressive movements would be inauthentic to his beliefs and undermine his goals. Rabbi Cardozo's commitment to Halachah is total and traditional in a way that other movements, even perhaps the Conservative movement's, are not. This remains a fundamental and unbridgeable difference, even when he pushes for changes in Halachah. Though he is absolutely willing to learn from all denominations (and religions) in order to create a more humane, moral and authentically Jewish Halachah, joining forces with people who reject the Orthodox community's mechanisms for halachic change does not accomplish his stated goals.

Rabbi Marmur claims that Orthodoxy is not for Rabbi Cardozo. But since Rabbi Cardozo is trying to wrest Halachah away from those responsible for its stagnation, who are undoubtedly Orthodox Jews, his message must in large measure be aimed at these groups. In his view, the only way to wrest a stagnated Orthodoxy away from the Orthodox in order to rejuvenate it and return it to its authentic state is by disturbing it from within, broadcasting to those willing to listen and to whom the message is relevant. It is not Rabbi Marmur's congregants (we assume) who end up having to recite by rote prayers hundreds of years old, for fear of tinkering with established liturgy, or who struggle with the laws around drinking wine poured by a non-Jew!

Rabbi Cardozo's mission is to provide a bold voice calling for Orthodox Judaism to become the most elevated, thrilling and noble path that it can be. He consistently points to aspects that are based on fear and diasporic thinking and will not let us rest in our comfortable, routine Orthodox lives, calling us to think more, do more, and be more.

In light of Rabbi Cardozo's willingness to stand his ground, at personal cost, Rabbi Marmur's musings about his "timidity" and "insecurity" astonished us.

Yael Unterman, Yael Valler
David Cardozo Academy Think Tank
Jerusalem

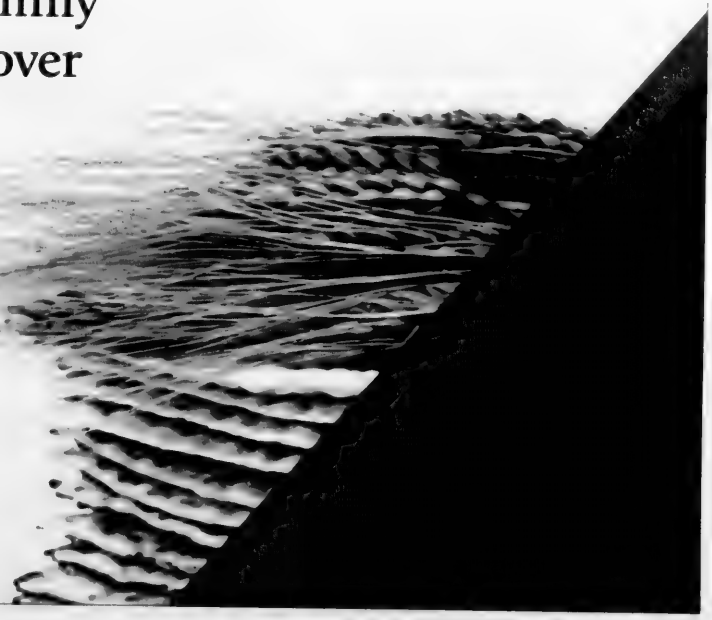
Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.

Wishing you and your family
a warm and happy Passover

Stern Cohen
— ACCOUNTANTS —

We deliver the
Accounting Services
you depend on.

416-967-5100 • www.sterncohen.com
45 St. Clair Avenue West, 14th Floor, Toronto



Benjamin
Group
Through the generations
...a sacred trust

PESACH

At the sedar table we relive the deeds of our ancestors as though we ourselves had been there. Thus are the generations bridged, the past propelling us into the future with a renewed sense of purpose, and commitment... one that we accept as a sacred trust.

Chag Sameach

2401 Steeles Ave., West, Toronto
416-663-9060
www.thebenjamingroup.ca

The Benjamin Group companies:
Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel; Benjamin's Landmark Monuments; The Benjamin Foundation; The Benjamin Institute; Benjamin's Lifecycle Financial Services

RABBI-2-RABBI

What does liberation mean?

Reading our individual and collective cries for leadership into the Passover story can help us move toward our own 'land of freedom'

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO

RABBI MARK FISHMAN
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH, MONTREAL

Rabbi Fishman: Liberation. It's such a loaded term.

On Pesach, we read in the Haggadah that "had God not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children, and our children's children would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt." It's a bold claim. But I instinctively feel that it's not meant to be taken literally.

Rather, we are being taught that there is a kind of slavery that consists of an emotional and spiritual state. This cognitive prison is what we were once redeemed from. The lesson is that if we were given the spiritual and emotional ability to be freed from slavery before, then each of us has it within our abilities to be freed from what holds us back today as well.

Rabbi Splansky: Your comment reminds me of the relationship between the Wise Child and the Simple Child. The Wise One asks: "What is the meaning of the laws, statutes and rules which God has commanded?" The Simple One asks: "What is this about?" Most Haggadahs answer the Wise with details of Halachah and the Simple with talk of miracles and wonder.

But in the Jerusalem Talmud, Rabbi Chiya suggests just the opposite. The Wise One demonstrates an ability for critical thinking, so Rabbi Chiya wants to awaken her capacity for spiritual pursuits. He redirects her to behold the miracle – "the mighty hand" of The Eternal God who brought us out of Egypt. By contrast, the Simple One is naturally open to God's presence in the world, so Rabbi Chiya cultivates in him an intellectual approach, instructing him in the laws of Pesach.

The message is that both mind and spirit are required for any act of liberation.

Rabbi Fishman: My constant hope with all Jewish texts is that those learning them can pause for long enough to actually internalize them. So often I see people breezing through learning a Jewish topic and approaching it intellectually. Yet Pesach is the season where we are enjoined to experientially live through these lessons. My picture of a successful seder is one in which those around the table pause and ask themselves real and difficult questions.

Slavery and liberation are such powerful themes, because they apply to each one of us. The question that always needs to be asked, therefore, is: how does this affect me? How might the story of Passover help each of us move forward towards our own "land of freedom"?

Rabbi Splansky: That is the very definition of the Rebellious Child. Stubborn, stuck in his own narrow identity, the Rebellious One does not have faith in his own ability to advance into the wilderness. Because he needs control, he limits himself and his capacity to grow.

That is what it means when the Hagaddah sternly warns: "Had he been there, he would not have been redeemed." It's a kind of spiritual immaturity that keeps the rebel in chains. The only way to soften the lines he draws between "me singular" and "you plural" is to love him even more.

Rabbi Fishman: Perhaps the most powerful observation about the Exodus is that the Jewish People were not ready to leave Egypt. In fact they needed a pushy outsider, Moses, to prod them toward their destination.

I think the Exodus story of liberation is teaching us that in our own lives, we all need a Moses figure who can push and pull and prompt us to move ahead. In a sense, the question at this time is less "Can I emerge from my sense of being stuck?" and more, "Who can guide me to the next stage of the journey?"

If we can have the courage to confront these question, then I believe we will have a successful Pesach.

Rabbi Splansky: The world is indeed desperate for good leadership. But even before Moses enters the scene as our leading man, the people show initiative. The trigger for the Exodus was the people's cry.

In 400 years of slavery, we did not cry out to God for help. Our liberation begins with that cry. The people were finally united in their suffering – ready, willing and able to be redeemed from it. The collective cry is the pivot point in our story, the invitation for leadership, both human and Divine, to emerge. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 16 (2,242)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription Inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933 E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

BOGOROCH
& ASSOCIATES LLP
LAWYERS

If your child has suffered a birth injury as a result of hospital or medical malpractice, choosing the right lawyer is one of the most important decisions you can make on their behalf.

At Bogoroch & Associates LLP, we understand how vitally important it is to you and your family to obtain the compensation needed to cover the cost of your injured child's special needs and medical expenses, and to ensure the best future possible for your child. As one of Ontario's leading personal injury law firms, with a proven track record of success and a reputation for outstanding client service, we will ensure your case is handled with **skill, efficiency, and compassion**.

We provide **free consultations** and only get paid if we **recover money for you**. We would be pleased to meet with you at your home, or arrange for you to attend our office in Toronto. With a team of over 40 people, Bogoroch & Associates LLP prides itself on keeping clients informed and up-to-date on the progress of their case. Any questions or concerns you have will be dealt with within 24 hours or less.

To learn more about us, view our client testimonials, and read about birth injuries, please visit our website at bogoroch.com.

Call us for a free consultation.

Dedicated to improving the lives of injured victims and their families.

personal injury • medical malpractice
slip and fall • products liability • disability claims

2015 16
TOP 10
PERSONAL INJURY
BOUTIQUES
Canadian Lawyer

Toll free: 1.866.599.1700 Tel: 416.599.1700 Email: info@bogoroch.com Web: bogoroch.com

Bogoroch & Associates LLP, Lawyers — Sun Life Financial Tower, 150 King Street West, Suite 1901, Toronto, ON M5H 1J9

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergio **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Wartime seders (redux)

ALEX DWORKIN CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES (FORMERLY CJCCC NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

Several astute readers called *The CJN* offices last week to comment on the seder picture we published April 14. (pictured here again above). Originally we stated it was taken at a Prince Rupert, B.C., seder for servicemen in 1943. In fact, it turns out it's actually from the second seder for Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, held at Isow's restaurant in London, England, in 1945. Canadian Chaplain Rabbi Jacob Eisen officiated. *The CJN* regrets the error and thanks our readers for setting us straight.

Meanwhile, pictured below is (we hope) the picture from the Prince Rupert army base, circa 1943, that we alluded to last week.

ALEX DWORKIN CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES (FORMERLY CJCCC NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

From Yoni's Desk

A Pesach miracle

The day before Pesach is always a race against time. Meals need to be prepared, chametz must be disposed of, tables require setting, and someone has to screw up the courage to grate the maror. By seder time, everyone is feeling exhausted, and yet exhilarated. It's the same story every year – or at least it was for me, until last year.

On the day before Pesach last year, my wife and I packed up our daughter and our dog and shipped them off to my parents' house, where we were planning to spend the holiday for the first time since we'd started dating. In the intervening years, we had always attended seders on the screened-in porch of my wife's grandmother's farm in Niagara, kept warm and cozy by a wood-burning stove (and four glasses of wine). Last year, though, we knew we would have to stay in Toronto.

I finished cleaning up at home, burned the remaining chametz on the barbecue out back and locked up. My wife was already in the car with one final piece of luggage. But we weren't headed to join the festivities at my parents' place. There was the small matter of welcoming our second child to attend to first.

We checked in at the hospital, where they confirmed that today was to be the day – just not yet. So, we drove to a trendy nearby neighbourhood, and, as a cold rain fell, walked up and down the streets, ducking into stores aimlessly. We were both trying to keep the mood light, laughing at the sheer ridiculousness of the situation. Then the hospital called. It was time.

Our son was born minutes before the onset of Pesach. The three of us – my wife, the boy, whom we named after my maternal grandfather, and I – ushered in the holiday together at the hospital. Our daughter would meet him the next morning when she awoke. Her reaction was much more – shall we say – positive than mine when my younger sister was born almost 34 years ago. ("When are you taking her back?" I reportedly asked.)

A year later, we are preparing for a return engagement at my parents – the farm will have to wait another year, alas. The tiny creature we brought to the house I grew up in as midnight approached on that first night of Pesach, just as my father opened the door to welcome Elijah, has grown into a little man with an infectious smile. Our daughter has matured so much it seems unbelievable.

Without a doubt, this has been the most challenging year of our lives – having two kids, after all, makes raising one seem like, well, child's play. (As for the dog, he might have had the roughest year of us all after he tore a ligament and required surgery to install a metal rod in one of his hind legs. But that won't stop him from enjoying his matzah brei.)

It's all been worth it, of course. And as our family prepares to celebrate our people's freedom, this year we'll have an extra story of Passover liberation to talk – and laugh – about at the seder.

Chag Samayach. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

The evolution of the Haggadah: a collector's perspective

Ellis Macmull

My interest in Haggadahs was sparked by a visit to Toronto's Ed Mirvish Art Gallery in 1974. Browsing through a Haggadah by Herbert Bronstein, I was captivated by the illustrations of Leonard Baskin. Since then, I have acquired new Haggadot each year in anticipation of the Passover holiday.

My memories of the Passover celebration revert back to my childhood in Mumbai (Bombay), India, seated around the festive table with extended family and friends. We read from a menagerie of well-used Haggadot, each sporting varying degrees of wine stains accumulated over the years. My great-grandparents emigrated from Baghdad, bringing with them Haggadot of the Sephardi liturgy. A few additions to our table were printed in Livorno, Italy, with the Ladino translation. Some Haggadot included an Arabic translation within the Hebrew script, which we read as well, extending the festivities past the midnight hour.

A product of Diaspora Judaism, the Haggadah was written by the great post-talmudic rabbis studying in Babylonian academies. The earliest extant written manuscript, a relatively complete fragment dated around the ninth and 10th century, was found in the Cairo *genizah*, a repository for discarded sacred writings.

Prior to the printing press, illuminated Haggadah manuscripts appeared in the 1300s. One of the earliest of these is the Ashkenazi *Bird's Head Haggadah*, a manuscript whose illustrations depict humans with bird-like faces wearing conical hats. Such a motif was employed due to the prohibition against graven images of human likeness. Portrayal of human figures with animal and bird-like heads were typically expressed in Jewish manuscripts in south Germany at the time. French Torah scholars, on the other hand, had a more accepting and moderate approach to the portrayal of the human form.

Jews throughout time have created lavishly decorated Haggadot. These are labours of love, the most extensively decorated of all Hebrew manuscripts. The distinctive *Golden Haggadah*, known for its generous use of gold leaf, emerged around 1320 and currently resides in the British Library. The exquisite *Sarajevo Haggadah*, which can be found at the National Museum of Sarajevo, is considered to be one of the oldest Sephardi Haggadot. It is handwritten on bleached calfskin and illuminated in copper and gold. Originating in Barcelona around 1350, it has had a turbulent history, having changed hands several times and surviving many close calls with destruction.

The birth of the printed Haggadah in the 15th century led to new innovations in creativity. Some Haggadot were illustrated with medieval woodcuts. The most famous of these, the *Prague Haggadah* of 1526, served as a prototype for those that followed.

Over the years, I have added to my Haggadah collection some older copies from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a few illustrated from woodcuts or copper engravings. They include one published by Eliyahu ben Amozeg and Sons in Leghorn (Livorno), Italy, in 1865, printed, according to the Baghdad rite, in both Judeo-Arabic and Hebrew, and illustrated with woodcut blocks, depicting an embellished Hebrew letter at the start of a paragraph. Another, the *Rodelheim Haggadah Shel Pasach*, printed in 1863 with a German translation by Abraham Emanuel, illustrates the Exodus story within a medieval backdrop of knights and castles.

During the latter half of the last century, there was an explosion in contemporary Jewish art. Political artists such as Arthur Szyk filled the pages of their Haggadot with Jewish heroes and stunning calligraphy. Early modernist Marc Chagall brought a name to the art form that all could recognize, and later, Israeli artist David Moss revived the art of the illuminated Haggadah. Multiple editions of his prized *Moss Haggadah* have been published. Printed in elaborate folio editions showcasing full-page illustrations, these books are as suitably displayed on a coffee table as on a seder table.

A page from the *Bird's Head Haggadah*

Modern Jewish history has not only brought changes in printing and illustration methods, but in the very content of the Haggadah. Two major events have significantly contributed to the restructuring of today's Haggadah: the Holocaust and the struggle for an independent homeland. The *Survivors' Haggadah* is a unique post-Holocaust facsimile, created by survivors and displaced persons after the liberation, in preparation for the Passover holiday of 1946. Dedicated to those that escaped, the story of Jewish survival is interwoven with the traditional seder and illustrated with stark woodcuts created by survivor Miklos Adler, depicting the heart-wrenching deliverance to freedom. *Escape Velocity* is another apocalyptic Passover Haggadah, by Stanley Aaron Lebovic, son of a Holocaust survivor. Lebovic soulfully weaves memories of the decimation of European Jewry into the traditional Haggadah.

The closing words of the Haggadah, "next year in Jerusalem," were realized with the establishment of the State of Israel. New Haggadot provided testimony to the lives and ideals of the Jewish state's builders and depicted the renewed aspirations of Jews in their homeland. A prime example is Chaya and David Harel's *Rebirth of Israel Passover Haggadah*, printed in 1968, which provides an analogy of the Exodus story in the framework of the Jewish liberation and birth of Israel.

The 1969 *Freedom Seder*, produced in honour of Martin Luther King Jr., launched a new era of diversity in themed Haggadot. These include texts that focus on egalitarianism, feminism, the LGBTQ community, environmentalism and other causes that emphasize social and political justice. They are personalized, revised and recast so that the Haggadah remains relevant to our lives today.

While the structure of the Haggadah remains the same, the text has become a dais of creative ideas, emphasizing the theme of freedom. It has become a means of expression for a people targeted for victimhood. ■

Ellis Macmull is an architectural designer/planner.

FOREMOST IN GROWING YOUR BREAD, EVEN UNLEAVENED, EVERY DAY.

6.6%* LAST 12 MONTHS

FIRST MORTGAGE FUND • GTA FOCUS MINIMIZES DOWNSIDE RISK • RRSP / TFSA / RIF ELIGIBLE

TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN FOREMOST MORTGAGE TRUST PLEASE CALL:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

FOREMOST FINANCIAL

*This material is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell a security. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Foremost Mortgage Trust (the "Trust") is available only to qualified investors in Ontario. The return represents the net compounded / geometric return for investors who [illegible] from February 1, '15 to January 31, '16. Foremost Financial Corporation is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer in Ontario. This information is inherently limited in scope and potential qualified investors should read the Trust's offering memorandum carefully prior to investing. Lic. #10342, #11654

The invisible thread that unites all Jews

In an excerpt from a new book, the late Edgar Bronfman looks back on his life and considers why Judaism has survived for 4,000 years

EDGAR M. BRONFMAN

One who teaches his son Torah, it is considered as if he taught his son, his son's son, and so on to the end of generations.

-The Talmud, Kiddushin 30a

Honour your Father and Mother.

-Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16

One of the things I treasure most about Judaism is its emphatic insistence on the importance of family. In Judaism, we constantly find the message that life should be led within the community's embrace, not in isolation, and that family is at the centre of the community. My own home growing up was quite formal – I mostly feared my father and my mother was often remote – but the Jewish emphasis on family was nonetheless a sacrosanct value.

This value resonated with me during one of the most moving moments in my life: when I received a last blessing from my maternal grandfather. Throughout my childhood Gramps and I had been very close. He was tall with a goatee and though religious, he was not overly serious; he had a carefree manner and was always advising everyone to "take it easy." This attitude came through in everything about him. On the eve of my sister's wedding, for example, an uncle died. As an educated, religious Jew, Gramps was asked to rule on whether or not the wedding should go forward. Consistent with his character, Gramps ruled in favour of the mitzvah that stated joy should overcome sadness.

I also remember how Gramps would take me, my brother, and cousins to a tiny, hole-in-the-wall deli called Ben's and on mountains walks. As we noshed on smoked meat sandwiches or strolled through the crisp air, Gramps would quietly share his experiences with us, easily moving from the personal to the philosophical. But whatever the topic, he never instructed.

> *I am not clear on why I thought less of my Jewish friends than of my elite Protestant companions*

He just talked and gave us the space to arrive at our own conclusions.

When I was in my early 20s, I went to see him. I somehow I sensed this would be the last time we would meet (and it was) so I asked him for a blessing. I can still see him wrapping himself up in his blue and white prayer shawl, striking up a match, and lighting a candle. As he recited the ancient words, I felt moved to my marrow. I could almost physically feel an invisible thread joining us – first me to him, and then the two of us to our ancient forebears. With this, I stepped into a cycle of existence far greater than anything I could ever know or hope to understand, something I found immensely reassuring. To this day, whenever I recall the sensation of his hand gently resting on my head and hear the musical sound of his soft Hebrew in my memory, I am overwhelmed by an indescribable sense of loss and longing.

Sadly, the bond I felt then to my Jewish heritage did not further develop, and shortly thereafter I abandoned it all together. Part of this, I'm sure, is that despite my closeness to my grandfather, my connection to Judaism was weak. My parents, for whatever reason, failed to instill much-needed Jewish pride in their children. Though they gave us some Jewish education and contributed generously to Jewish causes during the war, my father seemed extremely conflicted about his Judaism; I would go so far as to say he harboured animosity. The contradictory ways in which the Judaism of my parents expressed itself created a deep ambivalence in me. One area in which this ambivalence played itself out was their choices for my education.

Because Father was a real Anglophile – he loved everything English – my brother, Charles, and I did not attend Jewish schools, but were sent to the Selwyn House School, a place that enrolled few Jewish boys. This arrangement resulted in us having two sets of friends: the Protestants at Selwyn House, and the Jewish kids from the synagogue, a place we viewed with less than enthusiasm. I don't think my parents ever understood how confusing this arrangement was for their children and how in my eyes, it automatically reduced our Jewish friends to the status of second-class companions. Even now, decades later, I am not clear on why I thought less of my Jewish friends than of my elite Protestant companions. I am afraid it's because I was reflecting my parents' feelings on the subject.

My parents' ambivalence about their Jewishness also showed up when I procured a golf caddy job at the Alpine Inn. There was a man from New York, a Mr. Kenny, who insisted on an English-speaking caddy. Unless he got one, Mr. Kenny would take his business elsewhere. As English-speaking caddies were rare, I sensed a negotiating opportunity and in the end not only got the caddying job, but succeeded in getting to play golf for free in the afternoon.

When I got home, I proudly told Mother of my employment victory. When she heard my story, her face took on a worried expression, and she informed me that I wasn't strong enough to caddy. Since my mother wasn't a typical Jewish mother, this response struck me as unusual. But when I hotly contested her assessment of my abilities, she offered no explanation. Instead, she offered to pay me what I would make in the morning if I agreed not to caddy in the afternoon.

What I didn't know at the time was the Alpine Inn was restricted – Jews were not welcome. Rather than tackle the topic of anti-Semitism head on, Mother avoided it. In fact, she bought me off.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

aufgang travel
Happy Passover!
Specializing in:
Jewish Heritage Tours in Europe
Bar/Bat Mitzvah (customized/guaranteed departures)
Special interest tours to Israel for groups & individuals
Special Needs Arrangements
Cruising & Luxury Travel
1.800.789.7117
aufgangtravel.com
7851 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill ON Ont. Reg #50012754
SIM CARD RENTALS FOR TOURISTS
Need a cell phone or SIM card for your trip to Israel?
GET 1 DAY FREE, if you book travel arrangements with Aufgang Travel. ONLY $6/DAY USD plus VAT
555 MOBILITY

CIJA
חג כשר ושמח
Wishing our community
a very happy Passover
This year why not serve
Israeli wine at your Seder?
Buying Israeli-made products
is a great way to support
Israelis and celebrate all
that Israel has to offer.
BUYcott Israel is a CIJA program that
mobilizes the pro-Israel community in
Canada and around the world to
purchase Israeli products. BUYcott
empowers people to fight anti-Israel
that support Israel and strengthen
the Israeli economy.
NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!
cija.ca/buycott

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 21, 2016

My coffee with Israeli MK Ayman Odeh

Mira Sucharov

With so much justified concern over Israel's occupation, it's easy to forget about the challenges facing the country's Palestinian citizen minority. Last year's Israeli elections brought "Arab Israelis" – now numbering roughly 20 per cent of Israel's population – to centre stage, first by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chilling statement that the Arabs "were coming to vote in droves," and then by the 13 seats won by the Joint List, headed by Ayman Odeh, making it the third-largest Knesset bloc.

I sat with Odeh recently over fair-trade coffee and pecan squares at a Bridgehead coffee shop in Ottawa, where he was between meetings with members of Parliament. With his hosts – members of the Palestinian-Canadian community – nearby, Odeh and I spoke in our best common language: Hebrew.

Odeh is serious, focused and warm. His message is simple and compelling: extend equality and deepen democracy in Israel. He is troubled by the discrimination he sees as rampant. There is the disparate school funding issue. There is the fact there are hundreds of towns and villages from which Arab residents are effectively barred due to vague "social suitability" criteria. There are the dozens of unrecognized villages in the Negev. And there is the fact that hundreds of "Jewish" towns have been built since 1948, but hardly any Arab towns. (Whether Jews or Arabs can easily live in "each other's" towns partly depends on access to schooling in their own language.)

While he's a "big supporter" of the Hand in Hand bilingual school network, he would like to see widespread curriculum reform.

Having been raised in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Haifa, Oded is passionate about coexistence and educational biculturalism. "I love the poetry of Shaul Tchernichovsky and of Rachel [Bluwstein Sela]. It enriches me. I know about the history of the Jews, the pogroms, anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust."

But he is frustrated that Jewish schoolchildren don't learn Arabic as a matter of course, and what's more, the Ministry of Education severely truncates the study of Palestinian history and culture. "They let us study Palestinian poetry from 100 years ago, but nothing about contemporary Palestinian struggles."

He realizes that there is a broader state-building aim to this – one that rubs up uncomfortably against Palestinian identity. The goal of the Jewish-Israeli establishment, as Odeh perceives it, is to "build an Arab-Israeli identity" divorced from its Palestinian roots. "We want to be 100 per cent citizens," he tells me, but "this can only be done in a democratic, equal state for everyone."

While he declares support for any non-violent struggle against the occupation, including boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS), he is a passionate believer in a two-state solution and is not afraid to push back on BDS advocates who advance different goals. Believing Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to be "pragmatic" and committed to "peace and the two-state solution," Odeh blames Netanyahu for the lack of progress toward peace

Odeh returns to the theme of the collective good frequently. "If we're talking about the end of the occupation, it's a joint interest. Same with democracy and equality in Israel."

At least one Israeli establishment figure, Avrum Burg, a former speaker of the Knesset, has cast his lot with Hadash (Odeh's home party). In a recent podcast, Burg said that it's time for Israel to end "Jewish privilege." Most Israeli Jews, though, fear a loss of power. A recent Pew study revealed that 79 per cent of Israeli Jews say that when it comes to other citizens, Jews "deserve preferential treatment."

I asked Odeh whether, if his vision were to succeed, Israelis might, over time, lose their culture, their language or the rhythms of life in a Jewish state. "We have a real problem," he replies, whereas "you are talking about theoretical problems."

Ultimately, he says, in a message that's hard to argue with, "universal values protect the rights of all citizens." ■

We must hand down the heirloom of our faith

Mordechai Ben-Dat

Let us imagine a rare and precious jewel that was mined countless generations ago. It sparkles with near mystical brilliance against the sun. Its many facets cast luminous, shining light in every direction. So special, the jewel has been handed down from parents to children through the many ages of the family's existence. The gemstone has been coddled and wrapped, held close to the heart and protected by each generation's guardians against all the malign efforts by thieves and villains to take it over, to destroy it.

Imagine further that it is our turn to safeguard this marvellous heirloom.

Or, would we decide: Enough! The jewel has a cloudy, unclear provenance. It looks more cumbersome than elegant in this day and age. The shine is less dazzling when held against the myriad other dazzling suns of science and modern invention. And it is far too burdensome and far too expensive to keep safe for the next generation.

Would we break faith with the generations of our kin and be rid of it? Would we sell the jewel, dispose of it quietly? Or worse: would we make a public display of our disdain for something that was so tenderly beloved by our forebears?

If we were talking about a gem, a diamond, ruby or sapphire, few of us would do so.

Who among us would deprive our children of the opportunity to behold the precious item for themselves, to polish it, adjust it, embrace it in their own ways, to make it shine ever more brightly for themselves in their own time? To do so would be tantamount to stealing something irreplaceable from them.

If we would be so scrupulous to protect and hand down to our children the invaluably timeless heirloom of a gem, then how much more should we be scrupulous in handing down the invaluably timeless heirloom of our faith: our traditions, culture, sense of peoplehood and connection to our Judaism.

As we join in the Pesach seder, perhaps we might reflect anew on the imperative of holding tight to the lifeline of our Judaism in ways true to ourselves, so that, in turn, we will be able to hand it forward to the next generation.

Each generation should be given the opportunity to decide for itself whether and how to hold on to this life-sustaining heirloom, to make it uniquely its own. No one should take that choice away from the young generation by depriving them of the ability to make a reasoned decision based upon meaningful and substantive knowledge.

The best – though not the only – way to instil such knowledge is through education.

But as we know, alas, Jewish education has grown too expensive for too many families. Making it affordable is the most pressing and compelling priority facing Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

Perhaps it's true that every generation – when pondering the far-reaching implications of the weighty issues of its time – considers itself standing at a watershed moment of permanent significance. Indeed, perhaps the long line of Jewish history is but the cumulative, sequential fording, with courage, wisdom and determination, of one watershed after another?

In the preface to his commentary on the Haggadah (*A Song of Ascents*), Rabbi Eliezer Sadan refers to a statement by Rabbi Bachya Ibn Pakuda, the 11th-century scholar, philosopher and teacher in *Chovot Halevavot* (*Obligations of our Hearts*) that warrants our attention. More than a statement of philosophy, it is a rallying call to action.

"Caution itself counsels not to be overly cautious. If those who seek to make the world a better place or to elevate the moral standards of their generation were to wait until their projects reached perfection, then since the time of the prophets, all would remain forever mute."

At this year's seder, let us resolve not to take away from our children what our ancestors gave us, lovingly, to pass forward. ■

We may need to revisit our priorities

Rabbi Jay Kelman, CPA, CA

Isaac Newton's third rule of motion states that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. This rule of physics also applies in the moral and spiritual realms. The greater the potential for good, the greater the potential for evil. Nuclear energy has the potential for cheap, plentiful, reliable energy while lowering greenhouse emissions and, at the same time, has the potential to destroy the world.

This idea stands behind a rabbinic midrash that teaches the Messiah will be (or maybe already has been) born on Tisha b'Av. The day when we commemorate the great tragedies of Jewish history, including those that did not occur on Tisha b'Av, is the day renewal can begin. The deeper we sink, the higher we can rise. It's not by chance our tradition teaches that a repentant sinner can reach greater heights than one who has not tasted sin. When the energy used for negative purposes is harnessed for something positive the potential for good is increased – more so than had nothing negative transpired. The best person to teach the dangers of alcohol abuse is a recovering alcoholic (there's no such thing as a recovered alcoholic).

I was thinking of the above as I reflected on the amazing retirement of Adam Laroche, former first baseman for the Chicago White Sox. He was in line to earn $13 million this year, but walked away when he was asked by the team's management to curtail his habit of bringing his teenage son into the locker room. As the team noted, "In what profession does one have the right to bring their son to work?" While that sounds reasonable, Laroche has been bringing his son Drake to the clubhouse regularly for the last five seasons, with both the White Sox and his previous team, the Washington Nationals.

His teammates were fully supportive of Laroche and reportedly had to be persuaded by their manager not to skip their next game. It seems the son was well liked and was not a distraction. Baseball, after all, is not quite the same as other professions.

> *We too often witness money being the source of families breaking apart*

Whether or not ballplayers should bring their children to the clubhouse is not the issue that interests me. And the discussion about whether one can be asked to desist from an activity that was accepted with equanimity in the past, we will leave for another time. Laroche is, by any standards, a very rich man. He has earned millions of dollars over a 15-year career, including $12 million in 2015. Clearly, $13 million extra would have little or no impact on his life. In a decision that speaks volumes about his priorities, Laroche decided that spending more time with his child was worth more than $13 million. It is a powerful message and one very few would send.

Money enables us to do great good in many areas, and accumulating great wealth can be the catalyst for much good. Yet, at the same time, we too often witness money being the source of families breaking apart. Money can be the root of much evil. The truly rich are those who can use their wealth in pursuit of higher goals.

When we speak of ethical issues in the business world, we often focus on specific issues that arise in the course of our work: pricing policies, ethical advertising, conflicts of interest, hiring and firing workers, to name a few. We rarely focus on the broader issue of choosing a career that allows people to spend time with their family, to get involved in the community and to be in an environment where the highest value is not the bottom line.

Sadly, this is most difficult in an environment where a home under a million dollars is a bargain and the total cost of sending one child to Jewish day school can approach $300,000. ■

Comments to rabbijay@torahinmotion.org

Passover contradictions that get in the way

Norma Baumel Joseph

There are troublesome contradictions embedded in the traditional format of the wonderful Passover seder. I say this not because I think we need to overhaul or radically change it, but because we need to be acquainted with them so that we might avoid or lessen these pitfalls. The purpose of the seder is to talk about, act out and learn about the process of liberation, of God's redemptive action. We eat symbolic food, drink four cups of wine, tell complicated stories, utter liturgical blessings, and sing silly songs so that we can fully recognize this one great moment of *geulah*, of rescue and salvation.

But contradictions can block our full acknowledgment.

First and foremost, we are obligated to eat matzah, the poor person's bread – the bread of haste. But have you checked the price of matzah this year or, in fact, of Passover foods in general? This holiday is not a poor person's holiday. Rather, it belongs to the rich, for only the wealthy can afford these prices. Matzah prices – especially for shmurah matzah – are in the range of expensive delicacies, rather than symbolic of poor person's fare. Shopping even for the basics on Passover requires a great deal of time, effort and money. How can we claim this holiday as a national celebration of redemption when it's not redemptive for all? How can we celebrate the reversal of the matzah from poor bread to one of high cost? Additionally, as the rules play out and accumulate, there is nothing of the haste in the preparation for this holiday. It takes a great deal of time and energy to get ready. For those who work outside of the domestic environment, getting it all accomplished on time is very difficult.

However, this conflict is not inherent in the Passover ritual. We can overcome it. We can work communally to open our doors to the poor and share. We can limit our buying, cut back on the special dishes, limit the menus, be satisfied with less, and be content with simple foods. Those cost-cutting items and sharing acts are within our grasp. I don't have to make three meats, four side dishes and chocolate pudding cake. But I do have to find a way to make the seder special. And food is one of the ways. Matzah and jam just won't pass muster. Is this then all about methods and resources?

> *[The holiday] belongs to the rich, for only the wealthy can afford these prices*

The next major contradiction engages the prayer/wish "Next year in Jerusalem!" Every year we sing it rather fervently, and every year I wonder who actually means it. Some do, I know. But most of us have absolutely no intent to really go live in Israel. There are a whole bunch of good reasons preventing us from immigrating. Perhaps we mean, "Let's go visit Israel"? Truthfully, not very many North American Jews actually ever visit Israel. Why not? Perhaps we can pledge to use Israeli products in our homes or use only Israeli wine for the seder and in some way concretize this proclamation, this dedication to Jerusalem – in some way make it real, so that there is no contradiction in your praxis.

But there is a conflict that is inherent in the traditional praxis and is highlighted this year. We tell the story at night. This Passover is a leap year and falls on a Shabbat. So the seder will start very late, after dark. But we pride ourselves on the wonderful way we involve our young children with four questions, lovely songs and special foods. How can we keep them up so late? How can we tell them the story so late? How can we keep their eyes open for those funny goat songs we sing after midnight? This is our painful dilemma. How do we fix this one discrepancy: the needs of our very young and the force of tradition?

We have managed, but the struggle continues to intensify. ■

News

Initiatives seek to lure Jews from 'unaffordable' Toronto

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

The unaffordability of housing in Toronto's Jewish neighbourhoods has spurred some community leaders to lure young, growing families to areas outside the city where the cost of living is more reasonable.

A campaign called "Think Hamilton" led by Adas Israel Congregation director of operations Rabbi Chanan Weiser and the synagogue's spiritual leader Rabbi Daniel Green was initiated about a year ago.

"With expenses in Toronto being so high… we're just about 45 minutes away from Toronto, and it's a nice little option that is affordable and do-able," Rabbi Weiser said.

"The idea was really to let people know what goes on in Hamilton. I married a girl from Toronto and growing up, she didn't know anything about Hamilton. The only exposure she had to Hamilton was when you'd go down to Niagara Falls, you'd pass Hamilton and see the smoke stacks coming out of there. In her mind, there was nothing going on there."

He said Hamilton's Jewish population of about 5,000 has access to infrastructure such as shuls, Hebrew schools and kosher food. Since the campaign began last year, six Jewish families have moved from the GTA to Hamilton.

Rabbi Weiser spoke about the lower cost of living in Hamilton, which is a driving factor for young families.

He said small homes sell in the high 300s and low 400s, but there are also larger homes that range from half a million to $1 million.

In terms of the motivation to encourage Toronto Jews to move to Hamilton, "the more people you have, the more you can accomplish… in the community," said Rabbi Weiser, a California-native who chose to settle in Hamilton about four years ago to be close to his wife's family in Toronto.

"We're a GO train away from downtown Toronto. One guy who moved here from Thornhill said he didn't change jobs. His commute in total was an extra 10 minutes, and it's a more pleasant commute now that he's on the train."

He said part of the campaign is to offer an incentive of up to six months free rent for Jews moving to Hamilton.

"I calculated that saving six months rent, you save about $13,000 to $14,000, and you're on your way toward getting a down payment. It's a way to help and assist people in ways to help you get over that hump," he said, adding that the synagogue owns eight to 10 housing units that it can offer.

"We've been promoting people to come in and experience our community for a Shabbos, come visit and see what it's about."

A similar initiative called FrumCity –led by Rabbi Bernie Moskoff, Joseph Feldman and Rabbi Tsvi Heber – is also meant to address the problem with the unaffordability of Toronto's Jewish neighbourhoods.

According to the FrumCity website and an email sent to those interested in the initiative, which is still in its infancy, the idea is to create a "new Orthodox community in Innisfil, Ontario," minutes from Lake Simcoe, and to offer "a sustainable, affordable, growing, frum lifestyle, within a short commute of the GTA, by facilitating Jewish community infrastructure."

Rabbi Chanan Weiser with his wife Goldie and their three children

Rabbi Heber said the "idea is in very initial stages. We're reaching out to the community."

He added: "Obviously, you know what housing prices are like, therefore, there is an effort to put together a constituency that would move close by, within range, but a place that's cheaper. The Jewish community requires a group because of minyan and shul."

On the website, the project's originators state that "this grassroots community would welcome dozens of families, an energetic rav, shul, mikveh and possibly a community kollel at the outset."

The website clarifies that the enclave will not be "exclusively frum," as it will be part of a new community development open to the public.

"We are arranging our community to generally occupy one area at the outset."

The development of about 1,100 homes includes single, detached full brick homes starting in the low 400s.

"Our target is a minimum of 90 young families and our current list of interested families is currently at 134," the website states.

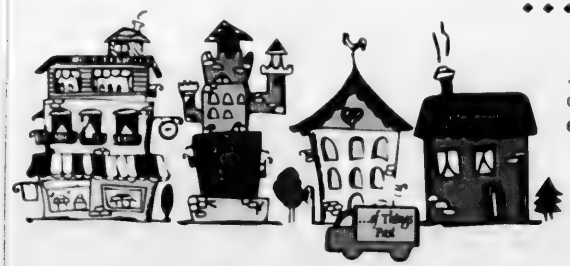
"There is an existing GO station in the south end of Barrie approximately nine minutes from the site. There is another GO station planned in Innisfil and the developer is optimistic that it will be located in close proximity to the subdivision. As well, there is a proposed highway 400 interchange."

The Tent City Jewish Congregation in Innisfil, which currently operates as a summer cottage shul, will be temporarily available to FrumCity newcomers.

But interested families should expect some growing pains.

When it comes to arranging transportation for children to get to school, there will be "a bus service or carpool option at the outset. Although this is challenging, it is part of building a new community. The more quickly this city gains traction, the faster this critical piece comes into focus." ■

For more information about Frum City, visit www.frumcity.com, and to learn more about Think Hamilton, call 905-528-0039 or email weiser.chanan@gmail.com.



...From one Fine Home to Another

Moving, Reorganizing, ReDecorating?

...of Things Past offers Home Visits and will provide a one-stop, solution for all your consignment needs. With over 20 years of experience, a team of experts and 3 locations to serve you, we are your premier choice.

Call us today for more info at 416-256-9256

Best wishes for a Happy Passover!

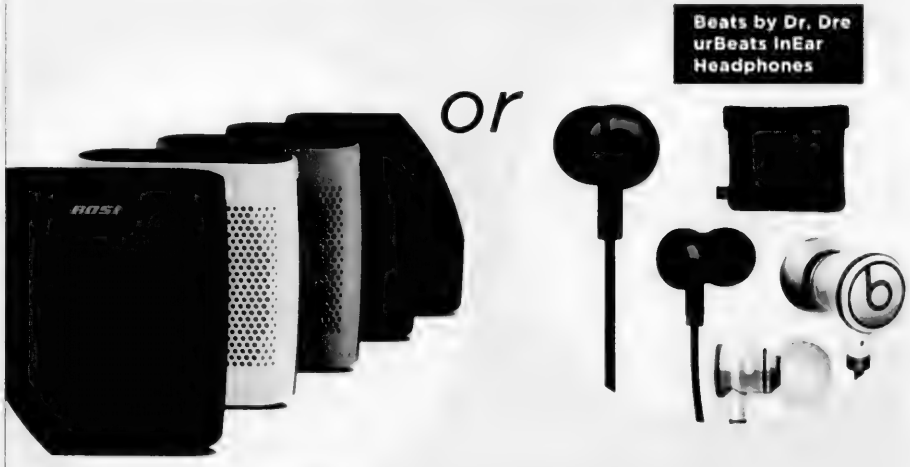
185 Bridgeland Ave • Toronto, On • 416-256-9256

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

PASSOVER HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING!

This Passover, earn amazing bonus rewards with UJA's Walk with Israel and Run with Israel.

Fundraise **$1,000** before **Sunday May 1st** and select one of the following prizes **in addition** to the amazing rewards already available at **walkwithisrael.com/rewards**



Bose Soundlink Color Bluetooth Speaker

Got questions?
Call UJA's Walk Hotline at:
416-631-5700 or email
info@walkwithisrael.com

Sunday May 29

WALK with Israel

RUN

WALK with ISRAEL
RUN with ISRAEL
RIO•CAN
yogen früz

TERMS

*The Passover prizing contest is open to all teams, and individuals fundraising alone not on a team, for both UJA's Walk and Run with Israel. Registrants who raise $1,000 before Sunday May 1st at Midnight Toronto time are eligible for this promotion. Teams and individuals fundraising alone who raise a minimum of $1,000 will be contacted via the email address they provided during registration after the contest closes. The Passover prizing contest will be awarded in addition to the prizes outlined online at walkwithisrael.com/rewards and runwithisrael.com/rewards.

*Prizes for this contest have been graciously donated to UJA's Walk and Run with Israel.

Model, colour, and prize is subject to change based on availability. Supplies are limited.

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

walkwithisrael.com
runwithisrael.com

Conservative rabbis rule in favour of kitniyot on Passover

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

This Passover, if you're a descendant of Ashkenazi Jews from Europe's cold, white north, your menu options may have taken a decidedly southern, Sephardi flavour.

Kitniyot, once classified under the forbidden family of chametz-resembling products, may now be accessible during the eight-day festival – at least among Conservative Jews.

Kitniyot, the Hebrew word that refers to legumes, rice, beans and corn, is permissible during Passover, according to a tshuvah, or answer, written by rabbis Avram Reisner and Amy Levin and approved by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards associated with the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly (RA).

Their ruling examines the genesis of the long-established custom of Ashkenazim to not eat kitniyot during Passover and contrasts it with the Sephardi practice of permitting their consumption. In Ashkenazi circles, kitniyot were considered similar to chametz in that they swell when water is added.

The Conservative rabbis' religious ruling cited the cost of non-kitniyot foods, support for a healthier diet, "the inapplicability today of the primary concerns that seem to have led to the custom of prohibiting kitniyot," along with the need to make Judaism more accessible while removing "unneeded prohibitions."

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto, voted in favour of the Rabbinical Assembly's tshuvah.

He also was among those who signed a dissent, which, while recognizing health and other reasons for consuming kitniyot, urges caution in overturning centuries of Ashkenazi tradition. Conservative Jews ought to consult their rabbis before making a decision on the issue, he said.

In their ruling, the rabbis noted that the debate over kitniyot goes back to the 13th century, when some authorities permitted eating kitniyot, while others did not.

Twenty-five years ago, Rabbi David Golinkin, of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel ruled that changing circumstances – the marriages of Sephardim and Ashkenazim, the higher costs of packaged Passover products, gluten allergies, the needs of vegetarians – allowed the softening of the 800-year-old custom of avoiding kitniyot.

Despite the RA ruling, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl doesn't think hundreds of years of tradition will be undone any time soon.

"I don't see a mass rush to buy beans," he said.

The Gorman household has been debating the kitniyot issue for some time. Rabbi Sean Gorman of Pride of Israel Synagogue, and his wife, Jennifer, who is also a rabbi, weighed the pros and cons, and for the last 10 years, have permitted kitniyot in their home during Passover.

The kitniyot minhag, or custom, is one that makes no sense today. Even in the Middle Ages, rabbis called it "minhag shtut," or a nonsense custom, he said.

Moreover, there is no consensus as to what constitutes kitniyot, Rabbi Gorman continued. Some authorities permit peanut oil, while other rabbis do not permit it. What's more, peanut oil is being replaced by cottonseed oil, which is not only substantially more expensive, it is unhealthy, he said.

"There is no custom in the world that I should have to justify to my doctor. It's unreasonable to consume food like that," he said.

Rabbi Gorman also questioned the suggestion that minhagim are impervious to change, citing the example of quinoa, a berry that has become popular in recent years and is the subject of a debate as to whether it should now be included as kitniyot.

Excluding kitniyot makes the Passover holiday stressful for families who have to accommodate vegetarians, vegans and others with restricted diets. The higher cost associated with kitniyot substitutes leaves families with less money for tzedakah, Rabbi Gorman said.

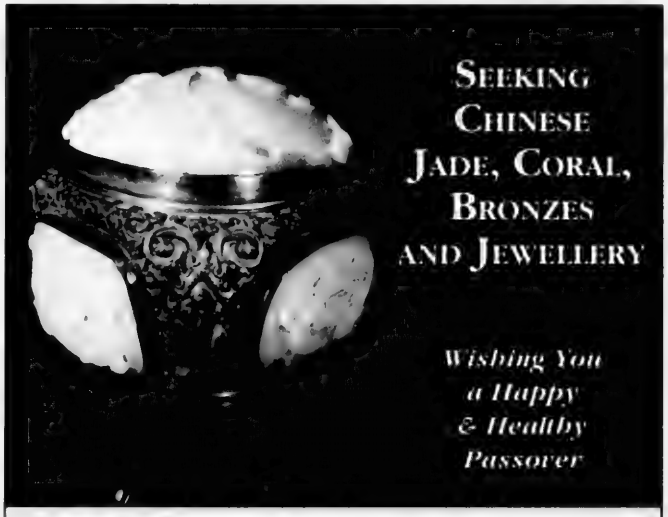
News of the RA decision prompted a lively debate on Norene's Kitchen, a Facebook group run by *CJN* contributor and food maven Norene Gilletz.

"I will keep to the 'old' tradition," one commenter said.

"I know a lot of seriously observant people who have welcomed this ruling," stated another. "Traditions change over time, and geography, and not everyone feels bound by a medieval custom."

"The strength of Judaism is the rock of medieval customs," another poster replied. "You can stretch these customs only so far, and then Judaism weakens and slowly disintegrates."

Another commenter, seeing the range of opinions, summed up their view by saying: "What a can of worms this has opened. Oy!" ■



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016 SPECIAL
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM $389
(plus taxes $690)
Apr 1 – Jun 21
Aug 19 – Oct 29

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

Summer	Winter Break
July 03-14	Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 – Aug. 04	March Break
Aug. 07-18	Mar 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 – Sep. 01	

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS

WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• ***FREE* – Exclusive** $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• **We do all the work!** We can design an exclusive itinerary with your **budget** and **preferences!**
• **Preferred rooms** in every hotel **for less!!**
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY

UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

AFTER 40 YEARS IN THE DESERT,
YOU CAN HAVE FRIZZ FREE HAIR!

ENJOY FRIZZ FREE CURLS
THIS PASSOVER!

JOICO
the joi of healthy hair

YES! YOU *CAN* HAVE FRIZZ FREE
HAIR THIS PASSOVER!

MACADAMIA

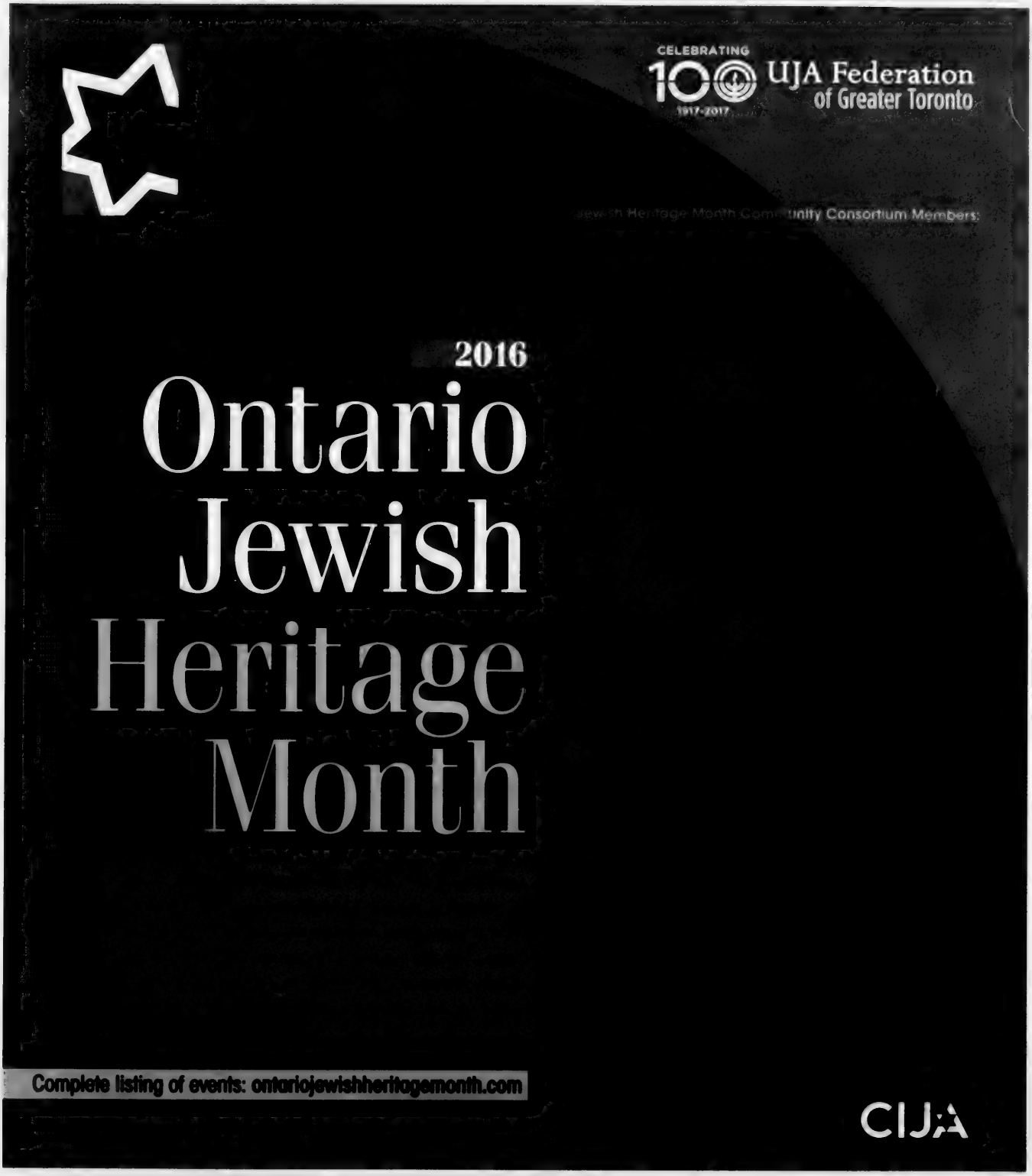
Wishing our clients & friends
a very happy and healthy Passover!

KEVIN.MURPHY
Repair, strengthen and moisturize hair with naturally derived superfood proteins from the nutrient rich Green Pea.
KEVIN MURPHY
REPAIR.ME
Protein enzymes from Papaya and Pineapple repair hair weightlessly.
Ask for it at your salon!

WWW.TBBS.CA
112 Orfus Road, Toronto, ON | 416.787.1211
100 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON | 416.977.2020
9737 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON | 905.508.7089
5700 Mavis Road, Mississauga, ON | 905.712.4449
**KEVIN.MURPHY is not available in TBBS stores.*

TBBS

LIQUIDLUXURIES
SALON SYSTEMS


CELEBRATING
100
1917-2017
UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto
Jewish Heritage Month Community Consortium Members:
2016
Ontario
Jewish
Heritage
Month
Complete listing of events: ontariojewishheritagemonth.com
CIJA

UJA Federation lays out strategic plan for renewal

SHERI SHEFA
ssheta@thecjn.ca

Following an 18-month "essential dialogue" with more than 2,000 community members, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto released a "strategic plan" that's focused on renewal and refuses to rest on the laurels of the century-old Jewish institution.

Federation officials say six priorities emerged from the consultations: caring for the vulnerable; forging strong bonds with Israel; advocating for Israel, the Jewish People and Canadian values; galvanizing the community in times of crisis and celebration; inspiring young generations to embrace Jewish life and ensure a Jewish future; and maintaining Toronto's position as a leader in Jewish education.

According to a statement about the plan by Morris Perlis, UJA Federation's chair of the board of directors, and federation president and CEO Morris Zbar, information from studies such as the 2011 Canadian National Household Survey confirmed that "local Jewish poverty is on the rise; global anti-Semitism and efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel are at elevated levels; approximately 30 per cent of local young Jews are marrying non-Jewish partners; and participation in high-impact Jewish educational programs, particularly day schools, is decreasing."

To implement the strategies to address these priorities, "more than $2 million has been removed from our operating budgets and our staff team has contracted by 16 per cent."

On April 12, the federation hosted a "community conversation" at the Lipa Green Centre about the plan.

In one of the five sessions offered, Sara Lefton, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs' Greater Toronto vice-president, led a discussion about the challenges and strategies of Israel advocacy.

She said CIJA reaches out to "advocacy targets" including decision-makers at universities – "people who are in control of what goes on in different segments of the university campus."

When it comes to reaching out to the 197 newly elected MPs "from ridings where there may not be a single Jew… who have never before been forced to think about the Jewish community, never before had to think about Israel, have never been to Israel… CIJA has been taking members of Parliament to Israel on advocacy missions for years."

She said CIJA has taken about 30 of the new MPs to Israel so far, and when they return, they become advocates for the state.

Sara Lefton

Community volunteer Joseph Shier commended efforts by Jewish groups to reach out to influencers and to seek their support, but said despite that, Israel supporters are losing the "propaganda war."

"We have felt that we cannot win the battle, therefore we have withdrawn from that, and we've decided that we can try to fight on a different level," Shier said.

When challenged that the organized community doesn't seem to be attacking anti-Israel activists head-on, Lefton said, "I believe truly that the way for us to win and the way for us to really make a difference and have an effective advocacy strategy is to speak to the people who will be receptive to our message… This isn't a cop-out. This is a real strategy."

In another session about forging strong connections with Israel, Adam Minsky, UJA's senior vice-president of community capacity-building, spoke about efforts to reach out to the Jewish community in war-torn Ukraine.

"There is an ongoing war in the eastern part of the Ukraine. We have, for the first time since the Second World War, a Jewish refugee population in Europe," Minsky said.

"Together with the American Joint Distribution Committee, we are feeding thousands of displaced Jews on a daily basis, providing health care to them in the Ukraine. We're also working with that community to help those who want to leave and make aliyah to come to Israel."

Michael Diamond, founding chair of federation's Israel engagement committee, spoke about the Shinshinim program, founded in 2007, which brings young Israelis to Toronto day schools and shuls as emissaries.

Diamond said the program tries to re-engage young Jews who've disconnected from the Jewish and pro-Israel community "because of bad PR related to Israel. We were losing those kids, even the ones who were going right through day school." ■

This Pesach, ask yourself:

Why is the International BA Program at Bar-Ilan University different from all other BA Programs in Israel?

A University with Jewish Values

Enjoy rigorous academic study in a Jewish environment that promotes religious life & spiritual growth

- Men's Kollel & Women's Midrasha
- Largest Judaic Library in the World!
- Daily Minyanim & Shiurim
- Shabbat & Holiday programming

Internationally Recognized Academic Excellence

- Fully accredited in the US
- Three degree options: Business, Communications, & Social Sciences
- Extremely affordable tuition
- Personalized administrative support

Israel's Largest & Fastest Growing International Student Community

- Over 1,000 International students & counting!
- Hundreds of yeshiva/seminary alumni & young olim
- Beautiful, centrally located campus

OPEN HOUSE ON CAMPUS
May 14th & 17th

BE IN ISRAEL.
BE AT BAR-ILAN.

Bar-Ilan

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 21, 2016

Mayor promotes Tel Aviv's entrepreneurial culture

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai amiably joked at a Toronto luncheon April 14 that the reason he's "shlepping all over the world" is to find partners to help support Tel Aviv reach its full potential as a cosmopolitan and entrepreneurial centre.

Huldai was in Toronto to meet with the Tel Aviv-Yafo Foundation, his city's international fundraising arm, of which he is chair, and which has offices in Israel, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany.

The luncheon, held at the offices of the investment firm ReichmannHauer Capital Partners in First Canadian Place, was hosted by Toronto business leaders and philanthropists Justin Linden, Leerom Segal, Michael Serruya and Philip Reichmann, co-founding partner of ReichmannHauer Capital Partners.

The event drew about 20 guests, including Israel's consul general to Toronto and western Canada, DJ Schneeweiss.

Huldai, who was first elected in 1998 and is serving his fourth consecutive term, spoke about the creative and youthful energy that's taken hold in Tel Aviv in the past two decades.

Not only has the number of young people doubled in recent years, with people aged 18 to 35 now comprising 33 per cent city's of the population, Huldai said, but Tel Aviv has committed to fostering a culture that nurtures youth and their contributions to economic and cultural life, he said.

"We've been taking public spaces and transforming them into co-working spaces... and we were one of the first cities in the world to provide free Wi-Fi on the streets, on the beach, so people can sit anywhere and work."

He noted that much of the money raised by the Tel Aviv-Yafo Foundation supports educational initiatives.

This environment, Huldai said, has helped establish Tel Aviv as a hub for Israel's thriving start-up economy. In his introductory remarks, Segal said there are more than 1,000 start-ups in Tel Aviv alone, making it the largest per capita start-up centre in the world.

Huldai stressed that in addition to understanding the needs of Tel Aviv's residents and giving them "the atmosphere or ecosystem that they need to live," his mandate has been to emphasize Tel Aviv's core values. "These are to be a bastion of democracy, pluralism, art, culture, science, research, rational thinking and a place that's open to every minority."

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai

He cited as examples that Tel Aviv has been ranked among the top three most attractive tourist destinations and one of the "most gay-friendly cities in the world."

To continue this work and to fully achieve what Huldai said is "our vision for the city," Tel Aviv will need the support of international partners who can contribute to the Tel Aviv-Yafo Foundation through donations, collaboration on projects or by becoming a member of its board.

In a question-and-answer session, one attendee asked the mayor whether the city is interested in developing the area in south Tel Aviv near the boardwalk and nice hotels, which the attendee said is "like a slum."

Huldai said that over the past 100 years, Tel Aviv's more affluent residents have moved and built houses in the north part of the city, while people of lower socio-economic status have tended to live in the south.

He said that some development has started in south Tel Aviv, but more work needs to be done. "That's part of the reason I'm here looking for partners... We haven't achieved this yet."

Another attendee asked about the influx of African migrants and how the municipal government is balancing what he called the "strain" on the city with its responsibility to help these people.

Huldai acknowledged the challenge, and said that 50,000 illegal immigrants currently live in Tel Aviv, that the cost to educate their children is high and that some of the migrants have clashed with Israelis in the neighbourhoods where they've settled.

"But we can't ignore them," he said, adding, "a human being is a human being. I don't care if he's legal or not, and we must do everything in our capacity to care for them... If we treat them well, it's better for everyone in the city." ■

Advertisement

Record growth at Sutton Group Admiral: "if you build it, they will come"

Murray and Sol Goldkind had a vision: a state-of-the-art home selling environment in an environment that felt like...well, *home*.

How novel.

"In brainstorming about the type of facility in which to accommodate the growth of our sales force, the one thing we kept coming back to is that the new home for our agents and brokers should be more than just another four-wall office environment," says Broker of Record Murray Goldkind. "It occurred to us that most of the new real estate offices being built to sell more homes don't feel like home themselves."

"A great salesperson will be successful regardless of his or her surroundings," says Sol, "but creating an office environment that feels like home puts everyone in a house-selling frame of mind."

A growing number of talented agents and brokers agree. The spike in Sutton Group Admiral's growth curve since the opening of the new Centre Street office proves that "if you build it, they will come." In recent months, Sutton Group Admiral has welcomed aboard numerous industry stalwarts like **Esther Greenbaum, Sarah Tamin, Emad Petro, Mitzy Dadoun, Sarah Smilovici & Anna-Maria Waskiewicz.**

Murray Goldkind
Broker of Record

Andrea Halpern, formerly of Remax Realtron, has settled into her new digs without skipping a beat. Except she doesn't "settle."

"Never" says Andrea. "My customers don't settle for less than the best, nor do I. Sutton Group Admiral provides a level of technical and administrative support that allows me to maintain a singular focus on my customers' needs. As a brokerage, I can't ask for anything more."

This eye-on-the-prize philosophy is nothing new at Sutton Group Admiral. "It's always been about the customer," says Murray. "Their needs come first."

Serving those needs means getting the seller's best return on their property and the buyer the best value. "Our people can only do that if all of their energies are focused on their clients' needs. You can't operate at a fast clip if you're looking for paper clips."

"Since Day One," says Sol, "we have never rested on our laurels. "In this business, if you're not three steps ahead of the game, then you're behind it."

In the case of the new Centre Street office, "three steps ahead" might be an understatement. In its 15,000 square feet of state-of-the-art office space, the new Centre Street office houses the kind of cuttingedge services and facilities that Admiral agents need to further enhance the top-drawer service they give their clients.

This is the Sutton Group Admiral formula in action: maximizing opportunity and minimizing hassle for its agents and brokers.

The record-breaking sales achieved by its ever-growing team — over 400 salespeople and brokers — has allowed Sutton Group Admiral to not only consolidate its niche atop the residential resale market, but also to further its presence in the highly competitive field of new home construction sales.

Murray prides himself on his ability to read and respond to the needs of home buyers and sellers. Says Murray: "Today's home buyers are looking for one thing: VALUE. The agents and brokers who give them maximum value for their hard-earned dollars will earn their business. Those who don't, won't."

In its dual capacity as reseller and new home purveyor, Sutton Group Admiral's access to both resale homes and new construction allows it to offer home buyers the best of both worlds, says Sol. "Whether you're looking for a resale home or a new one, you can now explore ALL your interests and options with us."

One thing that hasn't changed, says Sol Goldkind, is Sutton Group Admiral's commitment to work "24 hours a day to earn your trust and ensure your satisfaction."

Sol Goldkind
Broker of Record

The 400+ agents and brokers of Sutton Group Admiral Realty wish you A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Passover

STEELES OFFICE:

Murray Goldkind
Broker of Record

Ara Abramov*
Zaur Agayev*
Maurice Aguayo*
Tourya Tina Ahmadi Jomy*
Maria Ahmad*
Emad Amar**
Michael Anhyptzan*
Dmitri Arhus**
Saalem A. Atta*
Roy Azini*
Adi Bakilly*
Boris Barandich*
Erika Andrea Barrientos*
Erika Barrientos*
Jodi Berchert*
Dwayne Clifford Bella*
Orit Ben-Or*
Rubin Ben-Yona*
Michael Benchamol*
Mary Berkowich*
Ilea Berman*
Brenda Bhogal*
Yolanda L. Bien**
Vladimir Bilyak*
Nathalie Bitton*
Joseph Bitton**
Eric Blechman*
Paul Borghei*
Yasmin Brenner*
Nadia Bykhovskaya*
Mike Caruso*
Lena Cervena*
Wayne Bradley Chorney*
Heddy Cordova*
Joseph Cowen**
Uros Cuk*

Maurice Dassault*
Elena Davidov*
Mark Dawes*
Anahita Dehkhoda Zamani*
Joanne Di Caro*
Azalia Dindoust*
Eric Dor*
Nasim Dudekula*
Victoria Epstein**
Tetyana M Fedorenko*
Anastassia Fokoushkaa*
Anuta Furasy*
Victor Fischler*
Ian B. Fisher**
Jacob Floriana*
Sergey Galichansky*
Robert H. Gerber*
Sophie Goldfarb*
Sol Goodlund*
Shelly Goldstein*
Suzy Goldstein*
Victoria Golovina*
Yana Golovina*
Elizabeth S. Gordon*
Esther Greenbaum*
Irina Gromova*
Gerry Grosicopf*
Harvey Guo*
Antonio Guzman*
Shahram Hedayati*
Maddison Madeleine Hewitt*
Steffen Hugo*
Dam Huh*
Tony Roberto Iannuzzi*
Edwar Jerzak*
Joseph Karpman*
Alnoor Zewar Karsan*
Rosalin Kenaan*
Jozsef Kertesz*
Oleksandr Khaytonkevych**
Alexandre Khodjaanta*

Kevin Kim**
James (...Chico) Kim*
Mandy Ko**
Tatiana Kondratova*
Ara Kramnik*
Svetlana Krasnaia*
Vladimir Krasnopolsky*
Eric Kumbernuss*
Vito M. Labate*
Mara Larsen*
Chery Lawrence*
Tali Lew*
Natalia Logatime*
Armina Lordkipanidze*
Michael Macdougall*
Yogesh Jyan K. Mahindra*
Clarence Maquito**
Ludmila Menekhina*
Farley Aller Merrick**
Ron Merrick**
Marina Moyseeva*
Ian Michael Nehisy*
Tuan Nguyen*
Loan Thi Thanh Nguyen*
Brandon Nguyen*
Binh Thai Nguyen*
Vereen Nibulov*
Helen Hee Sung Noh**
Artur Ogannyan*
Jasvir Singh Pabla*
Irina Parfenova*
Anthony Pasquarello*
Larry M. Paulin*
Emad Bulos Petro*
Marcos Plopper*
Jelena Pogorelova*
Maya Pokovitsyr*
Loredana Porcelli*
Mehrab Pouran*
Sadrudin M. Rattalia*
Alexander Rudenberg*

Amer Sabanadzovic*
Dzidzo Salgado*
Fraina Samino*
Guy Schreiner*
Olga Shidro**
Daniel Shafro*
Susan Shainhouse*
Heather Arlene Sherman*
Vida Sinclair*
Tatyana Slavny*
Ilya Slavny*
Noam Sodowick*
Sarah Smolowicz**
Joseph Soer*
Kenneth Sommerlatte*
Jill Spector*
Jeff A. Stanton*
Nesha Stewart*
Larissa Strokova*
Aron Suissman*
Marina Suvorova*
Roberto Tancredi*
Marcello Tancredi*
Emilio Tancredi*
Adriana Teator*
Yatheesan Theivendiran*
Maria Topash*
Duong Tran*
Serguei Troubatsev*
Jose Umana*
Ramziu Vaezzadeh-Nasiri*
Evaldas Vaiga*
Tatiana Vassilyeva**
Jose Velazco*
Ried Vladyka*
Dragos Vlaicu Romanescu*
Charlene Wasko*
Nawa Yamazaki*
Kaseong Yi*
Benjamin Yospovich*
Irina Zommer*

Alexandre Zommer*
Arthur Zyiber*

CENTRE OFFICE:

Bindhu Kattil Ramesan*
Faranaz Abdullah Foroghi*
Fara Afzar*
Emilys Ajdar*
Kazu Amini*
Eli Amouyal*
Sher Amouyal*
Yaffa Amber*
Sam Anwari Mahyari*
Pavic Antonenko*
Adi Assaraf*
Majid Attaran*
Uri Avner*
Irina Avulov*
Michael Babaev*
Ilia Buber**
Michael Basen*
Sol Benamroch*
Ella Bendersky*
Lina Bertasevre*
Antony Bilokin*
Ani Boghossian*
Andrew Borzic*
Evelina (Lina) Bransitsky*
Michael (Bob) Budd*
Ron Bukovsky*
Derek Butt*
Olga Buz*
Donald R. Campbell**
Tony Canino*
Joshua Chait*
Alex Chaimov*
Elias Chan*
Sandra You Chen*
Oleg Chinguirev*
Tatiana Chinguirev*
Sarah Cias*

Olga Cohen**
Anne Cohen*
Lisa Collins*
Mitzy Dadoun*
Victoria Demmis*
Eric Dwyer*
David De Domenico*
Vincent Del Duca*
Manoo Derakshan**
Peter Dusmanf*
Elena Dwmond*
Michael Basen*
Ilia Buber**
Michael Basen*
Sol Benamroch*
Ella Bendersky*
Aline Ermoulaev*
Judit Enger*
Lori Erlich*
Roman Evlukh*
Renee Figueroa Fetwan*
Vered Fethel*
Lauren-Sasha Feinberg*
Daniel Fesherman*
Erik Fishman*
Tammy Frydman**
Leonel Frydman*
Alisa Fukshtansky*
Yuly Gauberg*
Vlad Germon*
Nazanin Gharakhanlouraha*
Tara Ghazvini*
Sophie Allegra Gitterman*
Jeff Goldwater*

Leah Gorlicky*
Mirella Grieco**
Ksenya Grishyna*
Tan Haiberstadt*
Andrea Joy Halpern*
Ela Hammer*
Haim Hartman*
Melissa Hartman*
Ikramar Hartzman*
Carolyn Andrea Hartzman*
Avinoam Hatuka*
John Hendrikx*
A. J. Hincer**
Brian Hoffman**
Fatima Hosha*
Oleg Iakovlev*
Elena Iakovleva*
Ron Aron Ianilalevic*
Yulia Ivanova*
Asena Ivanova*
Evelyn A. James*
Ilan Joseph**
Zhana Jurovich*
Lilly Kadoguchi*
Ekaterina Kasashvilova*
Kirill Kanevsky*
Larry Jonathan Kaplan*
Dana Karchecki*
Yulia Katzenelson*
Rezina Kehmekar*
Barry Kerber*
Ave Keren*
Elisha Khaldeen Shahnaz*
Masoud Khatir*
Kirill Kharitp*
Konstantin Khlobystov*
Mike Kam*
Hasan Hae Kyung Kim*
Dae Rang Kim*
Michelle Mingung Kim**
Jane Kim*

Donna Klein*
Nikolay Kyushkov*
Tatiana Kyushkova*
Estelle Lavitt*
George Lincoff*
Avery Lochan*
Michael Kochen*
Irena Kotenkoj*
Marilia Kotler*
Claudia Kovalev*
Adam J. Kranger*
Ilsiana Kudlacz*
Bitha Kuldip*
Alex Kuzhel*
Olga Kuzhel*
Victoria Kent*
Iris Lahan*
Oleg Alex Lakritz*
Elise Rachel Lebovic*
Natalie Leah Lederman*
Min Jung Lee*
Sokin Ho Lee*
Josh Levesque*
Ronit Levi*
Howard Levitt*
Stuart Levison*
Sandra Anne Maria Lewis*
Vanessa Marie Kremer Ley*
Galina Lipmore*
Ramingh Liz*
Ian B. Maged*
Sarah Maged*
Alexander Maged*
Inna Malyshevat*
Mike Mastroni*
Yelena Matsev*
Maxim Matkovsky*
Ervin Meriz*
James Migliore*
Catalin Mihalcea*
Eli Moraru*

Yaca Mofidi*
Peggy Mohareebadian**
Aly Morsi**
Stephen Lorne Mortleet*
Tatiana Naschomova*
David Navy*
Gal Nayot*
Afshin Nejaddehghan*
Marvin Newman**
Jane Nichols*
Michal Opanchowski*
Irina Opolinski*
Moshe Oscar*
Marina Ostromech*
Nadia Palvanov**
Karen-Gail Papernick*
Emily Pasquinu*
Pavic Pavley*
Steven Petrucciolt*
Boris Pesock*
Angelo Polisely*
Janna Pollack*
David Polvanov*
Sergey Popelnukh*
Anthony Popov*
Reiss Porree*
Mahnoush Pour Shahrezaei*
Lina Povichon*
Natalia Poznera*
Jeanne-Rose Printz*
Shirley Printz*
Katerina Prochan*
Prina Ptaszna*
Maria Puskas*
Anna Rabin*
Giuseppe Racco*
Jeremy Rahaev*
Regina Rahmaev*
Arun Kumar Rajalingam*
John Rehman*
Marina Rgence*

Nadine Rigence*
Katerryna Robber*
Melanie Ruiz-P*
Charles Ruocco**
Carmela Rzhevsky*
Rosita Saddler*
Linda Saad*
Gisel Angela Salvador*
Guy Scherzer*
Leonard Schwartzberg*
Brigido Servanez*
Kazmoosh Shahmoon*
Fay Shamshezan**
Rick Shapiro**
Israel Shapiro**
Dhanshen Sharvendran*
Andrew Shaw*
David Sherman*
Esther Sher*
Nawsha Shirkhorshed*
Saleem Shroderman*
Houssan Shuaanna*
Liudmila Sidorova*
Jordan Silver*
Alexandre Simkovitch*
Sara Smebert*
Natalia Smernova*
Alex Smahovsky*
Svea Solomyanik*
Olga Hana Sopkovitcher**
Michael J. Stein**
Tamara Stodolskaya**
Lana Stoinskova**
Ian Stromberg*
Jeremy P. Suchell*
Jeffrey Tabachnick**
Raed Tagati*
Paul Tantalo*
Harry Temertzoglou*
Jill Teplitsky*
Konstantin Toubis**

Sarah Tuin*
Marcela Uta*
Coby Valentine*
Jonathan Van*
Mostan Van Buren*
Sivan Van Buren Meedung*
Annie Varbedian*
Tanya Vernett*
Kamran Vidni*
Adriana Vigdor*
Roman Vindzevski*
Larissa Vinal**
Anne-Maria Waskiewicz*
Gary B. Weinberg*
Ken Wilder*
Juliet Williams*
Aaleah Raquel Wolfstadt*
Gabriel Yacubov**
Oren Yaffe*
Ula Yang*
Steve You*
Marina Yukulov*
Alexandra Zadrutskena*
Jack Zak*
Ruben Zak*
Adina Zak*
Michael Zannes*
Andrey Zavdovskiy*
Alon Semion Zelaya*
Angela Zelvenskiy**
Victoria Zhukovich*
Saeed Ziya Aeen*
Elena Zobina*
Yuliya Znamenska*

and counting!

416-739-7200 • www.suttongroupadmiral.com חג פסח שמח

SUTTON GROUP ADMIRAL REALTY INC., BROKERAGE • 1881 STEELES AVE. W., TORONTO, ON M3H 5Y4 • 1206 CENTRE ST., THORNHILL, ON L4J 3M9

*SALES REPRESENTATIVE **BROKER ***BROKER OF RECORD EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

Family seder a tradition for more than 65 years

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

If by chance you were to walk into the dining hall at the Adath Israel Congregation on the second night of Passover, you might think you'd chanced upon an oddly timed bar mitzvah celebration.

There, at tables scattered throughout the hall, you'll find 98 people enjoying a meal and revelling in each other's company.

But it won't be a young man's rite of passage being celebrated this night. As has been the tradition for more than 65 years, the Applebaum family will again gather for the Passover seder. They've been doing it ever since Nechemiah and Esther Shaindel Applebaum, Stephen Applebaum's grandparents, convened a family seder in their Kensington-area home.

Of course, back then, the family was a lot smaller – just the parents and their four children, three girls and one boy.

Ben Applebaum was Stephen's dad, while his aunts were Mary Wasserman, Betty Little and Rae Goldstein.

Each went on to have families of their own, and from those children came more children, who married and had more children.

Today, the guest list at the Applebaum seder includes four generations, all of them descended just on the paternal (Nechemiah's) side, said Stephen. The original two generations – his grandparents and their four children and spouses – are no longer with us, but the remaining four generations span ages ranging from 76 to kids only a couple of months old.

Nechemiah and Esther Shaindel Applebaum
FAMILY PHOTO

The seder is an important part of family life, the glue that keeps it together and allows everyone to keep in touch, and meet new spouses and children, Applebaum said.

At 58, Stephen is one of the older participants. He can remember the early days of the seders back when he was a youngster. The Goldstein, Wasserman, Little and Applebaum families took turns hosting them, he recalled. Once every four years, they'd all head out to Hamilton, where the Goldstein family resided.

He recalls those seders fondly.

"My father ran the seder," Applebaum said. "He was very serious about it, but he always had a smile" for the children.

"It was always great to hang out with my cousins. That's how my family has remained so close over the years. It allows the cousins to meet [others'] children, their spouses. It's a time when we all get together. Everybody knows to come to the Applebaum family seder."

As in many other families, the head of the household – in this case, Stephen's brother, Alan – leads the seder and calls upon others, including the children, to participate by reading from the Haggadah.

The family has added a tzedakah component to the tradition – raising money for a worthwhile charity. Past recipients have included Ve'ahvata, Baycrest and the One Family Fund. Applebaum expects the family will raise about $10,000 this year.

Putting together a seder on this scale is a monumental undertaking, one that requires lots of lead time.

"For me it's a lot of work. I start working on it in January. It's like making a bar mitzvah. We do it because it's something we like to do."

His friends and acquaintances can't believe their ears when he tells them how many people are on the guest list.

"When I tell this story to people, they say, 'You've got to be kidding me. How do you do it?'"

Ninety-eight is a pretty big number, but it could have been more. The original guest list topped out at 108, but some of the invitees were not able to make it this year.

But it's a safe bet there will be another big family seder next year and yet another opportunity to create new memories for the descendants of Nechemiah and Shaindel Applebaum. ■

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.

CHW passionately supports programs and services for
Children, Healthcare, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

When you give to CHW you're funding life-changing programs that help thousands of children, women, and families grow and thrive.
Together we can build a better future for those who depend on us in Israel and Canada.
With your help,
CHW is Giving Hope and Creating Opportunities.
Make a gift today.

TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE
416.630.8373
www.chw.ca/toronto
info@toronto.chw.ca
www.facebook.com/CHWToronto

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Digital Partner
CIBC Wood Gundy | The Ansky-Coulson Group
CHW Children Healthcare Women

SAVE THE DATES

"Raw Colour"
First Toronto Art Exhibition by
J. W. Dimitry
Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2016
Coldstream Fine Art Gallery
80 Spadina Avenue, Suite 208, Toronto
Gallery hours: Fri 12-5 pm | Sat 12-4 pm | Sun 12-4 pm
Special VIP Showing: Sat evening 6:30-10:30 pm
All individual donations and all proceeds of the art sales will be donated to the Sick Kids Hospital Foundation
SickKids
For more information:
drjoel@rogers.com www.sickkidsfoundation.com

CJPAC marks 10 years of its annual Action party

DANIEL KOREN
dkoren@thecjn.ca

For its 10th annual Action party, the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC) brought the glitz and the glamour back to Andrew Richard Designs, a posh art space that served as the event's venue years ago.

A lot has changed since then – the number of attendees has more than doubled, for one thing – but the committee's mandate hasn't wavered: their goal is to engage the Jewish and pro-Israel community in Canadian politics and democracy.

"It's a great opportunity for those who are new to politics to meet with members of the political community from all levels of government," said Mark Waldman, the group's executive director. "It serves as an entry point for people to get engaged with politics."

More than 1,300 young professionals and politicians gathered on April 14 to shmooze, nosh on hors d'oeuvres, drink sophisticated cocktails and shake hands with elected members of Parliament and dignitaries, including Israeli Consul General DJ Schneeweiss, Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai, Liberal MPs Michael Levitt and Judy Sgro and Tory MPs Tony Clement, Peter Kent and Jason Kenney to name a few.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was also in attendance.

While CJPAC's ultimate goal is to enlighten and educate others about the political process, one wouldn't know it by attending Action, which has earned a reputation among Toronto Jews as the quintessential Jewish party of the year.

"Part of its charm is that people can interact on their own with elected officials," Waldman said, touting its casual and informal atmosphere. "Some people are intimidated by politicians, but at Action, they see how they're regular people just like anyone else."

Michael Westcott, 2016 Action co-chair, said the event is successful because it casts a wide net – and not just to members of the Jewish community.

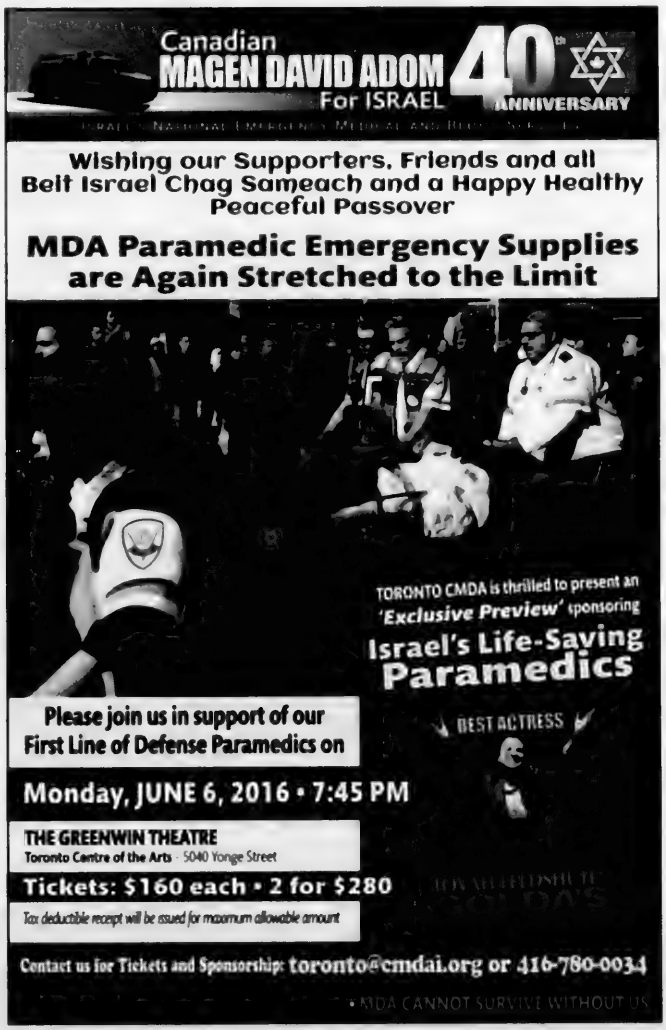
"We've seen greater involvement and greater participation," he said. "It offers a forum for getting involved, but also a great opportunity for people new to the political process to participate in a great party, and enjoy food, drinks and entertainment in a relaxed setting."

Waldman said 2015 was a particularly successful year for CJPAC because of the federal election – the group connected young people from across the country to at least 230 political campaigns – and he aims to continue on that trajectory in 2016.

"It's important for people to get involved, not just during elections but in between elections as well," Waldman said. "That's the big hope with this event, to bring people in, engage them politically, and hope that they get involved, build relationships and participate in our democracy."

Throughout the year, CJPAC also offers opportunities for high school and university students to get involved through fellowship programs, training programs and other initiatives. Visit www.cjpac.ca for more information. ■

From left are MP Judy Sgro, Premier Kathleen Wynne, MPP Mitzie Hunter and CJPAC executive director Mark Waldman.


Canadian
MAGEN DAVID ADOM
For ISRAEL
40th
ANNIVERSARY
Wishing our Supporters, Friends and all Beit Israel Chag Sameach and a Happy Healthy Peaceful Passover
MDA Paramedic Emergency Supplies are Again Stretched to the Limit
TORONTO CMDA is thrilled to present an 'Exclusive Preview' sponsoring
Israel's Life-Saving Paramedics
BEST ACTRESS
Please join us in support of our First Line of Defense Paramedics on
Monday, JUNE 6, 2016 • 7:45 PM
THE GREENWIN THEATRE
Toronto Centre of the Arts · 5040 Yonge Street
Tickets: $160 each • 2 for $280
Tax deductible receipt will be issued for maximum allowable amount
Contact us for Tickets and Sponsorship: toronto@cmdai.org or 416-780-0034
MDA CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT US

Reuben Cipin
HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Happy Passover
to you and your family from the
Reuben Cipin
Healthy Living Community
at Two Neptune Drive.
For information on one and two bedroom luxury rental apartments for independent senior living please contact Laurie Banks at
Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca 416-785-2500 ext. 2270.
Baycrest
www.TwoNeptune.ca
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6

Mideast conflict is 'the elephant in the room'

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Karen Mock is a human rights consultant who's been working to foster Jewish-Muslim dialogue in Canada for 30 years.

An active member of the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM), a non-profit group committed to bringing the Jewish and Muslim communities in Canada closer together, Mock echoed the sentiment of others leading the charge on Muslim-Jewish relations with her assertion that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is "the elephant in the room" when the two communities get together.

On top of that, she said, both Jews and Muslims – whether or not the latter have Palestinian roots – are likely to draw some flak or disparagement from their own communities for engaging in dialogue.

"Muslims [doing interfaith work with Jews] are likely to have their Muslim or Arab friends say to them, '*Your* friends the Jews,' just as the Jews [doing interfaith work with Muslims] are likely to have their Jewish friends say to them, '*Your* friends the Arabs,'" said Mock, whose past roles include president of the Ontario Multicultural Association, CEO of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and national director of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

Those challenges aside, she emphasized the point made by a number of Jewish and Muslim leaders at the forefront of interfaith efforts: that a foundation of mutual trust and understanding is an essential building block, without which broaching the Israeli-Palestinian conflict isn't possible.

But while some Jewish and Muslim organizations and leaders see making the shift from building bridges to more substantive political dialogue as an important and feasible next step, others in the Jewish community express varying degrees of skepticism about efforts to improve Jewish-Muslim relations and what this can achieve.

Mock stressed that establishing Jewish-Muslim friendship at the grassroots level isn't an end in itself, but a vital tool for countering extremist views and inflammatory rhetoric among both Jews and Muslims.

"You can't have conversations [about Israel] with people who've never met a Jew or who've only read propaganda that crosses the line from criticizing Israel's government policy to lambasting all Jews," said Mock, noting that she's speaking about dialogue with "non-extreme Muslims – and that's a huge population of Muslims."

But more than simply meeting and spending time with each other, both Jews and Muslims must understand the other side's narrative, as well as their pains and sensitivity to certain language, in order to begin a constructive dialogue about issues such as Israel.

For example, Mock said, Jews engaged in this dialogue can explain to their Muslim counterparts why calling Israel an "apartheid state" is deeply hurtful to many Jews, and Muslims can convey that to their communities.

On the other hand, she said, there are Canadian Jews who claim there's no such thing as a Palestinian person or nation, though many people identify as such. "Jews who are further ahead in the [Jewish-Muslim] conversation can help [others] recognize that it's not helpful to denounce someone's identity," Mock said.

Shahid Akhtar, co-chair of CAJM, also emphasized that building friendships between Muslims and Jews is important, but the process can't end there. Once bonds have been established, the political situation in Israel can't be omitted from the conversation, given that most Muslims in Canada feel strongly about the Palestinian cause, he said.

"Unless we face reality as it is, our attempt at dialogue will just be an exchange of latkes, samosas and polite conversation. It will be meaningless," Akhtar said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital
We work directly with our clients to craft custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including

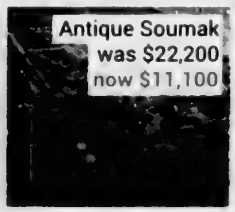
We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000[illegible]
[illegible]@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

CLOSING SALE

24 days left

After twenty-five years, Reznick Carpets is closing.
As we say goodbye to this Design District institution, take advantage of *once in a lifetime* liquidation prices on rugs and broadloom.



Thousands of rugs available:
modern
designer
traditional
tribal
& broadloom

Shop early for best selection.

REZNICK CARPETS
81 Ronald Av, Toronto. 416-787-7676
www.reznickcarpets.com

Conversations need to lead to action, he maintained, whether it's Jewish and Muslim groups collaborating on a joint projects in Canada – like initiatives to help Syrian refugees – or efforts to build equality and security in Israel.

For example, he noted a recent event in Toronto, where supporters of Heart to Heart, a program that brings Jewish Israeli and Palestinian Israeli teens to a summer camp near Ottawa, met with the directors of Givat Haviva – one a Jewish Israeli and one a Muslim Palestinian citizen of Israel. The Israeli non-profit aims to build an inclusive society by engaging divided communities in Israel.

Directly addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict opens up both groups' perspectives and their ability to "see that the other side's hurt is as intense as their own," Akhtar said, but it also creates a positive model for Jewish-Muslim relations that might encourage dialogue elsewhere.

Samira Kanji is president of the Noor Cultural Centre, a Toronto Islamic cultural centre that's engaged in Jewish-Muslim interfaith work.

Not only can getting to know one another change attitudes on both sides, she said, but "to the extent that our communities here influence positions and behaviours in Israel-Palestine, there could then be a positive fallout for the political conflict in that region."

She added: "I imagine Jewish communities globally have much more influence on Israel than do Muslim or Arab communities on the Palestinians, although Muslims globally do empathize with the Palestinians, seeing them as patsies for Europe's crimes against Jews."

Shimon Koffler Fogel, the CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), told *The CJN* via email that his group works to build relationships with many ethnic and faith communities in Canada, including Muslims, and that CIJA has, for example, "a very positive and constructive relationship with the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and the Ismaili community," in addition to relationships that exist between the communities on the grassroots level.

But while it's in the interest of the Jewish community to have strong relationships with Muslim Canadians, Fogel said, "the imperative does not negate the significant challenges we have with particular trends and views among some Canadian Muslims. In specific, and without wanting to paint a broad brush, we strongly object to the fact that some Muslim leaders and institutions in Canada have expressed views utterly at odds with Canada's core values. This includes sexist, homophobic, anti-Zionist and even anti-Semitic opinions."

He did not mention specific organizations, but Fogel said there are some Muslim groups and leaders with whom CIJA will not partner or engage in dialogue because of their views.

It's important to collaborate with Muslim groups that are "credible partners and moderate voices" on issues of common cause locally, such as countering hate crimes and preserving religious freedoms, Fogel said, noting, "we are looking at outreach to multiple Muslims communities – some of which will be more receptive, some with which we can establish deeper relations and some of which will unfortunately remain beyond our reach."

Tyler Levitan, campaigns co-ordinator for Independent Jewish Voices Canada, said it's important to first recognize that Muslims in Canada are extremely diverse and come from different parts of the world. "Their views and experiences as they relate to Israel's behaviour and political Zionism likely differ considerably based on where they're from," he said.

Meir Weinstein, national director of the Jewish Defence League in Canada, said he supports the Jewish community getting along with all communities in Canada, and he noted his good rapport with Tarek Fatah, a Canadian Muslim journalist and activist who's advocated for liberal, progressive forms of Islam.

Weinstein said he has no problem with Jewish groups talking to Muslim groups about Israel and doesn't see the need for "pre-conditions" to discussions of this nature, such as for Muslims to acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

However, Weinstein added, "The reality is that the Islamic world doesn't want a Jewish state in the Middle East, so we have to understand that, and we don't want to support any efforts where Israel will have to withdraw land... We can't be naïve. But as far as getting along socially, everything's good." ■

Trustee remembered for his belief in social justice

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Toronto Ward 5 public school trustee Howard Kaplan, who has died at age 72, was remembered as a committed secular Jew who believed strongly in social justice and was an advocate for students.

Kaplan died April 11 of an auto-immune disorder that battered his liver – "too complicated to explain here," he wrote on his Facebook page last autumn.

He was first elected in Ward 5 (York Centre) in 2010 and re-elected by a larger margin in the 2014 elections.

He was "a passionate advocate for public education who truly believed in what he was doing," eulogized Toronto District School Board chair Robin Pilkey at Kaplan's funeral. He was "principled, dedicated, interesting and interested," she said.

Fellow trustee Shelley Laskin said Kaplan "advocated for students and families within his community and championed issues of equity and social justice."

Kaplan's ward contained 19 elementary and four secondary schools. Among them was the controversial Africentric Alternative School that shares a building with Sheppard Public School near Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue.

When he was elected, he was "a bit skeptical about the Africentric school," Kaplan recalled a few years ago. "I have never seen in any other school within my ward such an engaged parent council. When they come to school council meetings, it's so huge they have to meet in the gym."

Kaplan added that he found no evidence of exclusion at the school, opened in 2008, in response to critics who argued that it would be segregationist.

Last year, he was one of just two trustees to vote against terminating a controversial partnership between the TDSB and the Chinese government-sponsored Confucius Institute.

Firmly and proudly on the political left, and an ardent Yiddishist, Kaplan had leadership roles in the United Jewish People's Order, the Winchevsky Centre and the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir.

He was born in Toronto, earned a teacher's certificate and became an early computer programmer for Ontario Hydro, spurning a management position. "He wanted to be with the workers," said his son, Ari.

Howard Kaplan

In the late 1960s and early '70s, he became active in the Waffle, the radical wing of the New Democratic Party, bringing his children to protests.

Feeling the pull of Zionism in 1978, he moved his wife and two children to Israel for a year, to the country's sole communist kibbutz, Yad Hanna.

Whether picking fruit or guarding the entrance with a rifle, "he fell in love with kibbutz life," his son told *The CJN*.

He then spent all of the 1980s living in Denmark, where he continued his activism in left-wing causes and learned fluent Danish. He returned to Toronto in 1991.

Kaplan often adjudicated in student suspension and expulsion hearings, said fellow trustee Gerri Gershon.

"Whenever families came into the room, they were feeling uptight. Howard always tried to make them feel at ease by trying to say a few words in their language," Gershon told *The CJN*. "He was always respectful of contrary opinions. I never heard him speak ill of anyone – a rare occurrence in politics."

Later in life, "he had this brilliant idea that he was going to actualize his political [side]," his son said with a chuckle. "He loved being a trustee. He described it as his favourite job. For him, his renaissance really started in his late 60s.

"He really epitomized what it meant to be a secular Jewish humanist where ritual is secondary to culture and identity."

Kaplan is survived by his partner Joanne Chisholm, daughter Elyse Tera, son Ari, two sisters and three grandsons. ■

Experience Winter 2017
In Israel with CAARI
Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel

You are invited to a presentation
Meet with CAARI Director & Alumni
Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Road, Toronto
Light Refreshments Served
R.S.V.P. Frances Dvorchik 416-807-1936
Email: caarivolunteers@gmail.com

CAARI Program 2017
January 9 – February 25, 2017
Program Options available from 2 to 7 weeks
www.caarivolunteers.com

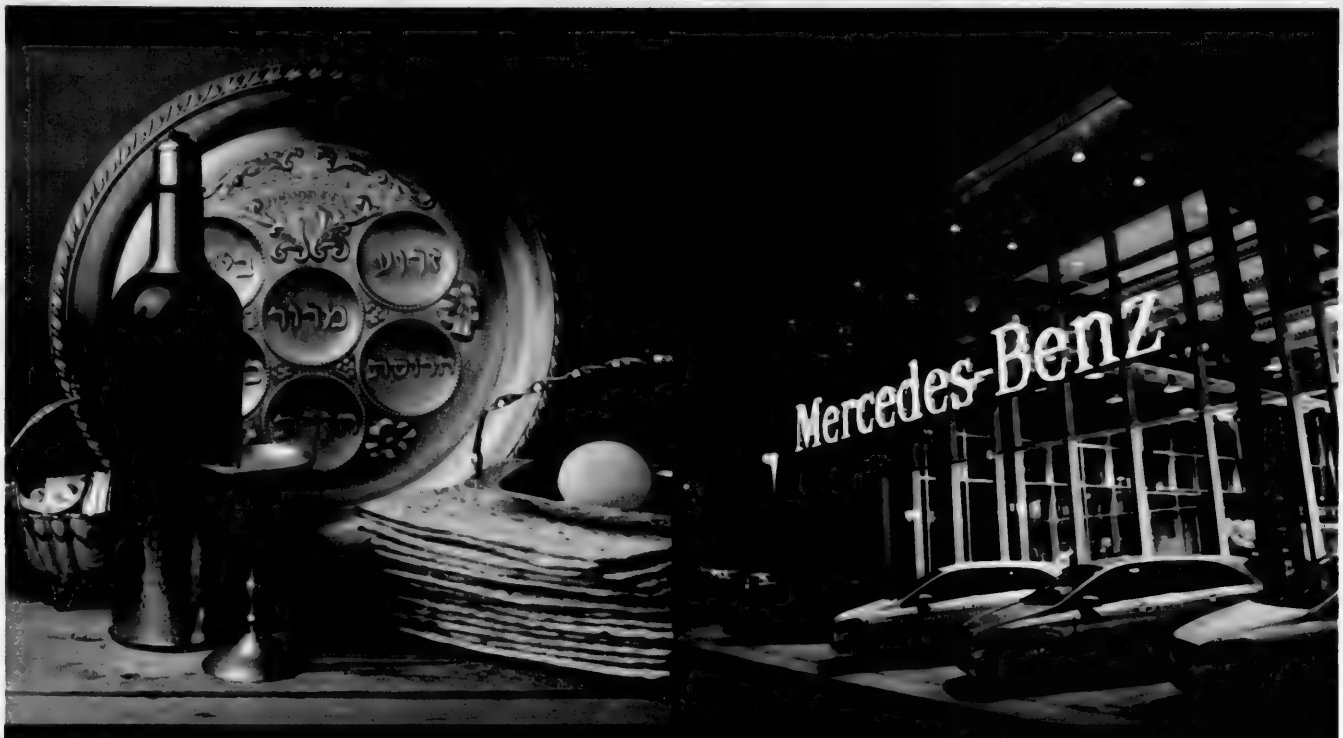
Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel
CAARI

dotan-kdgi.com

RAMBAM
Creating the Future of Medicine
Serving the people. Serving the world.

For more information:
Canadian Friends of Rambam
64 Merton Street, Toronto
Ontario M4S 1A | Canada
info@cfram.ca
Tel: (416) 481-5552

Canadian Friends of RAMBAM
Israel's Health Care Campus



Happy Pesach from the Eltes Family

On behalf of the Eltes Family and Mercedes-Benz Brampton, I would like to extend our wishes for a Chag Kasher V'Sameach.

Please join us at our all new state of the art showroom and service center. During this very busy season, we give you the gift of pick up and delivery service for all your service needs.

Jonathan Eltes
Dealer Principal
905-793-9055
jeltes@mbbrampton.ca

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes Benz Brampton 10 Coachworks Crescent, Brampton, mbbrampton.ca

Secular or Cultural Jew?

Seeking a Congregation or Sunday School that feels right?

Find out more: **Sunday, May 1 at 10:00 am**

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

JK-Gr. 7 · Bnai Mitzvah · Tots (2-4 yrs) · Jewish Festivals · Family Ed. · Est. 1969

Acclaimed curriculum focuses on Jewish values, culture & history

and running concurrently

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

Who We Are ~ What We Believe ~ How We Celebrate

St. Andrew's Jr. High School, 131 Fenn Ave (Bayview/401)

Kindly RSVP | Intermarried & LGBTQ Jews welcome

Oraynu
CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

416-385-3910 | info@oraynu.org
oraynu.org

School funded with support from Julia & Henry Lenchitsky Centre for Jewish Education

The Board of Directors and Staff
deeply mourn the passing
of Past National President

Lucille Bensky ל"ז

and extend our deepest
condolences to the Bensky Family.

May God comfort you among
the other mourners of
Zion and Jerusalem.

act! to end violence against women

Mark S. Anshan
Chair, Board of Directors

Penny Krowitz
Executive Director

PAYING TOO MUCH FOR HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE?

High risk and regular market, auto and motorcycles, homes and cottages. With over 14 different competitive insurers to choose from, I will find you the best rates, and customized coverage to meet your needs!

MICHAEL CADESKY
Registered Insurance Broker
647-808-0481

NAVIGATORS
Navigating Insurance For You®

Best rates on home and auto insurance!

Happy Passover to my clients, family & friends

Givat Haviva leaders help celebrate Heart to Heart

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Yaniv Sagee, left, and Mohammad Darawshe

Yaniv Sagee and Mohammad Darawshe come from two very different worlds, but they share some common goals.

Sagee is a Jewish kibbutznik, the son of a survivor who left Europe after the Holocaust, while Darawshe is an Israeli Arab who traces his family's roots in Nazareth back 28 generations.

Dissimilar though they may be, they have a vision for Israel that is free of discrimination, a country in which Jews and Arabs share civic equality and where co-operation, not conflict, is the order of the day.

Both men play important roles in the Givat Haviva Center for Shared Society, a non-governmental agency that advances their goals by providing educational, cultural and other programming to Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. Sagee serves as its executive director, while Darawshe is the organization's director of planning, equality and shared society.

Both were in Toronto earlier this month to help celebrate Heart to Heart, a Givat Haviva program run in Canada in partnership with Hashomer Hatzair/Camp Shomria Canada. The program brings 20 Palestinian and Jewish youngsters to Canada each summer for a camping and educational experience.

An April 10 celebration at the Lula Lounge on Dundas Street West was sponsored by JSpace Canada, Congregation Darchei Noam, Congregation Shir Libeynu, Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Givat Haviva, Hashomer Hatzair/Camp Shomria Canada and Peace Now.

Darawshe kicked off joint discussion with Sagee by noting his family's multi-generational connection to his home. Despite frustrations, "we have no intention of breaking that in my lifetime," he said.

Darawshe said despite experiencing discrimination and being treated as a second-class citizen he has chosen to challenge the status quo and change things for the better. His goal, he said, is to be an agent for social change and help prepare new generations of young people to do the same.

At the heart of the problem – "The mother of all evil in Israel" – is the country's segregated educational system, he continued. A holdover from the Turkish era, it keeps Jews and Arabs apart. The absence of interaction allows negative stereotypes to develop. Polls show that a majority of children in each system hold racist views of the others, he said.

Givat Haviva recognizes it's impossible to bus students from one community to schools in another, so it has promoted something else: the exchange of teachers.

Currently, there are 360 Arab teachers in Jewish schools, up from six in 2005, and in September 2014, there were 18 Jewish teachers in Arab schools, with the goal to raise the number to 50 next year, he said.

"They challenge stereotypes by their mere presence," Darawshe said. By seeing a real human being instead of a caricature, the other side is "naturalized" and "humanized," he added.

A key focus of the endeavour is to promote mutual interests and the concept of a shared society. There will be disagreements, he conceded, but also discussion.

Sagee pointed to his family's history in Israel, as well as that of his kibbutz, located in an area where 17 Palestinian villages once could be found. The year 1948, the year of Israel's birth and the year his father immigrated to the country, was also the year of the Palestinian "Nakba," or disaster, he said.

Sagee stressed Givat Haviva's goal for a "shared society" in which citizens are equal. Currently, however, Jews and Palestinians are afraid to even visit each other's communities.

Students who experience the Givat Haviva programs are potential agents for social change. Sagee noted that the government of Israel supports Givat Haviva programming for a shared society. That has helped paint the organization as a legitimate movement worthy of public support, he added.

Givat Haviva was founded in 1949 by the Kibbutz Federation. It offers programming in a number of areas, including its Children Teaching Children initiative, a two-year civic study and encounter program that is part of the curriculum in Israeli schools. The goal of the program is to foster mutual understanding and shared citizenship.

On the municipal front, Givat Haviva fosters co-operation between neighbouring Jewish and Arab towns to address common goals. Givat Haviva also offers programming that brings individual Arabs and Jews together to experience cultural activities, in the arts, films and tours.

And of course, there is Heart to Heart in which an equal number of Jewish and Arab teens visit Camp Shomria and hold discussions and educational activities that "challenge the traditional power dynamics at work in the region," according to the Heart to Heart website. ■

JDL opens chapter in Calgary to fight 'rabid Jew-hatred'

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Don Sharpe

Meir Weinstein

With the launch of a new Jewish Defence League chapter in Calgary, JDL Canada's national director Meir Weinstein says he's fulfilling his promise to expand across the country.

"It's one of the goals of the JDL to open up chapters in major cities, and that's what we're doing. So we're there to fulfil that need and fulfil that promise to those who called us," Weinstein said.

This development comes about a year after chapters were established in Vancouver and Montreal, which elicited criticism from Jewish community leaders.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko, chair of security for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs in Montreal, told *The CJN* last year, "there is no void [in Montreal] that needs to be filled" and that "fear-mongering is not helpful."

Last month, Weinstein travelled to Calgary to lead a public meeting held at the Metropolitan Centre, which attracted about 150 people.

He said Calgary needs a JDL presence, referring to an incident in July 2014, during the Israeli offensive in Gaza, when hundreds of pro-Palestinian supporters gathered outside Calgary City Hall and members of a family who came to show their support for Israel were assaulted.

"There were some members of the Jewish community and supporters of Israel who showed up to counter it and hold some Israeli flags and signs, and they got beat up pretty bad," he said.

"We received a lot of calls from people to re-establish," he said, explaining that Calgary had a JDL chapter in the 1980s when teacher James Keegstra, an anti-Semitic Holocaust denier, was making headlines.

The *Jewish Free Press* reported that it was a "one-person show run by the late Harvey Kane... who staged public protests at the courthouse where Keegstra was being tried for hate crimes."

Don Sharpe, who volunteered to lead the new Calgary chapter, spoke to *The CJN* about his motivation to be part of the organization.

"I don't understand why everybody isn't a part of the JDL. I really don't," said Sharpe, who isn't Jewish.

"I don't see any other group doing the kind of work the JDL does. Let's talk about what is happening now with the [Calgary] Jewish Federation. It's a wonderful group of people and they work very hard to be inclusive of all people and sharing their faith, but they're really not confronting what I see as the main problem here, and that is the rabid Jew-hatred that exists in this city, the Jew-hatred that allowed [some people] to get beaten up by a group of protesters at a pro-Palestinian rally... That hatred will grow unless it's confronted, and I don't mean confronted with nice words, or come over to my house to have dinner. The bad guys don't want to have dinner with us."

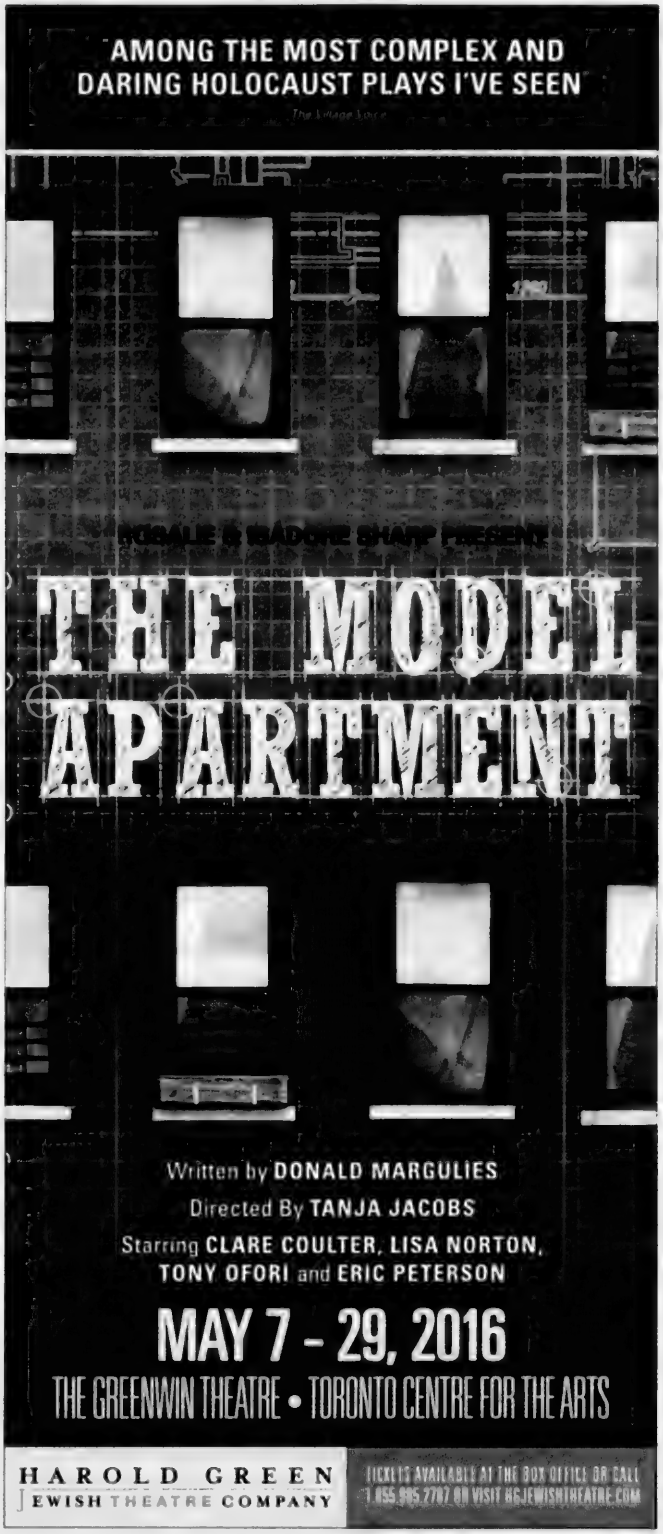
Jeffrey Smith, chair of the Calgary Jewish Federation's community relations committee, stopped short of criticizing the JDL, but said "they are a new organization in this community and the Calgary Jewish Federation is basically taking a wait-and-see approach, to see what kind of activities they involve themselves in, in this community. So we're really just leaving it at that at this stage."

Sharpe said the JDL in Calgary plans to have a presence, "every time there is a BDS event, every time there is a Jew-hatred event, every time there is an anti-Israel event – we're going to show up and we're going to counter that narrative with the truth."

On April 28, the JDL will be hosting Robert Spencer, an American author who is an outspoken critic of Islam and director of Jihad Watch, at Calgary's Metropolitan Centre.

"We would like one day for the federation to realize that we all have the same goals. We believe that Jew-hatred needs to be confronted all the time, immediately," Sharpe said.

"At the last anti-Israel event I went to, there was a guy at the back who called out during the question period, 'Why don't we just kill all the Jews?' This was in a public arena, this was in the John Dutton Theatre at the Calgary Central Library... that horrified me... The JDL will always confront this kind of hatred and will never back down." ■


AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX AND DARING HOLOCAUST PLAYS I'VE SEEN
The Village Voice
ROSALIE & ISADORE SHARP PRESENT
THE MODEL APARTMENT
Written by DONALD MARGULIES
Directed By TANJA JACOBS
Starring CLARE COULTER, LISA NORTON, TONY OFORI and ERIC PETERSON
MAY 7 - 29, 2016
THE GREENWIN THEATRE • TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL 1.855.985.2787 OR VISIT HGJEWISHTHEATRE.COM

Pride in Jewishness begins in the family home: Bronfman

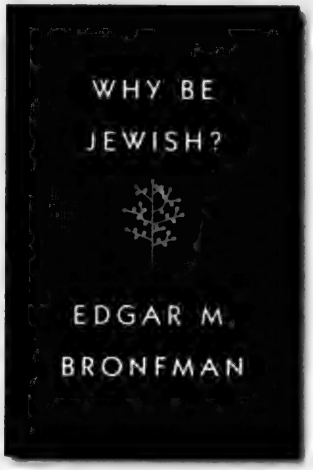
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In the end, this was all very confusing to a 15-year-old boy.

The Judaism of my parents and the Judaism of my own generation was not a joyful Judaism. It was one forged in the fires of pogroms in Russia from which my grandparents fled, and deepened by the horror of the Holocaust. Although we were safe in Canada, the pain of the millions of Jews being murdered in Europe rested heavily on our shoulders. There was a vague, haunting sadness to being a Jewish child in the 1940s, even in the relative safety of North America. The calamity happening overseas was never discussed in our home, but we all knew anyway. Anti-Semitism during my youth, albeit less dramatic than the evils in Europe, was nonetheless damaging to the Jewish psyche. It wasn't just the physical manifestations of anti-Semitism: it was also an injury to the sense of self.

Despite their immense wealth, my parents did not escape this pain. On the one hand they were clearly Jews, but on the other, they were empire builders who longed to be bona fide members of the non-Jewish power elite, the majority of whom were not welcoming of Jews. Though they never said so, my guess is that if others had allowed them to do so, they may have cast off their Jewish identity at the first opportunity.

My lack of pride in my Jewishness might explain why I didn't protest my first wife's custom of celebrating Christmas, something not unusual for highly assimilated German Jews of that generation. I am sure that if I had voiced opposition Ann would have given up the holiday and would have also agreed to give the children as much Jewish education as I wanted. But I didn't object because it wasn't important to me. So for many years, we hung stockings by our fireplace and set up our fir tree, a grand and glittering affair that made no pretense at masquerading as that odd American invention, the Chanukah bush. On Christmas morning the air would fill with the excited squeals of our five children as they emptied their stockings and tore open their presents. I was not completely comfortable with all of this, especially receiving gifts from my in-laws, Petey and John Loeb, but since I lacked any real connection to my Jewishness, I dismissed my feelings as unimportant.



Looking back, I believe that had my parents consciously instilled Jewish pride in me during my formative years I would not have been so woefully indifferent to my Judaism. But I can't really blame them, because I followed in their footsteps, and failed to give my own children even the very basic Jewish education I'd received. If there is anything I regret, it is that as my children grew up, I gave them no Jewish tradition in our home. There was no Friday night meal to welcome the Shabbat, no observance of the holidays, and no Jewish learning.

This failing still haunts me. It is one of the reasons I spearheaded the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, a training program for young leaders. It's also why I have thrown myself and my resources into the revival of Hillel houses on campus and into the creation of MyJewishLearning.com, a website that offers information about Judaism from the most basic questions to advanced study and inquiry. And it's why I am so thrilled when Bronfman Fellowships alumni, like Rabbi Daniel Smokler, who is now director of education at the Bronfman Center at New York University, commit to bringing Jewish learning and text study to other young people in a way that is joyful and personal. Still, while initiatives and programs are much-needed, love of Judaism begins with family, at home.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MAPLE mazda

Paul & the Maple Mazda team wish you wish you a Happy Passover!

EXPLORE THE ROADS THIS SPRING WITH
NO CHARGE NAVIGATION + 0% PURCHASE FINANCING
ON SELECT 2015/2016 MODELS

2016 CX-5 GX
LEASE FROM $129 at 1.69% APR
bi-weekly for 60 months, with $895 down. Excludes HST

ZOOM-ZOOM

110 Auto Vaughan Dr. Vaughan ON
1-888-817-3002
www.maplemazda.ca
Monday to Thursday 9 am-9 pm
Friday & Saturday 9 am-6 pm

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a customized wealth management strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management

After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, our sages determined that the home would become the new Temple, calling it a *mikdash ma'at*, or little sanctuary. As one midrash explains, "When the Temple stood, the altar offered atonement for Israel. Now, one's table offers atonement" (Brachot 55a). The Jewish home – or any home – should be more than a shelter: it should act as the centre of meaning, beauty, and connection to forces larger than ourselves.

In Jewish tradition, it is in the home that many of life's significant milestones, from the birth of a child to death and mourning, take place. As pointed out by Rabbi Andy Bachman, a well-known communal leader and dear friend, Judaism has rituals for all those aspects of life – birth, transition, marriage, death – in which people cry out for meaning. He believes, and I think I agree, that these life-sanctifying rituals, along with Shabbat, are one of the main reasons that Judaism has stayed alive for nearly 4,000 years. ■

Excerpted from Why Be Jewish? A Testament by Edgar M. Bronfman. Copyright 2016 Edgar Bronfman. Published by Signal, an imprint of McClelland & Stewart, a division of Penguin Random House Canada Limited. Reproduced by arrangement with the publisher. All rights reserved.

SeeJN | 'Peace of Cake' interfaith event

Eight adults along with 10 Jewish teens from Beth Tzedec Congregation, and 14 Muslim youths from the Islamic Foundation of Toronto came to Beth Tzedec April 10 for a day of interfaith dialogue, and making Jewish and Southeast Asian Muslim foods. The event also featured a question-and-answer session about religion with Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Imam Yusuf Badat, as well as a tour of the shul.

Because Baycrest

is committed to fulfilling your legacy to positively impact the future of brain health and aging.

With your support, we will provide world-class care, conduct research to keep your brain healthy, while advancing education and sparking innovation. We will make a difference in the lives of thousands of older adults and their families – in Toronto and around the world.

Chag Sameach from our family to yours.

Baycrest

For information on how you can leave a legacy gift contact Becki Willoughby at 416-785-2500 ext. 3895 or bwilloughby@baycrest.org
baycrest.org

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 21, 2016

Weizmann research could help treat host of diseases

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

The findings from research by Prof. Irit Sagi, dean of the Feinberg Graduate School at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, could have major implications in treating cancer, inflammation, infection and a number of autoimmune diseases.

Sagi, who teaches in Weizmann's department of biological regulation, was in Montreal and Toronto last month to share the results of a study she's been working on for the past two decades involving the examination of a group of proteins responsible for the progression of cancer, inflammation and many infectious diseases.

Addressing audiences of Weizmann donors, Sagi was the keynote speaker at parlour events in both cities, and she also spoke at a small event at the Israeli consul general's home in Montreal as well as at the home of a private donor in Toronto.

Sagi's research, which is being referred to as groundbreaking and was recently featured in *Nature* magazine, involved looking at the structure and reactivity of various proteins, also called enzymes, that invade a body's healthy tissues and cause damage to them.

Irit Sagi, front row third from the left, and her research team

In doing so, these enzymes contribute to a host of diseases. "Tissue damage is common to almost all invasive diseases, because the diseased cell infects the whole body through migration... the [invasive] protein paves a path for harmful cells to cross [a person's] tissues and veins and invade almost any organ in the body," Sagi said.

To figure out how to block a harmful enzyme, she explained, it's first necessary to understand the enzyme's structure and the way that it operates, both of which tend to be extremely complex.

Over the course of her research, her team has revealed, for example, the comprehensive structure of an enzyme called MMP9, which is known to be produced in metatastic cancer cells and in tissues attacked by autoimmune diseases.

Her research also included developing a precise method for tracking, in real time, the changes that occur in active enzymes.

Sagi said researchers are now using this method to develop a new generation of drugs.

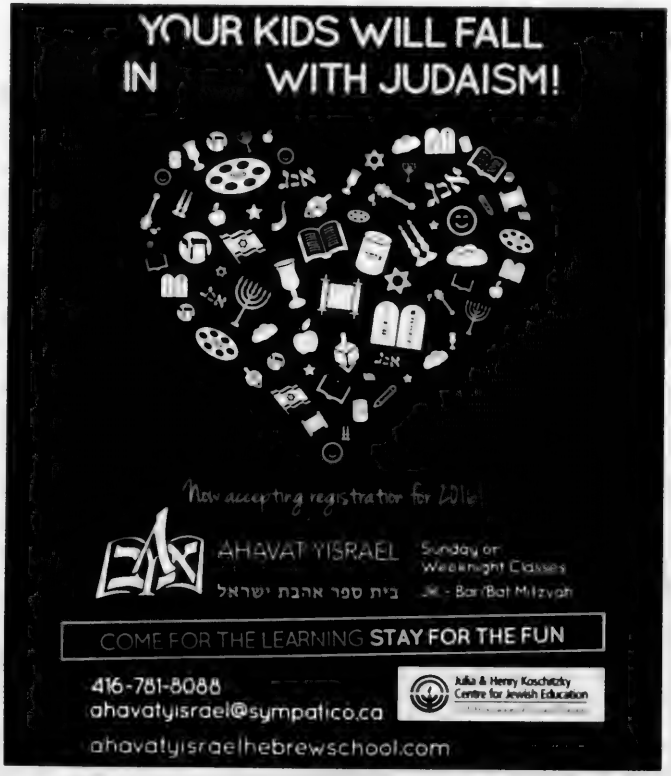
Further, Sagi's research team successfully designed certain molecules, known as therapeutic antibodies, which work to block invasive proteins responsible for tissue damage. "These molecules we've developed are antibodies, and the way they work is that they bind these very harmful enzymes in a specific conformation. That's what makes them so unique – they target only the pathological [and not the healthy] form of the enzymes," Sagi said.

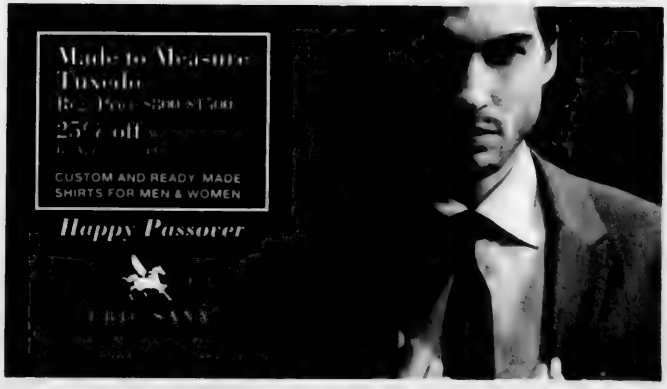
She said her team will continue to investigate the workings of these invasive enzymes, as well as try to apply their findings to the development of therapeutic drugs that could, "fight the tissue damage in a number of autoimmune diseases."

They're doing clinical trials to develop drugs for conditions such as Crohn's, as well as other inflammatory bowel diseases and autism. "The research she's done, such as her reversal of Crohn's disease in mice, has grabbed the attention of some pharmaceutical companies," said Lorie Blumer, a spokesperson for Weizmann Canada, a branch of an international network that supports the institute.

Sagi was born in Israel to a mother from Afghanistan and a father from Iran.

"At the Weizmann Institute, we have fantastic opportunities to do basic research, to work with superb students and colleagues and to access strong infrastructure," she said. "These components really help to move fast to come up with, and execute, groundbreaking ideas." ■


YOUR KIDS WILL FALL IN WITH JUDAISM!
Now accepting registration for 2016!
AHAVAT YISRAEL
בית ספר אהבת ישראל
Sunday or Weeknight Classes
JK - Bar/Bat Mitzvah
COME FOR THE LEARNING STAY FOR THE FUN
416-781-8088
ahavatyisrael@sympatico.ca
ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com
Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education



Anti-Semitism 'laundered' under universal values: Cotler

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thejcn.ca, MONTREAL

Anti-Semitism is at a level today not seen since World War II and is even more dangerous in the sense that it masquerades under the human rights banner, Irwin Cotler warned in the keynote address at a recent international conference at Indiana University on the topic.

"We are witnessing a new global, escalating, sophisticated, virulent and even lethal anti-Semitism reminiscent of the atmospherics of the 1930s, and without parallel or precedent," said Cotler, a former member of Parliament and justice minister, who shared his comments with *The CJN* following the conference.

A McGill University law professor emeritus, Cotler, after retiring from politics last year, founded and chairs the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

Cotler terms what he views as the attempt to find a respectable cover for hatred of Jews and denial of their nationhood as "the laundering of delegitimization under universal public values."

The United Nations (UN) is the ultimate "protective cover," offering legal sanction by virtue of its historic authority in international law, human rights and combating racism, he added.

Cotler said he is not talking about criticism of Israel, which he does not believe to be anti-Semitic.

"The new anti-Semitism involves the discrimination against, denial of, or assault upon, the right of the Jewish People to live as an equal member of the family of nations – or to live at all – with Israel emerging as the targeted collective Jew among the nations," he said.

The conference was held from April 2 to 6 by Indiana University's Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism. About 70 scholars from different countries attended. The theme was "Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism and the Dynamics of Delegitimization."

"This attempt to portray Israel and the Jewish People as the enemy of all that's good and the repository of all that's evil, and to incriminate the UN and the universal public values in that process, is as pernicious as it is prejudicial," he said.

When he speaks of a lethal anti-Semitism, Cotler explained that it may also

Irwin Cotler JACK FRANK PHOTO

be called "genocidal anti-Semitism" because the Geneva Convention prohibits incitement to genocide, as well as the act itself.

He believes the Iranian regime's explicit calls for the annihilation of Israel fall into that category.

"This genocidal anti-Semitism can be seen, for instance, in the state-sanctioned incitement to genocide of [Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei's Iran, a characterization I use to distinguish it from the people and public of Iran, who are otherwise the targets of Khamenei's massive domestic repression," he said.

The charters of Hamas and Hezbollah also express a genocidal intent with their tenets to destroy Israel and kill Jews, Cotler added.

In singling out Israel for condemnation, the UN is granting impunity to the major human rights violators, such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and China, he said, and the integrity of the UN is diminished.

Similarly, designating a UN special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories is wrong because this only looks at violations by Israel and not any other Middle Eastern country, he continued.

However, Cotler concluded, "as a Canadian, the UN is in my DNA," and he is not ready to give up on it.

"We should not retreat or abandon the UN because of its singling out of Israel," he said. "Rather, we should seek to reform and amend these breaches of the UN charter and launch a set of initiatives for this purpose." ■

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
CHAG SAMEACH
FROM GOLDMAN & BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY

THE GOLDMAN GROUP
goldmangroup.com

THE BARRINGTON
barringtoncondos.com

LASH
lashgroup.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 21, 2016

Kay vs. Kay

Are left-wing Jews self-hating pariahs or merely misguided western intellectuals?

Barbara Kay: One of the most popular books in Israel right now is *Catch the Jew!* by gonzo journalist Tuvia Tenenbom. Tenenbom is a German-Israeli Jew who lives in New York. His advantage as a reporter is that his German – his mother tongue – is so perfect he can pass as ethnically German and often does (at such times he goes by "Tobias").

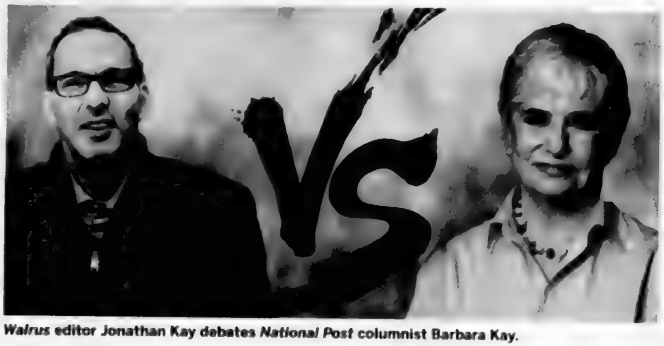
For seven months, Tenenbom rambled around Israel and the Palestinian Authority, talking to anyone and everyone, in search of objective truth. The book is very entertaining, even when uncovering the brazen and ferocious anti-Semitism of the innumerable NGO types from Europe, who think he is German and bare their Judeophobic souls.

One of the book's more sobering revelations is the depth of self-loathing Tenenbom found among Israeli intellectuals. They condemned Israel unreservedly, but the Palestinians could do no wrong. Tenenbom writes:

"It's a mental problem… for 2,000 years the Jews have been persecuted, for 2,000 years they have been taught they are the worst… Some people cannot handle it… and they say: 'If everyone in the world says I'm bad, that I am ugly, a thief, a murderer, horrible shrewd person, a money grubber, I am. What can I do to cleanse myself of it' And what do they do? Catch another Jew doing wrong… that makes them feel better, makes their ugly skin feel better."

The internalization of the world's anti-Semitism has produced a collective monster in our midst. The "as-a-Jew-catch-a-Jew" syndrome has become performance theatre with enthusiastic audiences flocking to enjoy Jews behaving badly. Some call these Jews "Theobold Jews" (Theobold was a Jewish convert to Christianity who made up the first blood libel in the 12th century), and some call them "alter-juifs," those who have led anonymous, secular lives, but who suddenly decide they must "break the silence" and "as a Jew" denounce Israel for its sins.

The problem has also been called "the tyranny of penitence" and "masochistic omnipotence syndrome." But whatever it is called, it is a contemporary version of the "sinat achim" (fraternal hatred) that has always plagued Jewish life. Today, it is a hatred of a particularly virulent, organized and dangerous strain, allied with global Islamofascism and eager to play with a fire that is meant to consume Israel.



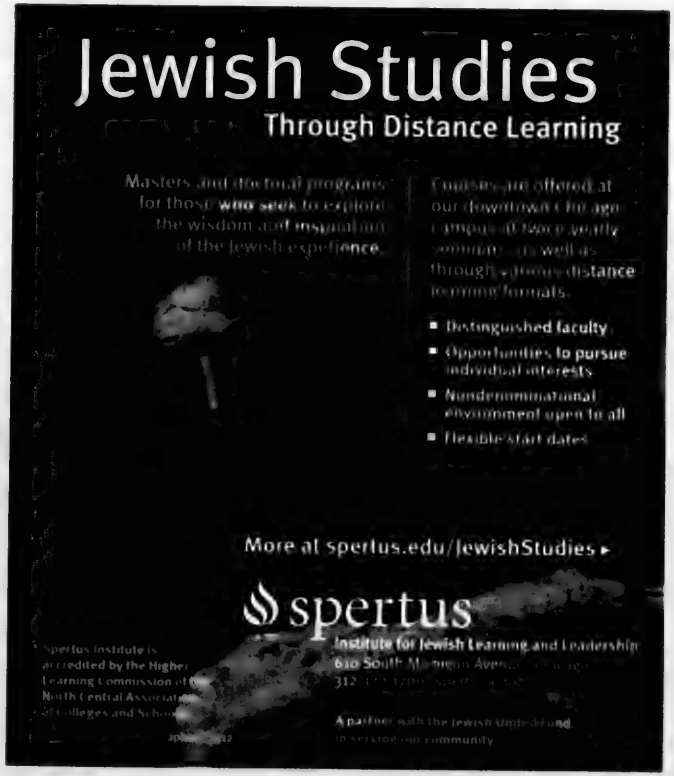
Walrus editor Jonathan Kay debates *National Post* columnist Barbara Kay.

Jonathan Kay: Insofar as Tenenbom's book title goes, *Catch the Jew!* sounds like a game-show idea made up by Borat. And I mean that as a compliment. I also like the idea of going around and seeing what people "really think" about this or that group. Hilarity is always bound to ensue.

But let's face it: when people think they're speaking to a sympathetic soul, they say stupid things about all sorts of folks. Or sometimes they just blurt out their negative generalizations in public. Mark Steyn on Muslims; Donald Trump on Mexicans; me on millennials – these are all examples that come readily to mind. As the late George Jonas aptly put it, we're all bigots at heart.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ISRAEL'S
THE JUDAICA CENTRE
POST PASSOVER CLEARANCE SALE!
April 25 - May 4, 2016
ALL PASSOVER MERCHANDISE ON SALE STARTING AT 40% OFF
SOME EXCEPTIONS APPLY
Fabulous Selection of Haggadot, Adults & Children's Books, CD's/DVD's, Cookbooks, Giftware & More!
1172 Eglinton Avenue West
416-256-1010
441 Clark Avenue West
905-881-1010
www.israelsjudaica.com
$5 OFF
Purchases of $50 or more.
Some exceptions apply.
May not be combined with other offers.
Coupon valid April 25 - May 4, 2016


Jewish Studies
Through Distance Learning
Masters and doctoral programs for those who seek to explore the wisdom and inspiration of the Jewish experience.
Courses are offered at our downtown Chicago campus, at Hebrew faculty communities as well as through online distance learning formats.
Distinguished faculty
Opportunities to pursue individual interests
Nondenominational environment open to all
Flexible start dates
More at spertus.edu/JewishStudies
spertus
Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

You're not going to have to convince me that anti-Semitism is, as Ruth Wisse memorably called it, "The 20th century's most successful ideology." And you're also not going to have to convince me that some left-wing Jews do join joyously in their own denunciation. Where you lose me is in word salad like "the tyranny of penitence" and "masochistic omnipotence syndrome." What we have here is the left-wing academic fashion for pretentious neologisms flipped on its head. We don't need fancy new phrases to describe what we have here, which is essentially just a Jewish variation on the well-established western penchant for civilizational guilt and self-flagellation.

This is a general phenomenon that Dinesh D'Souza wrote about lucidly before he got behind the camera and started producing whacked-out hit jobs on Barack Obama. In his book *The End of Racism*, he noted that western civilization is the only civilization known to mankind whose most refined minds regularly do nothing except excoriate the injustices and evils of their own society, while often sentimentally fetishizing the supposed wonders of more technologically primitive and socially regressive civilizations.

We've been doing this since – what? – the 1960s? Send a kid to a $50,000-a-year liberal arts college in New England these days, and the teenager who comes back to you at Christmas will be telling you all about how the patriarchal phallocracy is responsible for suppressing authentic aboriginal ways of feminist knowing. Or something. Having waded into these theories a little bit in law school, I can tell you that a lot of it is just socio-babble joined together by one very strong ideological filament, which is the idea that our society is corrupt, cruel and unjust. That's what kids learn today.

A protest and counter-protest in Toronto in 2014

Like you, I have been to Israel many times. In the cafés of Tel Aviv and on the country's university campuses, it is basically a western-style country — with a western-style intelligentsia. And as with any western-style intelligentsia, it is consumed by liberal self-loathing and guilt. I agree with you (and, presumably, Tenenbom) that this is an unfortunate spectacle. But how is it any more unfortunate than the Canadian intellectuals who proclaim Canada to be nothing more than a morally contaminated colonial enterprise built atop the mass graves of First Nations? Or the American intellectuals who still cite Chomsky chapter and verse in describing U.S. influence anywhere on the planet? How is Israel special here? How are Jews special?

Look at you. Get over yourself.

Barbara Kay: I am surprised that you cannot see the obvious differences between the self-loathing of Israeli intellectuals and the generalized self-loathing of western intellectuals.

Canada, for example, is not in the crosshairs of the United Nations night and day, nor are Canadian students in general running a gauntlet of hatred on their campuses. The most populous and triumphalist religion on Earth does not have hatred of Canadianism built into its sacred texts. There is no long-term hatred called "anti-Canadianism." There is no great mass of people whose common bond is a hysterical hatred of Canadians and who have declared their chief purpose in life to see all Canadians wiped from the Earth as the eradication of a cancer. Canadian youth do not brood over the massacre of half their numbers in the not-so-distant past. Need I go on?

It is immaterial to Canada – or Sweden, or France (or fill in western nation here) if a clutch of academics hate the West. It will roll on like a big, lazy river with pebbles being thrown into it from time to time. But it is quite material to Jews that – a tiny majority of the population – their own intellectuals happen to constitute a shameful disproportion of the anti-Zionist activism on campuses with large numbers of Jews.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGVURAH 2016
Struggling to Maintain the Human Spirit during the Holocaust

Join Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) and the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre at [illegible] for a community-wide event to commemorate the victims of the Shoah and [illegible] survivors.

Featuring an original dramatic production commissioned by FSWC:
"Reflections of Anne Frank"

With:
- Jewish War Veterans March of Colour
- The Passing of the Torch
- Holocaust Survivor Candle Lighting Ceremony
- Bialik Day School Youth Choir

Details:
Date: Wednesday May 4, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m. | Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Toronto Centre for the Arts (5040 Yonge St.)
Cost: Free of Charge

Registration Required – (1 ticket limit per person)

To Register Contact:
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
Tracey Steyn [illegible]

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre
Mary Saxby [illegible]

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre

Participating Organizations: [illegible]
Survivors and Descendants Centre for Israel
Jewish Canadians
Royal Canadian Legion, Bills of Greater
Board of Rabbis Toronto Council of Hazzan
Consulate General of Israel, Gene
Toronto
Canada, The Azrieli Foundation

FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

147 ELDER STREET
A RECOGNIZED, PROVEN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN DEMENTIA CARE

A RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FOR PERSONS WITH
ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA

"WHY IS THIS HOME DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER HOME?"

CARE & ENVIRONMENT

- 1:3 staff to resident ratio
- 24/7 on site Registered Nurses
- Constant surveillance & stimulation by a unique multi-disciplinary team
- Individualized care plans, in small groups & 1:1, designed to meet residents specific needs
- Loving, surrogate family-like environment
- No hidden costs

ACHIEVEMENTS
USING OUR R.E.S.T.® PHILOSOPHY & RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES & INTERVENTIONS

- Improved self-esteem
- Reduced agitation & anxiety
- More effective use of medications
- Normalized sleep patterns
- Enhanced physical & mental status
- Peace of mind for families

WHAT OUR FAMILIES SAY

"Specialized personal care at its finest"

"I know they're not family, but they feel like they are"

"Bedrooms upstairs are empty because everyone is downstairs participating in life"

RECENTLY OPENED: NEW WING FOR PERSONS WITH MODERATE DEMENTIA

Wishing You a Happy Passover

Roz Schultz MSW, CEO; Brenda Grant RN, Director of Care
416 250-8965; email: sagecare@on.aibn.com or visit our website at:
www.147elder.com

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

That is confusing and demoralizing to Jews who want to feel – and legitimately should feel – proud of their heritage and proud of their attachment to their homeland.

Israel has all the appearances of a western-style country on the surface. And many Israelis live ordinary lives much like we do. But dig an inch down, and you cannot compare our experience of life. Israelis contrive to maintain normal lives, even though they know that every day, someone somewhere in Israel is being stabbed or blown up because he is Jewish. Canadians do not experience their lives that way.

So yes, some Jews do participate joyously in the general world pogrom against Jews. But the "some" Jews are probably equal in number to the "some" non-Jews on many campuses. Proportionately that is a crazy percentage of Jews against a minuscule number of non-Jews. You would not find this phenomenon of exterminationist denunciation of its spiritual centre among any other religious or ethnic groups. I say exterminationist in its real sense, not to be dramatic. If you support the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, you are supporting the demise of Israel as a Jewish homeland.

There are two groups of BDS Jews: the naive kind who think they are helping Israel become a just and moral country, and the hardcore, Hamas-embracing Israel-as-Nazis militants (Max Blumenthal is a good example) who know exactly what they want: Israel erased (catch that Jew!), and their own lives eased.

I'm not saying every Jew has to love being Jewish or love Israel. In the past, Jews with no interest or great love for Judaism dropped out of Judaism, called themselves atheists or secular or ex-Jews or "of Jewish provenance," but they went their own way. The Communist Jews wanted to dissolve their Judaism in the great utopian flow of internationalism. It didn't work out so well, but they at least did not go around bellowing "not in my name" when Orthodox Jews did their thing. In the past you could convert to Christianity or Islam and rid yourself of your Jewishness that way.

But Israel is just this gigantic elephant in the room. It won't go away, and it has influence over them, whether they want it to or not. So Jews who want to be secular, who want to be ex-Jews, find they can't, because the anti-Semites (who won't admit they're anti-Semites) keep judging them against Israel. And it's settled in progressive minds that Israel is apartheid, Nazi, the great oppressor occupier, the source of all evil. So they have to choose. They have to pick a side. And they choose progressivism because it's tough to beat against that current in university, and progressivism is now as synonymous with hatred for Israel as feminism is synonymous with "a woman's right to choose."

You can't be a progressive and a Zionist any more than you can be a feminist and pro-life. It has come to be understood that when a person finds herself unable to identify with Judaism or with Jewish peoplehood, then she must automatically become an anti-Zionist. This is a choice no other ethnic or religious group is forced to make.

A Jewish woman makes her views known at a Queen's Park rally in July 2014.

> *Let's not pretend that left-wing Jews are the only blinkered dogmatists here.*
> **Jonathan Kay**

Jonathan Kay: Look, guilty left-wing western intellectuals are guilty left-wing intellectuals — whether they are Jewish or gentile. It's a fundamentally Marxist reflex, rooted in the idea that people who are poor and oppressed (Palestinians) have the moral upper hand over those who are rich and powerful (Israel). And these same intellectuals don't care a whit for your colourful denunciations of the Islamic threat. Just the opposite: they view terrorism and Islamic militancy as a form of blowback from generations of western colonialism and occupation and such.

We all know these arguments, and I will not recite them here. The point is that these left-wing, Israel-hating Jews you speak of are not suffering some sort of unique psychological pathology that requires an esoteric new label. It is, as I say, just the standard application of a Marxist oppressed-oppressor paradigm to the Jewish state. It's Naomi Klein redux. And it's not new. Or even particularly interesting.

But as I read this last response from you, it occurred to me that the tenor of what you write explains why so many younger Jews are turned off by dogmatic Zionism. I recognize all of the talking points you have listed here, as I once used them all in my own editorials at the *National Post*. And they are all true in some way.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

An anti-Israel protest in Calgary in 2014

But it is dispiriting to see that much of the writing about Israel [illegible] in, say, *Commentary* magazine, or the columns of Charles Krauthammer, still largely consists of a mechanical repetition of this same catalogue of arguments, without much variation. In this way, the Zionist right has created a dogma that is just as tiresome (though not quite as other-worldly) as the anti-Zionist dogmas that exist among doctrinaire anti-Zionist liberals.

In these colour-by-number fusillades, the Arabs are always cast as unremittingly bellicose and anti-Semitic, the Israelis always patient and civilized. There is no hint of any real curiosity about the range of opinions that now exist among Palestinians, or Arabs more generally. Nor is there any admission of the increasingly shrill character of religious Zionism in Israel, nor the many completely gratuitous humiliations and inconveniences that Israel imposes on ordinary Palestinians. Where Iran is concerned, it's always Munich 1938. And Obama is always Chamberlain. Let's not pretend that left-wing Jews are the only blinkered dogmatists here.

I am on your side when it comes to those Jews who support BDS. But BDS types actually comprise a very tiny part of left-wing Jewry. Globally, the BDS movement has been a complete failure when it comes to hurting Israel's economy. But it has been a massive success in driving North American Zionists bug-eyed with unhinged hostility against this tiny fragment of extreme leftists who waste their time trying to set sail "boats for Gaza" and such.

A few months ago, I started participating in events organized by the New Israel Fund (NIF) here in Canada. And my old *National Post* friends warned me that NIF was a hive of strident Jewish anti-Zionists. But that turned out to be completely false. Not only do NIF types generally reject the BDS movement, they also entertain a wide range of opinions about Israel, good and bad. It was actually refreshing to be in a room full of people who actually seemed curious to learn more – even from people who didn't share their views.

All of which to say: if hardline North American Zionist Jews (such as yourself) wonder why some of their Jewish friends have become radically alienated from the Zionist project, they might want to examine the brittle, tribalizing sloganeering – not to mention casual denunciation of the entirety of Arab and Islamic civilization – that now has become a casually recited component of pro-Israel advocacy.

Barbara Kay: I reject your all-the-same lumping of Jews against Jews with the general anti-westernism of the intelligentsia, which is, as you say, grounded in the Marxist paradigm of oppressed-oppressor. A true parallel would be an organized movement consisting of Christians-against-Christians in league with ISIS. That never happens in any organized way with other religions.

Paroxysmal hatred of Israel by Jews expressed in an organized and proud alliance with those sworn to the extermination of Jews is an entirely new thing. It arose in 1967 when the left turned against Israel and demanded that Jews choose between progressivism and Zionism. Those who chose the left have been put through their paces to prove their allegiance. I consider their desperate ingratiation with Israel's enemies with the same mixture of revulsion and pity I reserve for adolescents who "cut" themselves. This is, I insist, a new phenomenon. There was no Nazi-Jewish alliance. There was no organized Jewish support to convict Dreyfus.

Your use of the words "dogmatic" and "hardline" to describe Zionists like me is off-putting and patronizing. I suppose that you would have called me a "hardline" capitalist in the 1950s because I felt communism was an existential threat to the democratic way of life. I was right then, and I believe I am right today. I think there are all kinds of things wrong with capitalism. But one had to take a side in that conflict, and I chose the side of freedom. One must take a side today and for the same reason: democracy against totalitarianism.

Hatred of Jews in the Middle East has nothing to do with settlements or checkpoints or "oppression." It is a question of honour and shame. Muslims are shamed by having Jews in their midst as a sovereign nation. Period. Nothing will satisfy them but a Judenrein Middle East. Anyone who has the effrontery to call himself a Jew and yet align himself with Hamas and Hezbollah has not come to that position through reason; he is culturally disordered.

I also take issue with your stereotyping me as a reader of *Commentary* and Charles Krauthammer and nobody else, implying that only you and your thoughtful friends at the New Israel Fund read everyone. If by "dogmatic" you mean that I prefer Israel to be in the right in conflicts, but will still stand by Israel as a homeland to take pride in even when she is not always right, then colour me dogmatist. I would prefer to describe myself as someone who has taken a side at a historical junction. You cannot be neutral any more than Switzerland was in World War II, when neutrality meant a refusal to choose between outright evil and imperfect good. I hope that is not your position.

The BDS movement does not really care if they have quantifiable success. They are playing the long game of relentless indoctrination, convincing the leaders of tomorrow that there is something inherently illegitimate about Israel's existence. It is working, and thanks in large part to the Naomi Kleins of our people. I despise them and so do their Palestinian friends in the BDS movement. They are to the Palestinians what the "Useful Idiots" of the intelligentsia were to the Communists (I call our Jewish version "Useful Jewdiots"). With the added feature that to militant Muslims, Jews who turn on their brothers are people without honour. It's the one point in this discussion on which Hamas and I would agree.

Jonathan Kay: I love how you refuse the labels "dogmatic" and "hardline," and then in the same breath compare Palestinians to Nazis and suggest BDS types are akin to mentally ill adolescents who slice themselves with knives. I really couldn't have made the point any better myself.

Hardline Zionists are so used to talking to one another in echo chambers that they no longer consider how off-putting their slogans are for people expecting fair-minded debate. Re-read what you've written here. Do you think this sort of language makes your side attractive to open-minded liberal Jews? Or do you think it confirms the caricatures of op-ed-page Zionists they heard from their friends over orange slices at the Bard College Feminist Seder?

One more thing. You say you "despise" the Jews who disagree with you on this, and suggest they are also despised pariahs among all the world's peoples – completely medieval imagery. Aside from being a Jew, you are also an intellectual. And it is an intellectual's mandate not to "despise" anyone. Not bigots, not hatemongers, not conspiracy theorists. They all have things to teach us, even if it is not the lesson they intend, and even if we find their views self-evidently wrong and even dangerous. You blind yourself to learning if you are full of hate. You become an activist instead of an intellectual – an especially dangerous position for an intellectual who is also a journalist.

Last week, on the National Public Radio podcast *Hidden Brain*, the host profiled two amazing people: a Palestinian academic who brought his West Bank students to Auschwitz so they could understand the Holocaust, and a religious Jewish soldier who became alienated from the IDF after witnessing the inhumane treatment of an elderly Palestinian woman in her own home. That soldier now articulates views very much in harmony with the left-wing types you dismiss as self-cutting pariahs. Do you "despise" him? Because, frankly, I'd be more interested in talking to these two men than the whole parade of party-line Netanyahu boosters who tend to dominate the speaking roster at many North American big-budget public affairs events.

I will end this exchange on a personal note, since all of my intellectual learning began with the bookshelf in our family home. On that bookshelf, I found both the Jewish tradition of Talmud and scholarly debate, but also the plain-spoken literary tradition of the modern West – my favourite specimen, of course, being George Orwell. Both influences teach us that you learn through observation and humility. Simply telling your debating opponents that they are pathological nutcases who deserve the world's hatred may allow one to feel like a successful Zionist. But it marks failure for an intellectual – and perhaps also for a Jew. ■

INTERNATIONAL

No Jewish history on Temple Mount, UNESCO says

NOGA TARNOPOLSKY
PARIS

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Association, announced a number of resolutions just before the start of last weekend.

One, submitted by Russia, called for defining UNESCO's role in safeguarding and preserving Palmyra and other Syrian World Heritage sites. Another was about "Enhancing UNESCO's contributions to promote a culture of mutual respect and tolerance."

A third was simply entitled "Occupied Palestine" and addressed the Jerusalem Old City hot spot that Jews refer to as the Temple Mount and Muslims call *Haram Al-Sharif*, the Noble Sanctuary. Except that the Jewish link to the site, considered the holiest place for Jews, went unmentioned.

In the context of Jerusalem's Old City, the document refers to Israel solely as "the occupying power" and refers to the site itself, the world famous esplanade flanked by the Western Wall – considered by many experts to be the last existing retaining wall of the mount that once held the ancient Jewish temples – only by its Islamic moniker. The decision refers to the plaza fronting the Western Wall only in quotation marks, except when using one of its Arabic names, Al-Buraq, a reference to the prophet Muhammad's ascent to heaven.

The Israeli government responded with fury.

"This is yet another absurd UN decision," an incandescent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement released late on April 16. "UNESCO ignores the unique historic connection of Judaism to the Temple Mount, where the two temples stood for a thousand years and to which every Jew in the world has prayed for thousands of years. The UN is rewriting a basic part of human history and has again proven that there is no low to which it will not stoop."

View of the Western Wall and the Al-Aqsa mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem CORINNA KERN/ FLASH90 PHOTO

Carmel Shama Hacohen, Israel's representative to UNESCO, issued a press release declaring that "even if UNESCO passes dozens of resolutions, and decides to continue passing thousands more, Jerusalem will always remain as part of the capital of Israel and the Jewish people."

Last Saturday night, addressing Jordan, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, and Sudan, the nations which presented the resolution, Shama Hacohen averred that, "As you continue on this path of incitement, lies and terror you will be sending UNESCO down a path towards irrelevance."

The *Jordan Times* revelled: "Jordan triumphant in 'diplomatic showdown' over Jerusalem at UNESCO."

Jews are permitted to visit the site at pre-arranged times, but under international agreements signed when Israel captured the area from Jordan in the 1967 war, Jewish worship is banned.

Without citing specifics, the resolution also condemned Israel for "planting fake Jewish graves in other spaces of the Muslim cemeteries" and for "the continued conversion of many Islamic and Byzantine remains into the so-called Jewish ritual baths or into Jewish prayer places."

Among the states supporting the decision were Argentina, France, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, India and Russia, several of which enjoy ostensibly warm relations Israel.

A UNESCO spokesman declined to comment on the decision.

The Israeli government also declined to comment beyond the statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

The resolution, considered a victory for anti-Israel hardliners, also affirms that Hebron, a city that according to most histories has a 3,000-year history of Jewish life, and Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, are "an integral part of Palestine."

Referencing "ongoing Israeli illegal excavations, works, construction of private roads for settlers and a separation wall inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, that harmfully affect the integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship," UNESCO also urged "Israel, the occupying power, to end these violations in compliance with provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions."

This resolution is not the first attempt to designate anew holy sites in what may be the most contested spot in the Middle East.

In October, 2015, facing the rejection of Russia, China and even Cuba, that usually joins anti-Israel initiatives, the Palestinian delegation to UNESCO withdrew a proposed resolution that would have defined the Western Wall itself as an "integral part" of the compound holy to Muslims.

Anwar Ben Badis, a professor of Arabic and Aramaic at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at Al-Quds University, who often leads tours of the esplanade, said the decision was "unequivocally political, not legal or binding in any way, but at attempt to support and further the Palestinian struggle."

Speaking with *The Media Line*, Ben Badis said he believes "that every decision provides international support to everything the Palestinians are doing to free Al-Aqsa and all of Palestine." ■

The Media Line
Themedialine.org

Police chief renews ban on Israeli lawmakers visiting Jerusalem flashpoint

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israel's Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich announced a renewed open-ended ban on Israeli lawmakers visiting the flashpoint Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The directive was issued in a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on April 17, in which Alsheich wrote: "In light of attempts by many extremist elements from both sides to create provocations... I surmise that at this time, ascent to the Temple Mount by Knesset members is likely to result in an exacerbation of tensions and an escalation of incidents that would cause a real endangerment of the security of the state.

"I have decided to continue the ban on members of Knesset going up to the Temple Mount until further notice. The issue will be considered anew once the [holiday season is] over," Alsheich added in the letter, according to a Channel 2 report.

Netanyahu warned last week that "extremist elements" were attempting to sow unrest in Jerusalem and other areas in efforts to renew violence between Israelis and Palestinians ahead of the Passover holiday, which starts this weekend.

The prime minister said security forces would increase their readiness to counter those attempts amid a wave of Palestinian attacks that began more than six months ago and has lately been ebbing.

"There are, at present, attempts to rekindle the unrest and the violence, especially over Passover and the Temple Mount, as we previously experienced during the holidays last autumn," Netanyahu said during a speech in Tel Aviv to the union of local authorities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

OPINION

There's more to do to reach the Promised Land

Yair Lootsteen

There's no tale of collective Jewish history, of Jewish peoplehood, more telling than the story of the Exodus from Egypt, a story most Jews will recount at their Passover seders in just a few days.

This year, as I prepared for that lovely long evening of family, food, discussions and learning, I came across a speech David Ben-Gurion gave at the Peel Commission in 1937, a commission tasked with exploring a possible partition of Mandatory Palestine between Jews and Arabs. During that speech, he said the following:

"Three hundred years ago, there came to the New World a boat, and its name was the Mayflower. The Mayflower's landing on Plymouth Rock was one of the great historical events in the history of England and in the history of America. But I would like to ask any Englishman sitting here on the commission, what day did the Mayflower leave port? What date was it? I'd like to ask the Americans: do they know the date the Mayflower left port in England? How many people were on that boat? Who were their leaders? What kind of food did they eat on the boat?

"More than 3,300 years ago, long before the Mayflower, our people left Egypt, and every Jew in the world, wherever he is, knows what day they left. And he knows what food they ate. And we still eat that food every anniversary. And we know who our leader was. And we sit down and tell the story to our children and grandchildren in order to guarantee that it will never be forgotten."

As I read of "every Jew in the world, wherever he is," I couldn't help thinking of the miraculous modern-day exodus that has brought millions of Jews to Israel from around the globe.

Israel today has the largest Jewish population of any country on earth. Nearly 43 per cent of all Jews live here, compared to 40 per cent living in the United States and 2.7 per cent in Canada, whose 385,000 Jews comprise the world's fourth-largest community.

But preparing to sit down to retell the story of the Exodus, I worry about the continued link between Israel and the world's Jews, especially those progressive Jews – Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, Renewal – who constitute a significant segment of the present Diaspora, but whose Judaism continues to be treated as second- and third-rate by the Jewish state, the only western democracy where not all Jews are equal.

As an Israeli Reform Jew (and deputy chair of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism), I'm proud of our ever-growing movement – tens of vibrant congregations led by strong lay leaders and Israeli-trained Reform rabbis, educational programs, a youth movement, social justice arm and much more – all testimony to the growing numbers of Israelis who understand there's more than one way to be Jewish.

This winter has been a veritable roller-coaster.

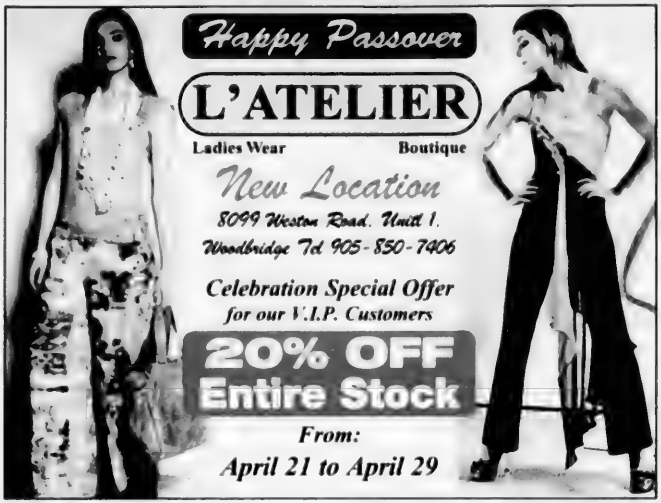
After several years of negotiations, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government made a historic decision to develop a section of the Western Wall for egalitarian prayer, allowing progressive Jewish movements to be partners in administering that segment of the Wall.

Furthermore, our Supreme Court, the unrelenting beacon of Israel's democracy, issued two important rulings. One stipulated that public mikvahs – ritual bathhouses – must be opened to Reform and Conservative converts. The other said the state must recognize Orthodox conversions even if they weren't performed by the official rabbinate.

Weeks after those landmark decisions, Netanyahu got cold feet. Fearing his narrow coalition would collapse, he bowed to haredi pressure, opening the Western Wall agreement for re-examination. Meanwhile, his haredi cohorts are initiating legislation meant to circumvent the Supreme Court's rulings.

At the seder, we'll recite that in every generation, each person must regard him/herself as if he/she had come out of Egypt. While we have miraculously arrived in the Land of Israel, there's much more to be done before we reach the Promised Land. ■

Happy Passover!
CELEBRATE!
SYMPOSIUM
CAFE
Celebrating
20 Years!
When it's time to celebrate, make it special at Symposium Cafe Restaurant & Lounge.
22 locations, including North York, Thornhill, Richmond Hill and Woodbridge - www.SymposiumCafe.com
DAILY FEATURES INCLUDE: Breakfast 7-11-4pm
33% off appetizers 4-6pm and 10-12pm | $4 happy hour drinks 4-6 pm
Proud Supporters of



CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Israel's Nation Building University

CANADIAN ASSOCIATES
OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY
is thrilled to announce that

The Honourable
Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C.
will receive an
Honorary Doctorate
from Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev

in Beer-sheva on June 7th 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
at the 46th Board of Governors Meeting.
Ceremony will be followed by a Reception
in the Udi Garden.

Please join us as the BGU community
pays homage to Irwin Cotler.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CONTACT:

CABGU Quebec
400 – 4950 Queen Mary Rd.
Montreal, QC H3W 1X3
(514) 937-8927 ext. 101

CABGU Ontario
506 – 1000 Finch Avenue West
Toronto, ON M3J 2V5
(416) 665-8054 ext. 21

Donations to CABGU may be made to the above addresses or phone numbers or online at https://www.bengurion.ca/bgu/donate (where a tax receipt will be generated immediately).

Police, Netanyahu plead for calm on Temple Mount

Israel Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

"On the eve of the Passover holiday, all kinds of extremist elements are promoting lies about our policies on the Temple Mount with the aim of causing riots and fueling tensions. We are working against these inciters and against these inciting elements, and we will increase our forces in places of friction and also take defensive measures. We are also sending messages to Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and the entire Arab world," he said.

"I invite you too, mayors, Jews and Arabs alike, to work with the residents of your towns and cities to calm tensions. We will not allow a radical minority to change the course of things," he added.

Netanyahu also reiterated Israel's commitment to the status quo on the Temple Mount, which today houses Islam's Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock shrine and is known in Arabic as *Haram al-Sharif*, or the Holy Sanctuary.

"I tell you with full certainty: there has not been, nor will there be, any change in our policy toward the status of the Temple Mount-*Haram al-Sharif*. Do not believe the lies that are promoted, unfortunately, by a number of Knesset members," Netanyahu said. "We are committed to maintaining peace and security and we will do whatever is necessary to ensure the security of Israeli citizens."

Muslims regard the Temple Mount as the third-holiest site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina. In Judaism, the Temple Mount, the location of both ancient Jewish temples, is so holy that Jews have traditionally refrained from setting foot there due to ritual purity rules. They congregate instead at the adjacent Western Wall, a retaining wall of the ancient temple complex that is now considered the most revered site for Jewish prayer.

Under an agreement between the Israeli government and Islamic authorities at the site reached after Israel's conquest of the Old City of Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War, Jews are allowed to visit but not pray on the mount itself. Jewish visitors suspected of violating the Temple Mount prayer ban are routinely arrested by Israeli police.

During Passover, and other High Holy Days, some religiously observant Jews seek to visit the compound.

Clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli security forces erupted at the compound in September 2015 amid fears among Muslims that Israel was planning to change the rules governing the site. Israel has repeatedly denied any such plans.

Netanyahu's comments came a day after Israeli President Reuven Rivlin called a meeting with the leaders of Israel's faith communities to work toward reducing tensions surrounding the Temple Mount, and to promote a message of tolerance ahead of Passover, Orthodox Easter and other holidays.

The April 13 meeting came hours after Palestinian leaders warned that Jews visiting the Temple Mount compound during the upcoming Passover festival would inflame tensions. In an incident last week, a Jewish couple was secretly married while on a visit to the Temple Mount, leading several Israeli politicians to warn that the move threatened to ignite new violence around the holy site. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Israeli youths tend to be right-wing, survey shows

Leader of the Jewish Home political party, Naftali Bennett, seen with students at the Bleich high school in the central Israeli city of Ramat Gan in February 2016. TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90 PHOTO

BEN SALES
JTA, JERUSALEM

American young people are rallying behind Jewish socialist Bernie Sanders. Their Israeli counterparts look more likely to back Jewish nationalist Naftali Bennett.

A poll of Jewish-Israeli teens released last week by *Israel Hayom*, the free Israeli right-wing daily, portrays a generation that's staunchly nationalist, pessimistic on peace and, in part, dismissive of Arab-Israeli civil liberties.

According to the poll of 11th and 12 graders, 59 per cent of Jewish-Israeli youths call themselves right-wing. Twenty-three per cent self-define as centrist, while only 13 per cent are left-wing. Eighty-two per cent say there's little to no chance of reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

A majority says the Israel Defence Forces is the world's most moral army. Nearly two-thirds agree with the traditional Israeli saying, "It is good to die for our land."

Those numbers skew a bit to the right of Israeli Jews in general. The 2015 Israel Democracy Index, a yearly survey put out by the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI), finds that Israeli Jews self-define as 49 per cent right, 27 per cent centrist and about 16 per cent left. Three-quarters, according to another IDI survey from March, doubt the chances for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Such a generational shift reflects recent Israeli history. Israeli 18-year-olds, born in 1998, went through nursery school during a bloody intifadah and had seen three wars in Gaza, and one in Lebanon, before graduating high school. Meanwhile, they've experienced repeated waves of terror and watched three rounds of failed peace talks.

Unlike their parents and grandparents, they can't remember the 1980s, when ordinary Israelis and Palestinians had far more frequent contact, or the 1990s, when optimism about peace was widespread. They have no personal memory of Yitzhak Rabin, his assassination as prime minister, the incitement leading up to it or the Israeli social rifts that followed.

The *Israel Hayom* survey suggests young Israeli Jews have right-wing views on Arabs too. Nearly half say Israeli Arabs shouldn't be allowed to vote or run for Knesset. Sixty per cent say the soldier who shot dead a wounded Palestinian attacker in Hebron shouldn't be put to trial.

In that sense, the youths agree with their elders. According to the 2015 IDI survey, Israeli Jews in general favour giving Jews more voting rights than Arabs. Sixty per cent say only those who swear a loyalty oath to Israel and perform national service should be allowed to vote and run for Knesset – a requirement that would exclude most Israeli Arabs. Most Israeli Jews believe a Jewish majority should be required to make decisions regarding peace, security, economics, governance or society. Most oppose including Arab parties in the governing coalition.

Israel Hayom's Boaz Bismuth sees his newspaper's survey as mostly good news. "So what does all this say? That at the end of the day, our youths are similar to their parents," he writes. "In our case, this is actually heartening: our youths, most of all, are patriots. We have someone to rely on."

Israeli Hayom put the best spin on one statistic: that 11 per cent of Israeli youths don't see their future in Israel. The *Israel Hayom* article called that finding, among others, as "very patriotic." And while the relatively low number tracks with data suggesting that emigration rates have been declining in the last 20 years, fears that young people will depart for greener economic pastures has prompted much hand-wringing over the years; in 2011, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption ran a controversial series of TV ads warning Israelis against moving abroad. ■

Holidays are more meaningful when spent with friends.

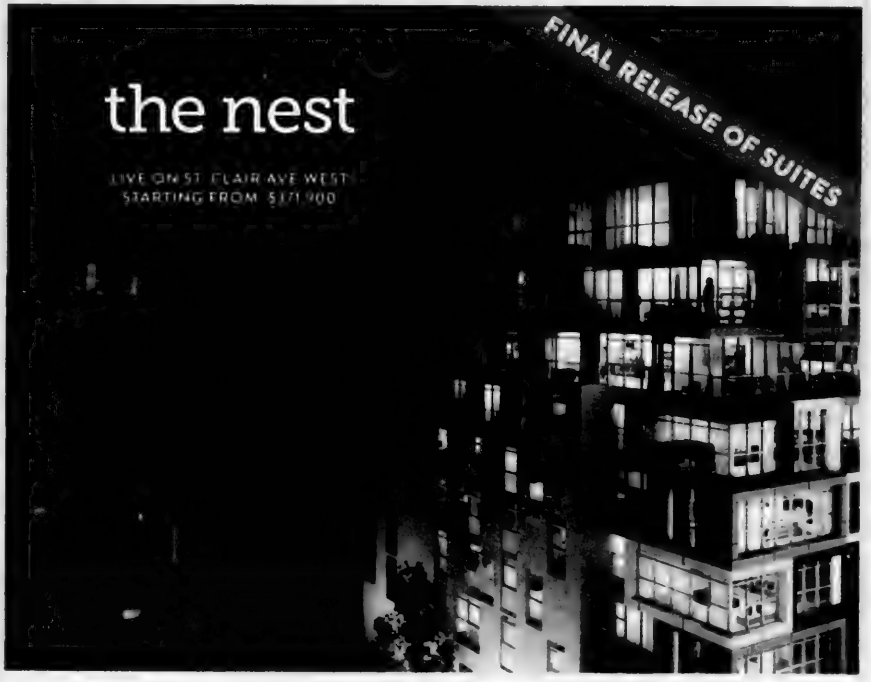
MAX AND MAY APPLEBAUM, AT CHARTWELL SINCE APRIL 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTwell | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
784 Centre Street
Thornhill
Make us part of your story. 289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

Help *Your Children*
Build Their Nest Egg...



WINNER OF THE 2014 BILD AWARD FOR BEST SUITE DESIGN

A place you and yours will want to call home.

✓ RECEIVE UP TO $5,000 IN UPGRADES†
✓ PLUS 5% INITIAL DEPOSITS TO QUALIFIED FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS†

With oversized terraces, modern design and an unbeatable midtown St Clair West address, The Nest *Residences of Hillcrest Village* is the perfect place to land. Define your way to live surrounded by all the conveniences at your door step including transit. **FROM $371,900.**

PRESENTATION CENTRE
784 St. Clair Ave West (west of Arlington Avenue)
Monday to Wednesday 12-6 pm Saturday • Sunday 12-5 pm

THENESTCONDOS.COM
416.223.0003
BROKERS PROTECTED

ROCKPORT®
LIFE. LIVED BETTER.

† Offer is not retroactive and is valid for a limited time only. Ask Sales Rep for details. Rendering is an artist's impression. Sizes and specifications are subject to change without notice. E.&O.E

Opposition parties join forces to stop PM's re-election

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Opposition lawmakers have joined forces to pass a bill that would limit Israeli prime ministers to no more than two terms in office.

If signed into law, the legislation would set a de facto term limit for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently serving his fourth term as head of state.

The bill was first proposed by Zionist Union MK Merav Michaeli in 2014, but was thwarted by the Likud leadership in the last Knesset.

The legislation, which seeks to "prevent the degeneration and detachment" of Israel's leaders, was re-submitted March 30 to the Knesset for a preliminary vote.

Michaeli's bill argues that a two-term limit produces a stable government and encourages serving prime ministers to maintain a strong coalition by eliminating the option of rushing to new elections.

"Democracy is not a monarchy, and it is vital to not create long years of rule by a single person," the bill reads.

Zionist Union head Isaac Herzog, Yesh Atid chairman Yair Lapid, Yisrael Beytenu chairman Avigdor Liberman and Joint (Arab) List chairman Ayman Odeh have joined forces in an effort to pass the bill into law, Channel 2 reported on April 17.

The lawmakers also are seeking to have Netanyahu barred from the plenum vote, because the legislation would affect him personally.

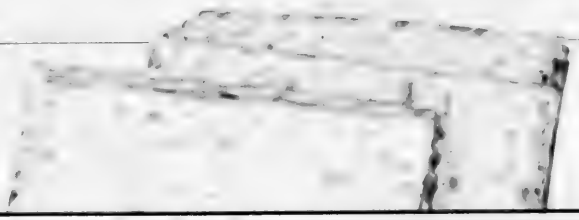
Though the bill would limit a prime minister's term, it would not impose a limit on a party's ability to maintain power over multiple consecutive terms.

In a statement on Sunday, Likud party members accused the right-wing Liberman of capitulating to a left-wing agenda, and accused him of "attempting to topple" the ruling Netanyahu government.

In 2015, Netanyahu entered his third consecutive term in office. He previously served as prime minister between 1996 and 1999. ■

Times Of Israel
timesofisrael.com

PASSOVER FOOD



Mediterranean specialties

DAPHNA RABINOVITCH
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Most of us have favourites that we rely on every Passover. I, too, have to cook and bake some of the same things every year, and I love doing so because I know it will please my family and guests.

I have been serving the same brisket recipe for the past decade or so because everyone arrives looking forward to it. But I also accompany it with another dish.

I like to pay homage to other Jewish cuisines. The Cornish hen recipe takes its lead from Moroccan cuisine with its emphasis on paprika, coriander, ginger and garlic. The fig charoset is somewhat sweet and sour, the perfect mortar for your seder plate. And the Candied Citrus Salad with Mint and Ginger is a sweet antidote to the richness of the main meal.

Candied citrus salad with mint and ginger

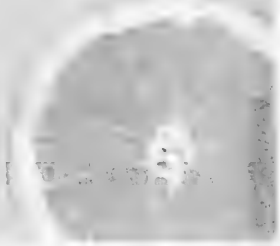
If you prefer, you can slice the oranges instead of sectioning them and cook them in the sugar syrup to remove the bitterness from the rind.

- ❑ 4 large navel oranges
- ❑ 1 large pink grapefruit
- ❑ 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- ❑ 1/4 cup chopped crystallized or candied ginger
- ❑ 2 tbsp. chopped fresh mint

Using a sharp knife, cut away the peel from the oranges, removing all of the bitter white pith. Working over a bowl to catch the juices, cut the oranges in between the membranes to release the orange sections into the bowl. Repeat with the grapefruit.

Transfer all of the segments to a serving bowl, reserving the juices for another use.

In a small bowl, stir together the sugar and 1/4 cup of water. Cook over medium to medium-high heat, without stirring, until the sugar is syrupy and the bubbles have thickened but the mixture has not yet caramelized, about 5 minutes. Immediately pour over the citrus. Let cool at room temperature. Stir in the ginger and the mint. Serve at room temperature. Makes 6 servings.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Loblaws
650 Dupont Street, Toronto
PRICES EFFECTIVE UNTIL APRIL 30TH, 2016
Happy Passover

SALE save $1.10 — 1.88 — Manischewitz Potato Chips Assorted 6oz

SALE save $2 — 2.99 — Manischewitz Egg Matzo, 16oz

SALE save $2 — 3.99 — Manischewitz Matzo Meal, Cake Meal or Matzo Farfel 398g-454g

SALE save $10 — 9.99 — Manischewitz Matzo, 5LBS — 2.49 ea — HALF PRICE!!!

SALE save $2 — 4.99 — Foodfest Sole Fillets, Cod Fillets 400g

SALE save $4 — 10.99 — Foodfest Steelhead Smoked Salmon 250g — FAMILY SIZE

SALE save c50 — 3.49 — Nathans Half Sour, Full Sour Pickles 1L

SALE save $3.80 — 4.29 — Welch's Manischewitz 100% Grape Juice, 1.89LT — NEW LOWEST PRICE

SALE save $1.30 — 4.48 — Manischewitz 16 Varieties Cake Mixes, 15oz

SALE save $1 — 2.99 — Manischewitz Vegetable Oil 24oz

SALE save $1.50 — 3.98 — Ol Tov Assorted Deli Slices 125g

SALE save c50 — 2.49 — Manischewitz Croyden House Matzo Ball Mix, 127g-142g

SALE save $2 — 1.49 — Manischewitz Potato or Chicken Roaster Seasoned Coating 42g/85g

®/™ the trademarks, service marks and logos displayed in this flyer are trademarks of Loblaws Inc. and others. All rights reserved. ©2016 Loblaws Inc. MasterCard and the MasterCard Brand Mark are registered trademarks and Pay pass is a trademarks and PayPass is a trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. President's Choice Bank a licensee of mark. PC points program is provided by President's Choice Services Inc. President's Choice Financial MasterCard is provided by President's Choice Bank. President's Choice Financial banking services are provided by the direct banking division of CIBC. ®PC, President's Choice, PC Financial and President's Choice Financial are registered trademark of Loblaws Inc. Trademark used under licence.

Worldwide recipes

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Fig charoset

- 1/4 cup kosher for Passover apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 1 apple, peeled, cored and diced
- 1 cup diced dried figs
- 1/4 cup diced pitted dates
- 1/4 cup chopped roasted pistachio
- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots
- pinch ground cinnamon
- pinch ground cardamom

Put the vinegar, sugar and wine into a small saucepan and cook over moderate heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Add the onions and apple and cook until the onions are translucent, about 15 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat, then stir in the figs, dates, pistachios, dried apricots and ground spices. Set aside to let cool before serving. Makes about 1-1/2 cups.

Honey glazed cornish hens with matzah stuffing

It may seem as though the matzah stuffing is too dry, but please don't be tempted to add more stock. Since the stuffing is cooked under the Cornish hens, the natural juices from the birds moisten it further. I do urge you to line your pan with parchment or aluminum foil, or the birds and the stuffing will be difficult to transfer to a serving platter or individual plates.

- 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 8 oz. chopped button mushrooms
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 rib celery, diced
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 6 sheets matzah, broken into 1-inch
- pieces
- 1 cup chicken broth (or a little more)
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Cornish hens:

- Cornish hens (each about 1-1/4 lb)
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1tsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper

Heat the oil in a heavy large skillet set over medium heat. Add the mushrooms; cook, stirring, for 10 minutes. Add the onion, celery, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are soft and beginning to brown, about 15 minutes. Stir in the matzah. Pour the chicken stock over. Simmer until most of the matzah is softened and the broth has been absorbed, about 10 minutes. Stir in the cilantro. Don't worry if some of the matzah is just barely soft. The juices from the Cornish hens will further soften it.

Cut the wing tips from the hens. Cut through the backbones and then through the breastbone to divide each hen in half; trim excess fat and skin. Evenly space 8 mounds of the matzah on an aluminum foil-lined rimmed baking sheet. Cover each mound with a hen half, cut side down.

In a small bowl, stir together the honey, paprika, coriander, ginger, lemon juice, cinnamon and pepper. Brush evenly over the hens. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven until browned, the juices run clear when the hens are pierced with a fork and a meat thermometer registers 185, 40 to 45 minutes. Makes 8 servings. ■

CENTRE STREET DELI

Wish all their family, friends & customers a Happy & Healthy Passover

905 - 731-8037

Open 7 days a week - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

1136 CENTRE STREET
(between Bathurst and Dufferin)

Please visit us at www.centrestreetdeli.com

CLOSED AT 3 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND, CLOSED SAT. APRIL 23 AND SUN. APRIL 24 AND SAT. APRIL 30TH
OPEN FROM 9AM - 3 PM APRIL 25TH - 29TH. RE-OPENING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON MAY 1ST

yummy market
a european food experience

PASSOVER!

www.yummymarket.com

To all our friends, family and the entire Jewish community, we extend our warmest wishes for a Happy and Healthy Passover!

Price Chopper
FRESHCO.
LOW FOOD PRICES!

Light and easy desserts for Pesach

SUE EPSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Whether it's at home with family and friends, at a hotel or resort, or taking part in a communal seder, it is estimated that more than 75 to 80 per cent of Jews participate in a Passover seder.

The seder is the focal point of the holiday, but that doesn't mean we must eat to the point of being so overstuffed we can barely move from the table.

Luscious lemon ice cream

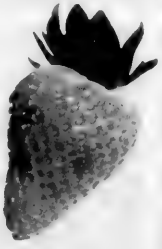
This is a low carb, low fat recipe by Nechama Cohen and is diabetic friendly.

- ❑ 1 (4-oz.) container light whipped topping
- ❑ 4 egg whites
- ❑ 2 eggs, separated
- ❑ sugar substitute equal to 1 cup sugar, divided
- ❑ 1/4 cup lemon juice

Beat whipped topping until stiff. In a separate bowl, beat egg whites together with half of sugar substitute. In another bowl, beat egg yolks with other half of sugar substitute. When thick, fold in lemon juice. Fold all 3 mixtures together until well-blended. Freeze.

Pistachio variation: For a delectable pistachio-flavoured ice cream, omit the lemon juice and add 1 tsp. almond extract, cup chopped pistachios and 2-3 drops of green food colouring.

Coffee variation: Omit lemon juice and add 2 tbsp. instant coffee, dissolved with a few drops of boiling water and 1 tsp. vanilla extract. Makes 8 servings.



Strawberry-basil granita

- ❑ 3/4 cup sugar
- ❑ 8 large basil leaves, torn, plus 6 sprigs, for garnish
- ❑ 1 lb. fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered

Heat the sugar with 1 cup of water in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat, add the basil and let steep until the syrup cools to room temperature. Discard the basil.

Purée the strawberries in a food processor. Add the cooled basil syrup, pulse until combined, then pour the mixture into a large baking dish.

Freeze until the mixture begins to harden around the edges, about 30 minutes. Stir with a fork, breaking up some of the pieces, then return dish to the freezer for 2 hours, scraping the surface with a fork every 20 minutes to create a flaky texture.

Transfer the granita to a covered container and freeze for 20 minutes more, or until ready to serve. To serve, divide among 6 serving cups and garnish each with a sprig of basil. ■

metro
my savings & my metro
PASSOVER
CERES JUICE
1 L Selected Varieties
SAVE $2.00
1.99 ea.
SAVE 70¢
1.79 ea.
YEHUDA OR AVIV MATZOS
2.26 kg Selected Varieties
SAVE UP TO $7.00
12.99 ea.
JUMBO POMEGRANATES
Product of Peru
2 for 5.00
1.79
2.49
2.99
3.49
1.99
1.99
3.99
3.99
59¢
6.99
3.99
3.99
3.99
7.99
8.99 /lb
10.99 /lb
ALL PRICES & ITEMS ARE EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 21ST UNTIL WEDNESDAY APRIL 27TH, 2016
AT THE FOLLOWING METRO LOCATIONS ONLY:
• 119 OSLER DR., DUNDAS • 1030 ADELAIDE ST. N., LONDON • 250 GREENBANK RD., NEPEAN • 291 YORK MILLS RD.
• 1050 DON MILLS RD. • 3080 BATHURST ST. • 600 SHEPPARD AVE. W. • 20 CHURCH AVE., NORTH YORK • 4111 THICKSON RD. N., WHITBY
• 736 COLLEGE ST. • 425 BLOOR ST. W. • 656 EGLINTON AVE., TORONTO • 16640 YONGE ST., NEWMARKET

A riff on gefilte fish... beyond the tried and true

BEVERLY LEVITT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Gefilte fish was popular with Jews on Shabbat because the deboned delicacy fit into the talmudic prohibition of not working on the Sabbath to remove parts of food that were inedible, i.e., separating the fishy bones from the flesh. So ground fish was combined with eggs, onions, matzah meal and spices and poached, producing a lovely or murky gelatinous substance and served cold with an overdone carrot and some breathless horseradish.

New York chef Jeff Nathan, co-owner of Abigael's in Manhattan, likes to mould it into a loaf, dress it up with vegetables, and slice it by request.

Chef Ido Shapira of Tel Aviv carefully removes the bones of a delicate whitefish, leaving the head and tail intact, fills it with a flaked fillet and a myriad of compatible components, and then gently poaches it.

The sophisticated chef got his love of experimenting from his grandmother, who immigrated to Israel from Russia and grew up in an aristocratic family, eating exotic food that wasn't part of the Israeli table.

"Instead of plain gefilte fish, she took a beautiful whole fish, and stuffed it with the gefilte or stuffed fish. To serve, she wrapped it with rosemary branches. She learned this recipe from her mother, so that makes it about 100 years old," Shapira said.

Although he accessorizes the dish with the traditional horseradish, he also creates a riff on the root by welcoming another root to the Passover table, the Japanese horseradish, wasabi. But by the time Shapira gets through with it, it bears little resemblance to the fiery green paste that is quite capable of burning our mouths when we dip our sushi into it. As a further riff on the whitefish, pike and carp of our Passover staple, he offers a delicate, melt in your mouth salmon cake.

So, this Passover, we'll be staving off our hunger with gefilte fish, of one sort or another.

Salmon cakes

From Ido Shapira, cooking teacher and chefowner of Cutlet Catering, Tel Aviv, Israel. Makes 24 cakes

- ❑ 1 lb. wild salmon filet
- ❑ 1/4 cup matzah meal
- ❑ 1/2 cup water or fish stock
- ❑ 1/4 cup shallots, chopped
- ❑ 1 egg
- ❑ 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. cracked red peppercorns
- ❑ oil for frying

Mix matzah meal with water or stock; set aside for at least 1/2 hour.

Heat oven to 300. Place filet in oven, skin side down. Bake for 7 to 8 minutes, until inside is just slightly pink. Remove from oven. Cool 15 minutes.

With a fork, gently flake the fish into a shallow bowl. Add matzah meal mixture, shallots, egg, salt and pepper.

Over medium heat, pour oil into heavy skillet to 1/4 in. up the sides. Scoop up fish mixture with a tablespoon; carefully drop into the hot oil, patting it down with back of the spoon to make small delicate fish cakes. Do not crowd the pan. Fry on both sides until golden, about 2 minutes each.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

SOUTH AMERICAN
ALL NATURAL GLATT KOSHER MEAT
- HIGH QUALITY PREMIUM CATTLE
- ANTIBIOTIC AND HORMONE FREE
- GRASS FED IN OPEN PASTURES
Now available at
TorontoKosher
416-789-5333 / 3459 BATHURST STREET / WWW.TORONTOKOSHER.COM
TorontoKosher
PASSOVER 2016 PREPARED MENU
Appetizers
Cabbage Rolls $4.99 ea
Tzimis $6.99 lb
Chopped Liver $8.99 lb
Liver & Onions $7.99 lb
Gala Pitcha $2.99 ea
Crepe MUSHROOM, VEGETABLE, MIX $4.59 ea
Soup (Frozen)
Potato Leek $8.99
Butternut Squash $8.99
Vegetable $8.99
Chicken (CLEAR) $7.99
Matzah Balls (6 PIECES) $5.99
Matzah Balls (12 PIECES) $11.99
Egg Noodles (PACKAGE) $7.99
Side Dish
Potatoes and Onions $5.60 lb
Roasted Potatoes SM $4.99 LRG $8.99
Persian Potatoes SM $5.99 LRG $9.99
Honey Glazed Red Skin Potatoes $7.25 lb
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy $5.99 lb
Bagels SM LARGE
Apple $6.99 $10.99
Carrot $6.99 $10.99
Potato $4.99 $8.99
Vegetable $6.99 $10.99
Sweet Noodle $6.99 $10.99
Chicken - Meat $8.49 $14.99
Kishka $8.63 lb
Salads
Vinegar Cole Slaw $5.99 lb
Beet Salad $5.99 lb
Carrot Salad $5.99 lb
Cucumber $6.99 lb
Cream Coleslaw $6.99 lb
Roasted Vegetables $11.36 lb
Hearts of Palm Salad $11.36 lb
Israeli Salad $11.30 lb
Marinated Mushroom Salad $12.99 lb
Potato Salad $6.99 lb
Steamed Vegetables $11.36 lb
Tomato & Mango Salad $11.36 lb
Tuna Salad $9.99 lb
Egg Salad $7.99 lb
Beet Salad $6.99 lb
Fish
Gefilte Fish Sweet $11.36 lb
Salt and Pepper $11.36 lb
Poached Salmon $18.18 lb
Filet of Sol $15.90 lb
Herring $10.99 lb
Extras
Charoses $14.99 lb
Horseradish / RED SM $4.79 LRG $9.59
Horseradish / WHITE SM $8.49 LRG $12.99
Ready to Use Seder Plates $24.99 ea
Zeroah $ 4.99 ea
Main - CHICKEN
BBQ or Roasted Chicken $10.99 lb
Chicken Fingers $19.99 lb
Chicken Schnitzel $19.99 lb
Grilled Chicken Breast $20.49 lb
Grilled Chicken Thigh $20.49 lb
BBQ Chicken Wings $9.99 lb
Stuffed Chicken Breast $12.49 ea
Stuffed Chicken Leg $13.49 ea
Sweet and Sour Chicken $15.99 lb
Main - BEEF & VEAL
Beef Burger $17.79 lb
Meat Balls $19.99 dzn
Meat Loaf $18.99 lb
Roast Beef $29.99 lb
Roast Brisket $31.99 lb
Roast Veal $36.99 lb
Roast Veal Brisket $26.99 lb
Stir Fry Beef $28.99 lb
Stir Fry Chicken $17.99 lb
Main - TURKEY
Smoked Turkey Drum $4.99 lb
Smoked Turkey Thighs $6.99 lb
Roasted Turkey Breast $12.99 lb
Smoked Turkey Breast BONELESS $18.29 lb
Sweet and Sour Duck $45.00 ea
Whole Smoked Turkey $6.82 lb
Whole Roasted Turkey $6.82 lb
HALF TURKEYS AVAILABLE
Turkey Carving $25.00 ea
ALL ITEMS, AS WELL AS FRESH MEAT AND POULTRY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN STORE. NO ORDERS OR DELIVERIES
AVAILABILITY AND PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Stuffed gefilte fish

From Ido Shapira, cooking teacher and chefowner of Cutlet Catering, Tel Aviv, Israel

Ask your fish salesperson to bone the whitefish.

- ❑ 1-2 lb. whole whitefish, boned, but with head and tail intact
- ❑ 12 cups poaching liquid

For stuffing:

- ❑ 1/2 lb. whitefish filet, cut into chunks
- ❑ 1/3 cup matzah meal
- ❑ 1/2 cup cold poaching liquid
- ❑ oil for frying
- ❑ 1cup coarsely chopped onions
- ❑ 1 egg yolk
- ❑ 1 tsp. light brown sugar
- ❑ 1 tbsp. chopped chives
- ❑ salt and pepper to taste

For stuffing:

Soak matzah meal in cold poaching liquid.

Sauté onions in oil until transparent. Place in refrigerator to cool.

Place fish chunks, onion, egg yolk, sugar, matzah meal, salt, pepper and chives into bowl of food processor. Pulse until mixture is thoroughly combined and has a smooth texture.

Stuff fish with the mixture. Tie fish with kitchen string so that it remains intact while cooking. Place fish in cold poaching medium. Bring water to just below simmer; cook for 25 minutes. Turn off fire; leave fish in poaching medium. Place whole pot in ice bath. Remove to platter.

To serve: place fish on serving tray atop rosemary. Italian parsley and lemon wedges. Garnish with white and purple (beet-flavoured) horseradish. Makes 12 servings. ■

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO, 5LBS
SAVE $10.00
9.99
$$2.49 KG
HALF PRICE!!!

MANISCHEWITZ EGG MATZO, 16oz
SAVE $2.00
2.99

WELCH'S MANISCHEWITZ 100% GRAPE JUICE, 1.89LT
SAVE $3.80
4.29
NEW LOWEST PRICE

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO MEAL, CAKE MEAL OR MATZO FARFEL 16oz
SAVE $2.00
3.99

FOODFEST STEELHEAD SMOKED SALMON, 250g
SAVE $3.00
10.99
FAMILY SIZE

NATHANS HALF SOUR, FULL SOUR PICKLES 1L
SAVE $1.80
3.49

FOODFEST YOM TOV HORSERADISH RED OR WHITE, 375ML
SAVE $.50
1.99

OF TOV ASSORTED DELI SLICES 125g
SAVE $1.50
3.99

nofrills
lower food prices
Jim's No Frills 1020 Islington Ave., Etobicoke
PRICES EFFECTIVE UNTIL MAY 5TH, 2016
ETOBICOKE,

Chicken recipes for after the seder

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The other day I started checking out recipes to see what I'll prepare for my family during Passover. I'm counting on serving leftovers from the seder for as long as they last.

We have the second seder at my sister's house and I usually leave there laden with containers of potatoes, tzimmes, brisket and plenty of desserts, so I try to prepare simple fare for the rest of the week. I know I can't miss with baked or roasted chicken.

I do try to balance the heavy food from the seders with lighter fare. I recently tried a couple of quick and easy chicken recipes that could be made during Passover from two classic cookbooks: *Simply Heart Smart Cooking* by Bonnie Stern (Random House, Toronto, 1994) and *Meal Leani Yumm!* by Norene Gilletz (Gourmania Inc., 1994).

The title of Gilletz's book changed to *Healthy Helpings*, when it was published by Whitecap Books in 2008.

Both Stern and Gilletz were among the first Canadian authors to write cookbooks geared to healthy eating. And with so many people following different dietary regimes, these chicken recipes will work for low fat, low carb and paleo diets.

Stern pairs a grilled cilantro chicken recipe with Pad Thai, an Asian noodle dish that can't be used on Pesach. However, when I served this chicken dish with steamed vegetables and mashed potatoes, it was a hit with the family. In fact, there were no leftovers.

Grilled cilantro chicken

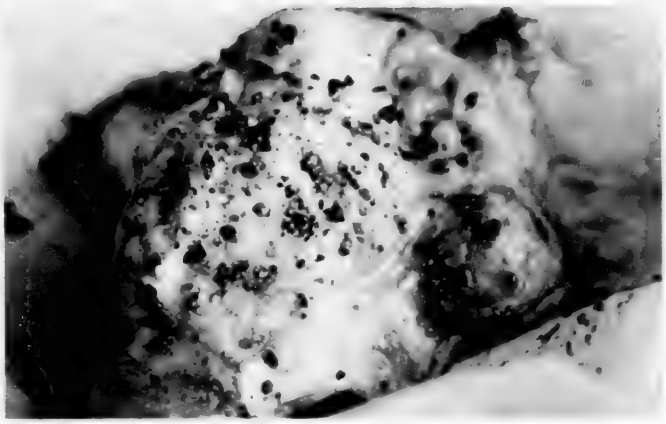
From *Simply Heart Smart Cooking* by Bonnie Stern

- ❑ 4 cloves garlic
- ❑ 2 shallots or 1 small onion
- ❑ 1 cup fresh cilantro
- ❑ 2 tbsp. Passover imitation soy sauce
- ❑ 1/4 cup lime juice
- ❑ pepper to taste
- ❑ 6 boneless, skinless single chicken breasts

Combine the garlic, shallots or onions, cilantro, "soy" sauce and pepper in a food processor and blend until smooth. Pour into a shallow dish. Add chicken pieces. Turn to coat evenly with the marinade. Marinate in the refrigerator a few hours or overnight.

Preheat the broiler. Cook the chicken five to six minutes per side or until the outside is brown and the chicken is no longer pink inside. Baste with the marinade during cooking. Discard any leftover marinade. Makes 6 servings.

Gilletz's recipe is a single chicken portion, baked with vegetables in a foil pouch, and several portions can be made at one time. The julienned veggies really add nice colour (not that my husband would notice the presentation), but he did enjoy the dish.



Lemon dill chicken and vegetables in a pouch

From *Meal Leani Yumm!* or *Healthy Helpings* by Norene Gilletz

- ❑ 1 boneless chicken breast, about 1/4 pound
- ❑ salt to taste
- ❑ ground pepper to taste
- ❑ paprika to taste
- ❑ 1 tsp. fresh dill, minced
- ❑ 1/2 to 1 tsp. olive oil
- ❑ 1 to 2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- ❑ 1/3 cup julienned red and yellow peppers and zucchini or cauliflower or broccoli florets.

Place chicken in a bowl and sprinkle with seasonings. Rub chicken with dill, oil and lemon juice. Let chicken marinate in seasonings for half an hour at room temperature or cover and refrigerate up to 24 hours.

Preheat oven to 400. Cut a large square of foil. Place marinated chicken in the foil. Drizzle with marinade and top with vegetables. Seal package by crimping the edges of the foil. Bake 20 to 25 minutes.

To serve, place the pouch on a serving plate and cut it open at the table. ■

Bruno's Fine Foods
CHAG SAMEACH
2055 Avenue Road
416-481-5560
9665 Bayview Ave. 905-737-4280
4242 Dundas St. W. 416-234-1106
www.brunosfinefoods.com

Nortown Foods
Happy & Healthy Passover
to all our customers, family & friends
892 Eglinton Ave. West at Bathurst
416.789.2921
303 York Mills Rd. at Bayview
416.447.0310
Promenade Mall, lower level
(across from The BMO) • 905.889.1610
www.nortownfoods.com

billybee
Canada's Favourite Honey
Kosher For Passover
Wishing all of our customers & friends a Happy Passover
www.billybee.com

Jewish Life

The doc will chronicle Kensington Market's vibrant history.

Film to look at changing Kensington Market

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

By the time Stuart Clarfield was born in 1963, Toronto's Jewish community had largely migrated from downtown to the city's northern suburbs.

Still, Clarfield was raised on stories of Kensington Market, the neighbourhood southwest of College Street and Spadina Avenue.

This was where his great-grandfather first arrived from Poland around 1910 and began to build a life, as well as where Clarfield's mother was born.

"I'd always heard living in the market described as this mythological experience," Clarfield said.

A filmmaker for the past 25 years, Clarfield has decided to capture the neighbourhood's vibrant history and evolving landscape in a documentary called *Kensington Market: The First 150 Years.*

The film, which Clarfield is producing and directing through his Toronto documentary company, The Mission Media Company Inc., will chronicle the stories of the diverse communities that have made the market their home for nearly two centuries.

It will also examine the current forces of urban development poised to have an impact on the neighbourhood's future.

> *"I'd always heard living in the market described as this mythological experience.*

Mission Media is in the process of gathering public support for the project through a crowdfunding campaign on the online platform Indiegogo.

With an initial fundraising goal of $12,000, they're seeking to raise money for the first phase of production, and are also soliciting people's personal stories about the market through an ongoing social media campaign.

"The market has often been a home to people who weren't welcome elsewhere," Clarfield said, noting that the film will trace the area's development from the early 19th century to the present.

In 1815, British landowner George Taylor Denison purchased the undeveloped land encompassing what is now Kensington Market.

In the 1850s, the Denison estate was subdivided and parcelled into individual plots, and by the 1880s, houses were being built there for Irish and Scottish immigrant labourers settling in Toronto.

In the early 20th century, Kensington was flooded with Jewish immigrants fleeing eastern Europe, and the area, then one of the city's poorer neighbourhoods, became known for its densely packed houses and what was known as the "Jewish Market," where Jewish merchants sold goods and worked largely as tailors, furriers and bakers.

By the 1920s and '30s, Kensington Market and its surrounding area were home to roughly 60,000 Jews and about 30 synagogues.

Clarfield's great-grandfather was one of the founders of one of the area's now defunct shuls: having come from Ostrovia, Poland, he helped to establish the Ostrovtzer Congregation, the site of which is now the Cecil Street Community Centre.

Clarfield said the film, which he hopes can one day be used as a teaching resource in Jewish day schools, will give Jewish children the chance to "see the early stages of the community and experience that missing link to their grandparents or great-grandparents."

He plans to work with the Ontario Jewish Archives to collect more historical information about Jewish Kensington.

After World War II, much of the Jewish population moved north, and in the 1950s, Portuguese immigrants from the Azores region began settling in the market, as well as waves of Caribbean and East Asian immigrants.

In the 1960s, many residents of Chinatown, then centred along Dundas Street between University Avenue and Bay Street, were evicted by the city for development purposes and relocated in and around the market.

Nowadays, Clarfield said, the market is home to dozens of vintage stores and artisan and specialty "foodie" shops and restaurants, as well as a growing marijuana industry.

In addition to featuring stories from the market's past and present inhabitants, Clarfield said the film will focus on city planning consultations that are underway, and proposed developments.

"As rents go up, real estate value changes, and the monolith condo industry continues to grow... We're asking, What is the market going to be?... As filmmakers, we're not here to advocate one position over another, but to make people conscious of what's happening."

The film is slated for release in the fall of 2016 or the spring of 2017.

People can share personal stories of the market at: kensington150@gmail.com. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 21, 2016

The struggle to blend Orthodoxy and modernity

MARTIN LOCKSHIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Orthodox religions, including Orthodox Judaism, believe that a religion's core values are timeless and immutable. In the 20th and 21st centuries in the western world, on the other hand, we often feel that our values surpass those of our forefathers, believing we have more respect for rights, freedoms and civil liberties, and for minorities, women and strangers in society. While traditional Judaism emphasizes the importance of the group, modernity emphasizes the status of the individual.

Thus, creating a Judaism that's both Orthodox and modern is a challenge. *Torah and Western Thought: Intellectual Portraits of Orthodoxy and Modernity* is a collection of intellectual biographies of 20th-century Orthodox Jewish leaders who have tried to bring together these two value systems. Many of the thinkers discussed in the book, most of the essay authors, and all three editors have taught at some point at Yeshiva University. In that sense, the book is, at least in part, an attempt to portray Yeshiva University as being in the forefront of the struggle to blend Torah and modern thought.

All the essays are well written, providing useful examples of how each thinker dealt with the modernity/tradition problem. They manage to avoid being "lives of the saints" that applaud and admire without analyzing or evaluating.

Yael Unterman's piece on Prof. Nehama Leibowitz, the famous Israeli scholar and teacher of Bible who died in 1997, may have even gone too far in the opposite direction. Unterman claims that Leibowitz's work "may be scrutinized for its lack of correspondence with the 21st-century zeitgeist, which is a notable obsession in western society with the self... Leibowitz's Torah, it can be argued, lags behind that of those contemporary teachers... who take on the search for meaning, wholeness and belonging."

Torah and Western Thought: Intellectual Portraits of Orthodoxy and Modernity, *edited by Meir Soloveichik, Stuart Halpern and Shlomo Zuckier.*

Maggid Books and Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

As a student of Leibowitz myself, I still respect and teach her methodology, and I take issue with this assessment of her contemporary relevance. The skills that she brought to the close reading of texts should still be important, even to Jews who search for meaning, wholeness and belonging.

The subjects of the book include nine males, all Orthodox rabbis, and Leibowitz. In addition to deep Jewish education, almost all of them had extensive university education. (I count seven PhDs among them.) Two of the thinkers, Rabbi Abraham Kook and Rabbi Yehudah Amital, never studied in a university, yet still struggled meaningfully with modernity and tradition.

It must have been difficult to choose whom to include. Every scholar in the book was born between 1865 and 1933. This may explain why no Israeli-born thinkers are included, even though some of the most interesting approaches to Orthodoxy and modernity are now found in Israel. Before World War II, modern Orthodoxy hardly existed in Israel. The first two Ashkenazi chief rabbis of Israel, Rabbi Kook and Rabbi Isaac Herzog, had something to say about Orthodoxy and modernity and so are included in the book. Later holders of that office were not, perhaps because none of them contributed significantly to the discourse on this.

In discussing modern times, one of the editors, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, argues that combining secular wisdom and Orthodoxy may have become more difficult in the last few decades. Until recently, he writes in a short introduction to the book, the university world believed "that the knowledge it safeguarded and transmitted was vital to the moral and spiritual survival of civilization; that faith and reason must go hand in hand; and that not only does religion enhance the pursuit of wisdom, but the fear of God is the very beginning of wisdom itself." Today this is hardly the case.

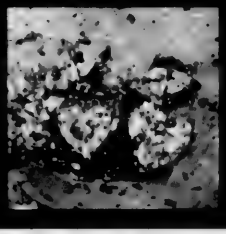
All 10 thinkers are Ashkenazi Jews, despite the fact that, as some scholars like Prof. Zvi Zohar have argued, Sephardi Jews often made significant, creative and less self-conscious contributions to the blending of modernity and Orthodoxy. Sephardi rabbis generally were not as concerned about distancing themselves from the liberal Jewish movements, and thus, Zohar and others argue, they innovated without fearing a backlash.

It is true that before World War II, Ashkenazim constituted around 90 per cent of world Jewry. But including Rabbi Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel, the first Sephardi chief rabbi of the State of Israel, or Rabbi Joseph Messas, who also lived and taught in Israel but was of North African origin, for example, would have provided balance.

A time line at the beginning of the book contains helpful geographical and chronological information. It highlights one interesting experience almost all of the subjects shared: they were immigrants, Jews who left continental Europe and moved to an English- or Hebrew-speaking country. The two exceptions are Rabbi Isadore Twersky, who was born and died in the United States, and Rabbi Norman Lamm, who was born in the United States and still lives there.

Immigrants know that values change when they come to a new place. Some immigrants reject those changes and continue to pine for the values of the old country. But most Jews who moved to North America, England or Israel, came to appreciate at least some of the values of their new home. Perhaps it makes sense that they would also be willing to consider that values could change over time, and that new ways of thinking about old issues might be required even among the Orthodox. ■

Lilliane's
FINE JEWELLERY
EST 1990



HAPPY PASSOVER TO ALL OF OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & CUSTOMERS

♦ New and Estate Jewellery ♦
♦ Appraisals ♦
♦ Full Discretion for Buying Gold and all Jewellery ♦
♦ Design and Redesign ♦

416.920.8444
LILLIANES · LILLIANESFINEJEWELLERY.COM
89 BLOOR STREET WEST SUITE 204

Congratulations to my son Dr. Daniel Nadler, recent PhD Harvard graduate and CEO of a 3-year old startup Kensho Technologies, on being featured for a second time in Forbes Magazine (May 26/14 and December 28/15). Forbes included Kensho in its Fintech 50 list of "small firms destined to have a big impact on your financial future and possibly upend your portfolio".

Good luck Daniel with joining the billion dollar startup club. I know you can do it.

Daniel Nadler

Daniel Nadler is the founder and CEO of Kensho. Called "not your typical startup guy" by *The Wall Street Journal*, and described by *Forbes* as a "fast-talking" polymath whose work encompasses "math, poetry, and ancient Greek philosophy," Nadler was profiled on *CNN's What's Next*, a program that featured "forward-looking thinkers in the fields of tech, science and social change" and "the big ideas that will help shape our collective future." In 2015, Nadler was selected by Goldman Sachs as one of the **"100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs"** in the world.

Nadler has been invited to speak at the **Central Intelligence Agency**, and on **Capitol Hill**, before members and staff of the **Senate Armed Services Committee**, the **House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**, the **Senate Select Committee on Intelligence**, and the **Senate Appropriations Committee.**

In addition to Kensho, Nadler is the **Director of Research for Financial Technology at Stanford University's School of Engineering.** He completed his **PhD at Harvard University.** Nadler previously served as a Visiting Scholar at the **United States Federal Reserve.** Nadler's recent book, ***The Global Debt Crisis***, was published by the Brookings Institution in 2014.

Nadler founded and serves as the current **editor** of *At the Digital Edge*, Institutional Investor's technology column.

WHO GETS THE KIDS ON PASSOVER?

Family Matters
by
John Syrtash
B. A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 33 years

So who gets the kids for the first *Seder* if the parents are separated? To make it worse, who, on this Blessed Earth really wants to reach into his pocket (or parent's pockets) and dish out hard cold cash to some lawyer over a *Seder*, for heaven's sake?

I'm sure some Rabbi will probably answer that Pesach, like any other celebration, is just one more "challenge" to the Jewish spirit. That is frankly small comfort. However, a decent lawyer with a conscience will try and avoid court, call opposing counsel and invite him to Starbucks for a latte or an "original roast" at Tim Hortons. The two will review their clients' respective complaints. My fellow readers please feel free to email me the rest:

1. I can't do second night. My mother always does the first. This year she's invited 35,934 people. Our Mendel Jr. (aged 6) is the youngest and has been chosen to sing the *Ma Nishtana*. It will kill my mother if Mendel's not there. Besides... Imma makes a better brisket than your mother, with Dijon, not French.
2. You can't have the first night. Don't ruin Pesach for them. Your parents say Kiddush after schul, like around 10 P.M. Mendel's head will be in his soup plate, fast asleep, before the main course. They're too young. It's not fair. Torture yourself with your mother's bitter *tzimes*, not the children.
3. Will you pay the plane fare? My parents live in Windsor. Last year you had both nights at your parents in Forest Hill. So my parents should have them both nights this year. Of course, you do have option of paying to split the nights, but you pay the plane fare.
4. You can't have the first night. Your family doesn't know from religion. How do I know the food will be kosher for Pesach? The kids will end up in *Gehenom*.

And you thought that splitting the Red Sea was a miracle? But why does this happen? Why do families suffer, year after year? A time to celebrate freedom often ironically pressures families to tear themselves apart.

Some solutions?

1. Alternate the first and second Seders from year to year
2. Alternate both Seders from year to year
3. Give replacement days for the Seders or Seder
4. Invite the other parent to your Seder, as horrifying a thought as that may appear i.e. suspend the war for one or two nights for the sake of Pesach.

Unsavory-Solutions:

5. Split up the kids
6. Go with the kids to Bahrain on Pesach, the country with the fewest Jews in the world (36 at last count.)
7. Go to court and give me a large retainer cheque to obtain a Court order for one of the Solutions under numbers 1-4 (see above) since it costs more than its worth.

For both myself, the partners and associates of Garfin ZeidenbergLLP, we wish all our readers a Chag kasher v'samayach!

Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Gerfin Zeidenberg LLP,
celebrating 35 years as a Family Law lawyer this month, April 2016.

Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6.
John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit
www.freemychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.

Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.

Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.

Book highlights Passover around the world

CAROLYN BLACKMAN
cblackman@thecjn.ca

In *Passover Festival of Freedom*, Montreal author Monique Polak reminds us to retell the story, year after year, of how our ancestors emerged from slavery to become free men and women.

Throughout the book, Polak, an author of 19 novels for young people and a teacher at Marianopolis College in Montreal, relates the story of Passover, talks about what the holiday means to her, and tells of how she spoke to dozens of people, including two Holocaust survivors, who talk about their stories.

Polak, whose mother, now 86, is a Holocaust survivor, said that growing up, most of what she learned about Judaism was related to the Holocaust, "but when I was asked to write this book about Passover, I agreed immediately... it was time to broaden my own understanding of Jewish history and religion."

After telling the Passover story, she talks about preparing for the holiday, the seder ceremony and traditional foods, and includes such recipes as charoset and chicken soup.

It's when she speaks to Benzion Younger, a 90-year old Holocaust survivor, and Liselotte Ivry, also a 90-year-old survivor, that we're reminded that the freedom to practise our religion is a great gift, and that we can endure and overcome the most challenging of circumstances.

Younger, the only one in his immediate family to survive, says he's not as religious as he was growing up, but remembers the first Passover after the war in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp.

He felt happy and sad at the same time.

"That seder was extremely emotional. Everyone was singing and crying. I know I was depressed, but at the same time I felt 'I'm in a family... I'm back to the religious family I grew up with.'"

For Ivry, Passover is a time to celebrate her own survival, and the survival of the Jewish People.

She says she cherishes the Passovers of her youth, "and by celebrating [now], we remind ourselves what it means to be Jews. If we give up our customs, then nothing was worth surviving for."

Polak also teaches us that as we celebrate Passover in North America, people the world over, including Israel, the Netherlands, China, Nepal, Italy, Ethiopia and Iraq are celebrating with their own customs.

With numerous sidebars, photographs, recipes, drawings and short facts, the book *Passover Festival of Freedom* is bound to teach youngsters and adults alike how important it is to celebrate the holiday in their own way. ■

Dr. Les Priemer
SNORING AND SLEEP APNEA THERAPY

Don't "Passover" your chance to stop snoring!

Oral Appliance Therapy is a proven alternative for treatment of sleep apnea and snoring
in appropriate cases*

416-224-9998
dentalsnoringsolutions.ca
40 SHEPPARD AVE. W., SUITE 100
TORONTO, ON M2N 6K9

*The physician dealing with the condition of sleep disordered breathing takes the lead regarding the timing and placement of any necessary treatment

LinkedIn

Guitarist uses global influences to make his own sound

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

French-Algerian acoustic guitarist Pierre Bensusan has absorbed music from around the world to create his own mesmerizing and sometimes otherworldly sound. You can hear classical, folk, Celtic, eastern European, jazz, Brazilian, North African and even bluegrass music in his melodies that range from delicate to rollicking.

A master guitarist, he's also an entertaining singer with a pleasant voice, who scats and performs wordless vocalizations, called *nigunim*, in the Jewish tradition.

Ironically, Bensusan had no interest in playing guitar when his father presented him with one, after selling his piano. The guitar "grew on me," he recalled. Unenthusiastic about formal studies – he'd quit piano lessons – he began teaching himself guitar at the age of 11.

After touring the world for 42 years as a concert performer, he maintains that working on an instrument continues to be endless. He spoke about his aim as a guitarist, to almost bring his consciousness into his fingers.

Pierre Bensusan

"You need to give your fingers the memory of where they can go along the fretboard. Then, in situations, they will have to go there without you expressing an intention or desire to hear something. That's the goal," he said.

Bensusan was born to a Jewish family in Oran, Algeria, in 1957, during the war that led to the country gaining its independence from France. Oran was safe at the beginning of the war, but by 1960 violence had swept the city. The apartment building his family lived in was bombed, and he remembers seeing the ceiling collapsing in front of him one afternoon. In 1962, his family "left Algeria for good, to move to mainland France, along with one million French people and Jews," he said.

His great-grandmother, who was born in Spanish Morocco, spoke Arabic, Spanish and Ladino. "My mother knew some Ladino lullabies that she would sing to me," Bensusan said. "Were they essential influences? Probably not, but 58 years later I still remember them and could sing them, so… They have been transformed into the music I express."

Speaking about his myriad influences, including North African music, he said he's doing what Jewish artists in the Diaspora have always done, borrowing from other cultures.

"To use Oriental flavours and mix them with something else would be a parallel to what Jewish people have been doing for the last 2,000 years, to mix themselves with different cultures to make something of their own," said Bensusan, speaking on the telephone from his home in Chateau Thierry, a village outside Paris. "They have developed something very rich. So I think that has been something that has been given to me."

Bensusan has recorded 15 albums and sold a half million records of mainly original songs. They're complex musically, sometimes with lyrics penned by his wife, Doratea.

Bensusan is touring North America this spring and stopping in Toronto for a rare appearance. He'll be playing and singing selections from his latest CD, *Encore*, a retrospective collection that won in the Live Performance Award category at the 2014 international Independent Music Awards.

On tour, he's in the zone and relaxed enough to let go onstage, he said. "I try to never play the same thing twice. I change a few things around and go into different improvisations." ■

Bensusan performs at Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields Church, 103 Bellevue Ave., Toronto, on May 7 at 8 p.m. For tickets, $35 plus processing fee, visit http://tinyurl.com/pierre2016. For more information about Bensusan, visit www.pierrebensusan.com.

TRILLIUM
SCHOOL PORTRAITS

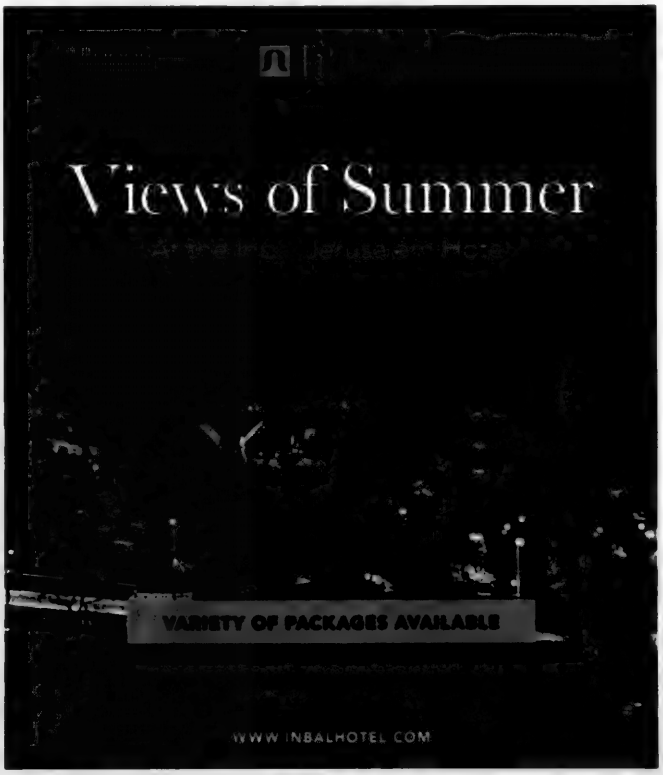
Professional Photography. Professional Service.

Taking your childrens' pictures in schools, dance and sports for over 25 years.

From my family to yours,
Wishing you a
Happy and Healthy Passover

Michael Freid

603 Millway Ave., Unit 15, Concord • 416.410.4785
visit us at: trilliumportraits.com



Concert to benefit kids with psychological difficulties

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

An upcoming concert at Toronto's Koerner Hall in support of the Psychology Foundation of Canada, which develops programs to help children become confident and productive adults, was born in the shadow of Robin Williams' suicide in August 2014.

Around that time, Andrea Freedman Iscoe, a singer who had organized a Massey Hall concert in support of the SOS Children's Villages, was having lunch with a friend, Karen Katchen, a psychologist on the foundation's board of trustees. Freedman Iscoe remembers talking about how sad she was at the beloved comedian/actor's passing and she mentioned to Katchen that she wanted to put on another concert, but this time at Toronto's Koerner Hall.

"I said, 'I want to do it for kids,'" Freedman Iscoe recalled. "So she said, 'What about the psychology foundation and kids' mental health?' and it just all clicked."

Excited by the prospect of organizing the concert, Freedman Iscoe met with the foundation's board and showed them the program and pictures from the November 2010 Massey Hall event, which featured singers of all ages, who, like herself, had always dreamed of performing on a world-class stage.

When she began organizing A Night at Massey, Freedman Iscoe recalled that she got some less than encouraging responses. "Everybody thought I was crazy when I said I would rent Massey Hall and was putting on a concert. I had people hang up the phone on me," she said.

But she pulled it off, and the funds raised by the concert supported the Canadian children's village in Namibia for a year.

After getting the go-ahead from the psychology foundation's board, Freedman Iscoe secured her dream venue, Koerner Hall, which is known for its excellent acoustics.

The May 6 event, similar to her Massey Hall project, will showcase talented local youths and adults, some performing on a world-class stage for the first time. The show is built around hits from the 1950s, '60s and '70s and will be hosted by Duff Roman, a former DJ on CHUM-AM radio. The lineup also includes appearances by guest artists guitarist Liona Boyd; Little Ceasar and the Consuls, a 1960s Canadian rock band; and the Dylan Tree, a group that performs the music of Bob Dylan.

Theadora Draper

Ruth Rumack

"It's like *Canada's Got Talent*. You have the guest artists to make it all feel exciting, but really it's about people singing their hearts out because they want recognition," Freedman Iscoe said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

pet

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Passover

PRICE MATCH

15% OFF
any purchase of $60 or more*
*Valid only at PET VALU Bayview and Laureleaf. Certain conditions apply. Expires April 30, 2016.

/PVBayviewLaureleaf
@PetValu_Bayview

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Minimum $50 order.

"Freedman is as skilled at capturing the nuances of religious practice as she is at sketching the wold and beautiful Canadian landscape."
– Foreword Reviews

...Leora Freedman's wonderful new book is a vivid and magical time capsule.
– Chana Jenny Weisberg, author and blogger www.jewishMOM.com Expecting Miracles and One Baby Step at a Time

The Daughter Who Got Away

a new novel by Leora Freedman

BOOK LAUNCH (free)
Monday, May 16, 5:00-7:00 pm
University College Room 240
15 King's College Circle, University of Toronto
TTC Museum station

Yotzeret Publishing

www.yotzeret.com
Also available from Amazon.ca

Visit www.jewishshortstoriesonline.com

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small REPAIRS
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating close to 60 years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

Wishing you a Healthy & Happy Passover

Cleaning Protection Restoration
MARBLE RESCUE
Insured and Bonded
Technicians with over 15 years experience.
We'll beat any written residential quote by 20%
416-782-BUFF(2833)
Don't replace your dull, damaged stone & marble. Turn to us!

Joni Miller

Sophie Medad

Andrea Freedman Iscoe

Manny Veinish

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Altogether 92 performers, including two choirs, will appear at Koerner Hall, participating in a total of 24 acts.

The show features several Jewish singers, among them Freedman Iscoe, Sarah Dylan (not a member of the Dylan Tree), who also sang at the Massey Hall event, baritone Manny Veinish, soprano Joni Miller, Jessica Faith, Sophie Medad and sisters Naomi and Ruth Rumack, who will sing a duet. The evening's Jewish performers also include acoustic guitarist Theadora Draper, 14, an aspiring musician, actor and filmmaker who's also a Grade 10 film major at the Claude Watson School for the Arts at Earl Haig Secondary School. Theadora is a member of an all-girl rock band.

The money raised by the concert will go toward the psychology foundation's programs, including several under the category Kids Have Stress Too, aimed at children and young people aged 2-1/2 to 15. The programs are offered free of charge, except for fees for materials, by the national not-for-profit foundation. They are available to teachers and parents through schools and public health departments.

"Right across the country, 25,000 Grade 4, 5 and 6 teachers have our stress lessons program, so that they can work with the kids in their care," said the foundation's executive director, Judy Hills. The foundation is about mental health promotion and prevention, she said, "and giving people the skills so that they can handle all the ups and downs of life." ■

For tickets to A Night at Koerner Hall: Rock the Blues Away at 8 p.m. on May 6, visit www.psychologyfoundation.org. VIP tickets include a reception and a tax receipt.

Alexander Himelfarb and the Staff of
Platinum Studios
Wish All Their Clients Family & Friends a Healthy and Happy Passover
alex@platinumstudios.ca

CARROCEL
FINE FURNITURE SHOWROOM
245 BRIDGELAND AVE
416-999-2525
WWW.CARROCEL.COM
Happy Passover

ATRIUM
MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Discover Atrium. It's like finding the afikomen. Fifteen years of consistent high yields. The security of mortgages backed by real estate.

ARTS & CULTURE

Discover your cultural heritage in Poland

Evelyn Tauben

With Purim, we entered the season of memory, remembering Mordechai and Esther's triumph in saving their people. This week, we will remember the Exodus from Egypt. We will remember the destruction of the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah. One week later, we will remember the establishment of the State of Israel followed by the day of memory for Israel's fallen soldiers. We remember victory and devastation.

When do we remember the communities that birthed modern Jewish thought and culture? When do we remember 200-year old Jewish artistic traditions? When do we remember the streets where our grandparents played? When do we remember the synagogues where they prayed? A people steeped in remembering have been forgetting where we come from. Will we allow our heinous adversaries to erase the memory of how Jews lived, transplanting it with a fixation on how Jews died?

A powerful antidote to this erosion of our shared story is a journey into memory. For my family, that journey takes us to Poland. After four trips to Poland in not as many years, I strongly believe that every Jew should visit Poland, especially those of us with Polish roots, which is roughly 70 per cent of those reading this article. Now is an unmatched time to go there and balance the standard itinerary to sites of destruction with cultural exploration.

The largest Jewish culture festival in the world is in Krakow. Marking its 25th anniversary last summer, the festival animates the once and present Jewish neighbourhood of Kazimierz, hosting nightly concerts in the impressive 19th century Tempel Synagogue, adjacent to the modern Krakow JCC.

The nearby Galicia Jewish Museum is now planning an expansion after a decade of first-rate programming. My time at the Jewish Culture Festival was one of the most eye-opening, uplifting experiences of my life, contradicting images of Poland circulating in Jewish consciousness as colourless, menacing, and devoid of Jewish life. There I encountered soul-searching Poles as well as fervent Polish-Jews connecting with their newfound identities.

The Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw just won the European Museum of the Year award, cementing its place as a significant cultural destination. Housed in a breathtaking building, the museum has quickly become a focal point in recounting 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland. While in Warsaw, don't miss exhibitions at the Jewish Historical Institute or the small but spunky Warsaw JCC. Around the corner, the "Risk Oy" label of a locally made clothing line features cheeky Jewish motifs on shirts.

The author with her mother, Sara Tauben, at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Beyond the urban centres, there is much Jewish culture to discover. In many places, too numerous to list, synagogues have been restored as museums or converted into cultural centres, protecting the building and its history. In a town of 4,000, I visited Chmielnik's sophisticated synagogue museum with a bimah made of glass modelled on the original. Chmielnik is one of many locations hosting annual Jewish cultural festivities to connect to the Jewish heritage once prominent in the community.

While our fears regarding Poland are hard won and unfortunately the political climate of late has become more strident and xenophobic, I have not experienced anti-Semitism in Poland. I challenge myself to consider local oddities such as graffiti, Jewish-themed restaurants and collectible chassidic figurines with the complexity they demand. In times like these, the active, native Jewish community needs our continued presence.

An experienced guide can help you navigate the places where your family was from. Often the place retains a feeling of the time when they lived there. By exploring leisurely on foot with an open mind, you can get a sense of the environment that surrounded your family before, during and after the war. Eat good food, visit the galleries, notice the beauty and friendly people. Greet them (*dzien dobry*) and thank them (*dziekuje*) in Polish. And remember that your ancestors were Polish. Take them with you as you go out on your journey. ■

Evelyn Tauben is a producer, curator and writer in Toronto.

ODYSSEY
JEWELLERY DESIGNERS INC.
Manufacturers & Importers of Platinum,
18K Gold & Diamond Jewellery

The Families of Odyssey Jewellery Designers send best wishes to their clients, family & friends for a Happy & Healthy Passover

Factory and Showroom
Upper Yonge Place
10909 Yonge Street, Unit 55 Richmond Hill 905-737-5288
www.odysseyjewellery.com

The Staff at
New Wave Travel
wishes everyone a
Happy Passover
Seeing Travel Your Way
NEW WAVE TRAVEL
A DIVISION OF VISION TRAVEL SOLUTIONS
1075 Bay St | Toronto | ON | M5S 2B1
416-928-3113 | newwavetravel.net

The Staff at
Vision Travel
wishes everyone a
Happy Passover
Seeing Travel Your Way
251 Consumers Rd. 7th Floor
Toronto, ON, M2J 4R3
416.487.5385
www.travellingwithvision.ca
Vision
VOYAGES | TRAVEL

Amy Sky to release her first Hebrew-language album

SUSAN MINUK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Amy Sky LINDA MARIE STELLA PHOTOGRAPHY

Award-winning singer-songwriter Amy Sky is set to release her debut Hebrew-language album, *Twilight Rose*, this May.

A prolific and multi-talented artist, Sky has written songs for herself and for dozens of other international recording stars, including Olivia Newton-John, Anne Murray, Reba McEntire, Diana Ross, Belinda Carlisle, and the rock band Heart.

Sky's powerful lyrics resonate globally, celebrating life's victories and challenges.

She will perform material from *Twilight Rose*, sing her beloved hits and share insights and stories from her own spiritual journey at Temple Sinai Congregation of Toronto on May 19 at 8 p.m.

The concert, "Sky in the City: An Urban Jewish Concert Experience," is free and open to the public.

"When you hear my English-language music, percolating in the background are my Jewish roots and the community that I grew up in. When you grow up in a Jewish family, ideas of justice, brotherhood, sisterhood, community and unconditional love are part of a cultural context, so these kinds of themes came out in my music," Sky said.

Sky was inspired to create *Twilight Rose* in memory of her late mother, Sandy Shiner, who lived and breathed music.

"In addition to being a great mother, my mother was a hugely creative woman. She was a professor of creativity and a writer. I grew up steeped in the love of music and was never, ever, told to stop making noise. In her wisdom as a teacher of creativity, my mother knew that the secret to creativity was to let people make noise and a mess, and that's the environment I grew up in," Sky recalled.

Sky studied classical music from the age of four, and discovered her own singing voice when she was preparing for her bat mitzvah. She began writing songs around that time.

For a confirmation project at Holy Blossom Temple when she was 16, influenced by the compositions of Debbie Friedman, a singer-songwriter of Jewish religious music, Sky set a number of Hebrew prayers to music, with the intention to one day return to her roots and create more original melodies for the spiritual texts.

"*Twilight Rose* was my way of honouring my Jewish tradition, and also staying connected to my mom, because her Jewish life was so very important to her," Sky said.

The CD's songs include: *Mi Shebeirach, Shalom Aleichem, Shalom Om, V'Shamru, Y'Did Nefesh* and *Sh'Ma/Barchu*. Sky sings, plays the piano and harmonium, and composed or co-wrote eight of the 11 songs, drawing inspiration for the Hebrew text largely from the prayers of Kabbalat Shabbat.

"Prayers serve a lot of different purposes, and I just pulled the ones that felt good coming out of my mouth, that felt like they were expressing something I wanted to sing about," she said.

Sky's rendition of the *Kaddish* is the emotional centrepiece of the record. *Lecha Dodi* is about the Sabbath bride.

"*Mi Chamocha* holds a lot of meaning for me: it was about asking God to send healing energy down to earth when my mother was dying. That kind of prayer, asking God for healing, exists in every wisdom tradition, so it's very universal," Sky added.

The title of the album, *Twilight Rose*, derives from the song *Erev Shel Shoshanim*, which means *Evening of Roses*.

"It's a very well-known love song. It works on the musical level and has a beautiful text," Sky said.

Twilight Rose is "a fusion of east-meets-west influences, infused with rock and gospel. Sitar, dilruba, pennywhistle and harmonium, blend with a soft rock rhythm section and shimmering stacks of vocals to create an evocative soundscape," a promotional website for the album says.

Some 600 people are expected to attend the Sky in the City concert, sponsored by the Strom family, who are members of the congregation.

"We are excited to have Amy perform. She is a creative artist exploring different musical directions with regard to spiritual life. Her music is extremely beautiful and moving, and it's also thought-provoking. It will be a splendid event!" said Temple Sinai Cantor Charles Osborne.

Twilight Rose will be available for purchase at the concert and on iTunes in early May. ■

For more information about the concert, call 416-487-4161 or email programs@templesinai.net.

Spring Is Here
Trench Coats and Rainwear in a Full Variety of Style, Color, Size and Length, Made in Toronto.
Waterproof Rain Jackets from Norway, Sweden and Denmark for Men and Women.
Lightweight, Packable Jackets for Travel or Any Season.
Warm Winter Coats are On Sale.
Expert Alterations on Any Coat.
Lorne's Coats
101 Spadina Ave
Toronto 416-596-1058
Mon-Sat 9-7 • Sun 10-6

RINA'S
HAIR • STUDIO • INC.
Tel: 905-764-6252
PLEASE COME VISIT US AT OUR NEW LOCATION.
RINA AND FRANKIE ARE NOW AT
The Studio
Studio: 905-597-1450
531 ATKINSON AVE /N.E CORNER OF BATHURST AND ATKINSON
WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CLIENTS A HAPPY PASSOVER!
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!
L'ORÉAL PARIS

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— or —
TRADE UP
HAPPY PASSOVER!
If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

GUEST VOICE

Modern seder raises more than four questions

Marilyn Lazar

The Hebrew word seder means order. Order connotes predictability and control. Somewhere, for someone, the prospect of seders brings the comfort and confidence of knowing where and with whom one will sit each night, for so it has been, year after year. That's how it was for me once upon a simple time.

My parents taught me about the solidity of living, breathing order. I used to joke that if the queen ever invited my parents for Friday night dinner, they'd undoubtedly exclaim: "Oy – sorry, but our kids are coming for Shabbat."

The Pesach seders represented the ultimate for them in adherence to order. They maintained the Old World observance they had grown up with in Czechoslovakia. As Holocaust survivors, their wonder never ended at the gift of having plenty on the table and the miracle of family around it. The entire clan gathered – with not even a phone call necessary.

Wearing masks to represent the plagues makes the service more interactive. TANIA LEWIS PHOTO

By contrast, these days, the group email about the seders is the first harbinger of spring. One by one, everyone weighs in. Marriage, divorce, travel and new relationships enter the fray. As in dominoes, a single shift impacts not just our immediate group, but Jews the world over!

My parents' steadfastness instilled resilience during tumultuous times, but there are questions I never got to ask them. While Tevya might procure answers from the "Good Book," there really is no book to inform these contemporary dilemmas.

Each year, the holiday looms, lugging huge question marks in its wake. Will my children be with me on the first night or the second night? Is my significant other significant enough to include? Add a fifth question to the *Ma Nishtanah*: where will I feel most comfortable? This comfort has nothing to do with reclining against pillows as the Haggadah instructs, but is determined by where I will feel like an integral part of the proceedings and not like a politely included afterthought or a stray.

My situation is far from unique. Come to think of it, perhaps the vision of comfort I described above lives only in Hallmark greeting cards. Reconstituted family constellations are no longer an aberration.

It's no piece of flourless cake for my married daughter, for example. Both her parents and her in-laws are divorced. Each year, she and her husband can only please two of four parents with their presence at the seder table. Or, as my father used to say, "You can't dance at two *chasenes* with one *tuches*."

So last year, we did something a little different.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

Eva Goldfinger
Rabbi & Psychotherapist
Meaningful Personal Ceremonies
Jewish, Interfaith, Secular Humanistic and Same Sex
Baby Namings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings, Funerals/Memorials, Unveilings, Conversions
Professional Counselling & Therapy
416-494-7450 | www.orayni.org | evagoldfinger007@gmail.com

RETIRING SALE Public & Dealers Welcome
Upscale Men Suits, Tuxedos, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $100-$300
Sizes 36 Short- 54 X Tall
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Only $30, Reg. $150-$250, HUGE SELECTION!
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Sam Warner – by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

Best Wishes
for a
Happy & Healthy
Passover
FULLER LANDAU LLP
AUDIT
TAX
ADVISORY
151 Bloor Street West ▫ 12th Floor ▫ Toronto
416.645.6500 fullerllp.com
Building Value Together

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

CJN

GUEST VOICE

My son had completed an extensive renovation and was excited to pick up the mantle of seder-making in his sparkling new space. His father and I both attended, sharing a seder for the first time in 17 years. He attending with his wife, who, though undergoing cancer treatment, paid the usual attention to her spring wardrobe, as we traditionally do at seder time. Guests included gay and straight individuals and couples, family and friends from as far afield as Montreal and Washington, a convert to Judaism and a wonderfully respectful, curious Muslim who had done more homework than anyone else present.

This might sound far-fetched to you, but every seder table includes people in some degree of transition. Who should be included? Where does one draw the line? How does the new widow feel, sitting without a partner for the first time? What about the child with no parent, the empty-nesters, the out-of-town student far from home. What if one is struggling with health issues – contemporary versions of boils and pestilence? Last year, a friend of mine decided to forgo her usual festive extended cousins' gathering to sit quietly at her dying mother's table. Another friend, who is Orthodox, told me that the reading at her table is almost entirely in English in order to engage most listeners best.

Some seders follow the letter of the law very strictly in terms of start time and ritual, and participants have no difficulty raising *kosot* (wine glasses) and singing into the wee hours. Not so my daughter. She is pregnant, and although she feels wonderful, she needs her early bedtime more than usual to get through her usual workload. Out of consideration for her, her father-in-law is starting before the appearance of the third star on the second night, which this year falls on Shabbat.

A square table helps guests feel connected and included. TANIA LEWIS PHOTO

> *Lovingly held beliefs are not as important as love.*

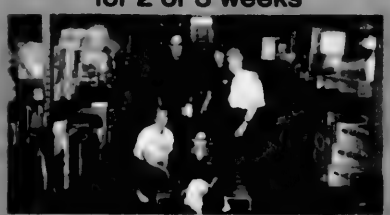
I would suggest that these questions are less about proper etiquette and enough seats than about common sense and compassion. From the evolving set of rules in my own magic hat, I pull the following: inclusion trumps perfection, acceptance trumps judgment, and flexibility trumps tenacity. Lovingly held beliefs are not as important as love.

Epilogue. My son moved out of that big house, symbolizing to me how transient are the venues that house our seders. What's important are the people who gather therein and how we treat each other. This year, I'm attending a seder being hosted by a woman who used to be married to my ex-husband's cousin. She is not related to me, or strictly speaking, to my children, although we adore her and her brisket. She was separated from her husband just last year and she attended my son's seder solo. This year, her ex is coming to her home as a guest. Her non-Jewish mother joined often with the utmost of grace. Sadly, my ex-husband's wife lost a valiant battle with cancer and did not survive to see another seder. This symbol of the transience of life is the most poignant message of all.

Next year? My fervent prayer is that my seder will be disrupted by the sound of an infant's healthy cry. The blessing of natural "order" should prevail, reminding me not to sweat the small stuff. ■

Marilyn Lazar is a Toronto-based writer.

Show Israel You Care!
Volunteer as a Civilian worker for 2 or 3 weeks



an Israeli army supply base

SAR-EL CANADA

Free: accommodations, kosher meals, trips, events.
Cost: air fare, $100 registration, weekend expenses.

416-781-6089 or toronto@sarelcanada.org
514-735-0272 or montreal@sarelcanada.org

www.sarelcanada.org

Programs start approximately every 3 weeks.

The Dennis Waldman Foundation For Jewish Education

IMPORTANT
Scholarship Notice

The Dennis Waldman Foundation for Jewish Education is soliciting applications from high school students in their graduating year for an award of $4000 toward university education. The Waldman Scholarship will be awarded on the following criteria:

1. **Academic achievement**
2. **Extra-curricular activities and community service**
3. **Teacher references**
4. **An essay**
5. **An interview with members of the Board**

The Scholarship is open to Canadian students in their graduating year from either a Jewish or a public secondary school who intend to pursue university-level study. In either case, the applicant must provide a demonstrated history of involvement in Jewish communal life.

Applications are available at your school OR on-line at www.waldmanfoundation.org
OR
The Dennis Waldman Foundation
c/o Sloan Partnership LLP
4646 Dufferin St., Suite 6
Toronto, Ontario M3H 5S4
Telephone: 416-665-7735

Applications due by May 6, 2016. Scholarship will be awarded in June.

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation presents its Seventh Annual

SPRING LECTURE SERIES with Rabbi Michael Skobac

MAY 4	**JUDAISM AND REINCARNATION**	Do We Get a Second Chance at Life?
MAY 11	**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TALMUD**	Repository of the Oral Torah
MAY 18	**THE HAPPINESS PROJECT**	A Jewish Approach to Living Contentedly
MAY 25	**IS LIFE FAIR?**	Grappling with the Problem of Suffering in the World
JUNE 1	**THREE ≠ ONE**	Why Judaism Rejects the Doctrine of the Trinity
JUNE 8	**YOUR UNIQUE SELF**	Individuality in Judaism

SIX CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS • 8:00 PM • ADMISSION FREE

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, 3600 Bathurst St.
For info: **(416) 789-0020** or **toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca**

UJA Federation | jewsforjudaism.ca KEEPING JEWS JEWISH | Shaarei Tefillah

DINING PLEASURES

Jerusalem Restaurant
Wishes all our customers
a
Happy & Healthy Passover
955 Eglinton Ave. West 416-783-6494
4777 Leslie St. 416-490-7888

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy Passover
Celebrating our 21st Anniversary
WINDFIELDS RESTAURANT
Children's Special Menu • All Day Breakfast
Steaks & Souvlaki • Pastas • Fresh Fish Daily
Chicken • Ribs • Deli Specials • Dessert Variety
LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS
Free Parking in Front

HAPPY PASSOVER
HANNA'S
Middle Eastern Fusion
Dine-in/Take out/Catering
9301 Bathurst St., Richmond Hill
905.918.0126 Free Pkg.
Enjoy the Moment and Taste the difference

Flipper's Fish House
Wishes all their customers a
Happy and Healthy Passover
2300 Lawrence Ave. E. (at Kennedy) Scarborough
416-759-6671 open 7 days a week

Steve's Restaurant
since 1946
FAMILY RESTAURANT
We are famous for our all day breakfast and fast take out!
3788 Bathurst St., Toronto
416.633.8812
Open 7am - 10pm 7 days a week
www.stevesrestaurant.ca
8100 Yonge St., Thornhill
905.889.9595
www.stevesthornhill.com
199 King St. East, Thornbury
The Blue Mountains
519.599.5151
www.stevesthornbury.ca
Happy & Healthy Passover

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Passover
STEELES DELI RESTAURANT
New Management • Newly Renovated • Old Traditions
Passover Menu Now Available
FREE Delivery on orders over $75.00 (before tax)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
We are closed from April 24th - 29th
PASSOVER HOURS
April 22: 10:00-3:00 pm (Pick-up before 5 pm)
April 23: Closed (Pick-up before noon)
April 24-April 29: Closed
April 30: Open at 5 pm
FREE PARKING 905.881.8366
180 Steeles Ave. West, Unit 19, Thornhill
Email: steelesdeli@yahoo.com
TAKE-OUT • DINE-IN • CATERING

NOW IN THORNHILL
BILL'S PIT
Wishing all our Clients & Friends
a Healthy & Happy Passover
1200 HIGHWAY 7 WEST
THORNHILL, ON L4L 0E1 905.597.7706
www.billspit.com

Rhapsody Cuisine
Specializing in Traditional Hungarian Cuisine
Cozy, Friendly atmosphere.
The BEST Schnitzel in town!
Live Music Fridays & Saturday Nights
DISHES STARTING AT $19.95
Wishing all our customers a Happy and Healthy Passover
10152 Yonge St., Richmond Hill 905-884-0305
Visit www.rhapsodycuisine.com for coupons

Abruzzo Pizza
VOTED BEST PIZZA!
Vince & Sergio at your service since 1981
We deliver to Thornhill and Richmond Hill
Homemade pasta, sandwiches, meat dishes and salads
Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Passover
Restaurant Seats 60 People
Take-out, Dine-in, Delivery and Catering Available
9010 Yonge St, Richmond Hill
905.881.8222
Check our menu online
www.abruzzopizza.com

Jacobs Deli
Catering & Take-out
See all of our menus at www.jacobsdeli.ca
Jacobs Deli would like to wish all our customers a chag kasher v'sameach.
See you after Pesach!
Open May 1, 2016
12-10pm
Deli
Burgers
Wings
Chicken Fingers
Artisan Bagel Bites
Beef Kaiser
Salad
Wraps
Poutine
COR
We grind and smoke our meat in house and grill fresh to order
facebook.com/jacobsdelitoronto

HAPPY PASSOVER
חג שמח
from the
Ladovsky Family
BAKERY • CATERING • TAKE-OUT
UNITED BAKERS
DAILY RESTAURANT
A TORONTO TRADITION SINCE 1912
416-789-0519
www.unitedbakers.ca
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
UB will be CLOSED
Fri. April 22nd to Sat. April 30th
Reopening Sun. May 1st

A Sweet Passover always, to you and yours, from us at
Harbord Bakery & Calandria
416.922.5767
115 Harbord St.
www.harbordbakery.ca

The David Duncan House
Fine Dining - Stunning Décor - Relaxed Atmosphere.
Noted for the best seafood, roast beef and choice steaks.
Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner....see you soon!
WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY PASSOVER
Phone: (416) 391-1424
125 Moatfield Dr.
North York, ON M3B 3L6
www.davidduncanhouse.com

ASK ELLA

Passover challenges - some are harder than others

Ella Burakowski
eb@thecjn.ca

Dear Ella,

No one in our family is looking forward to the seders this year. Each of us wants to do our own thing at home instead of our usual large family seder.

This is our first seder without our mother, who died in November. The woman who held it all together for us, who made everything from scratch, who laughed while she served, who sang while she cooked, who organized and always looked beautiful at the table, is gone. If we could just snap our fingers and "pass over" this holiday, I think we all would. Even the grandchildren are feeling the terrible loss. I don't know how we are going to get through the seder this year. She was truly the matriarch of our family.

Heavy-Hearted Passover

Dear Heavy-Hearted Passover

Losing a parent is difficult to deal with at any time, but on holidays, the loss is intensified. You bring many grieving people into one room to go through the motions of what used to be a very happy and memorable experience, and all of a sudden you have been slammed into the unknown. No one feels like going through the motions. No one feels like celebrating.

Seders as you knew them will never be the same without your mother. You can't change that. What you can do, however, is capture and honour her memory.

Prepare dishes she would have made and then talk about how no one can make them like mom. Sing the songs that she would have sung. Laugh, cry, talk, tell stories, share memories and make her spirit part of your seder. This year's seder will be like no other before it. Allow yourselves to feel the loss and embrace the values and tradition she instilled in all of you.

Keeping her spirit alive is how she will continue to be with you forever. Each holiday, birthday and anniversary will be a time to remember. "Firsts" are the hardest, but you'll get through each one in your own way. Don't mask your feelings. Instead, accept the help of other family members and friends. This year, your mother will be with each and every one of you, firmly implanted in your hearts and minds.

Dear Ella,

Passover is here again and with it comes my yearly dilemma: my mother-in-law's gefilte fish. We're a fairly big group and everyone makes something to bring to the seder. My mother-in-law has been making the gefilte fish for years now. It tastes only slightly worse than it smells.

No one eats it. They all cover it with lots of horseradish and cut it up so it looks eaten, then the whole thing goes into the trash. It's a shame and a sin to waste food like this, but I don't know how to tell her. It also bothers me that it has become the Pesach joke around here, and I really feel it's time to put an end to it. But how?

No Fishing Please

Dear No Fishing Please

I'm sure your mother-in-law is good at cooking something other than gefilte fish. This year, have someone else take charge of the fish. Let her know that the fish has already been made, but you really need her to prepare the brisket, tzimmes or anything else you think would be enjoyed at the seder. I'm sure you really do need her help if you have a large group of people coming, so why not use her talents for something you could really appreciate. She will feel useful, and at the same time, you will get the help you need and the peace of mind of knowing you've done the best you can to solve this uncomfortable problem.

Your mother-in-law might be upset when you first break the news that someone else has already made the fish, but if you make a fuss about how much you need her to make something else, she will soon come to terms with her new task. It would be especially nice if you made a bit of a fuss over the new dish she prepares on seder night.

Chag Kasher v'Samayach. ■

Ella is the author of Hidden Gold - A True Story of the Holocaust. *Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
82 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Mazel tov to Debbie Wolgelerenter & Neil Tandon on their recent marriage at the Toronto Reference Library. Love from their families and friends.

Dr David & Sharon Rapoport celebrate 50 years of marriage, his retirement and his book, *It all begins in the waiting room.*

Craig Baxter & Rebecca Kaufer are engaged! Parents Judith & Danny, Jacqueline & William; sisters Emily & Gillian; grandmothers Edith, Margrit & Elizabeth are all thrilled!

Mazel tov to Muriel Berger on the occasion of your 100th birthday. With love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jessie Farber made aliyah to Israel two years ago, and is now celebrating her 100th birthday in good health. Best wishes from all your family.

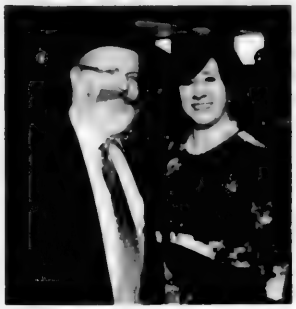
Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cblackman@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

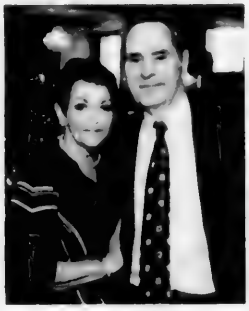
The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein



Rabbi Avraham and Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin of Chabad of Markham

Rebbetzin Esther and Rabbi Meir Gitlin, directors of youth program



Chips and Paul Klein, chairpersons of the 30th Gala

Co-chair Kim Cohen and Steven Cohen

Daron Odes, recipient of the young leadership award

Avraham Feifel, recipient of the Heritage Award

Chabad Markham anniversary

Over 400 people jammed the newly renovated synagogue hall of Chabad Markham to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the congregation. Gala guests were treated to a mind-blowing multi-media Broadway-meets-L.A. themed production of music, speeches, light and sound. Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, rabbi and executive director, spoke eloquently about how, 30 years ago, he and his wife Goldie arrived in Markham on a mission from the Lubavitcher Rebbe to reach out to unaffiliated Jews. Lawyer, newspaper columnist and popular legal analyst for CFRB, Edward Prutschi, held an engaging fireside chat with Irwin Cotler, former MP, minister of justice and attorney general and world renowned human rights activist. ■ – *The Socialite*

Avis and Robbie Osher

Irwin Cotler and Edward Prutschi

Thelma and Melinda Weinstein

Lara and Harold Krawitz

Rebbetzin Goldie Plotkin, Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, Ed Harari, Yirmi Cohen and Maurice Benzaquen

Henry and Esther Icyk

Dr. Laz and Lois Klein

BASSIE VORGIN TCH PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining CoR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

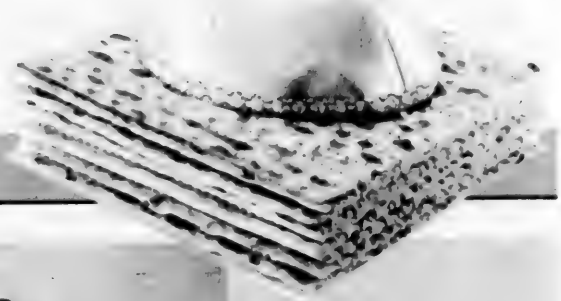
WINDSOR ARMS

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Catering • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

APRIL 21 - APRIL 28

by Lila Sarick



Thursday, April 21

BOOK LAUNCH

Canadian book launch of *Marek Edelman: being on the right side*, about the hero of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by **Witold Beres** and **Krzysztof Burnetko,** 7 p.m., Consulate General of Poland, 2603 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Sponsored in part by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada.

TMJ SOCIETY

The TMJ (temporomandibular joint) Society meets at 7 p.m., Temple Sinai. The topic of discussion is the cost of treatments for TMJ.
For more information, email tmjscanada@gmail.com.

Monday, April 25

JAN KARSKI FILM

Karski and the Lords of Humanity, will be shown at 7 p.m., Innis College, University of Toronto, followed by a Q & A with director **Slawomir Grunberg** and screenwriter **Katka Reszke.** Sponsored in part by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada.

BETH TZEDEC BOOK CLUB

Beth Tzedec's book club reviews *Second Person Singular*, by **Sayed Kashua,** lunch at 1 p.m. $25. RSVP 416-781-3511.

SONATAS AND SONGS

Semmy Stahlhammer, First Concertmaster of the Stockholm Royal Opera, presents "Sonatas and Songs: A selection of music from Bach to the Beatles," 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El. $10. RSVP reception@templeemanuel.ca

BINGE EATING AND BULIMIA

Cindy Goodman Stulberg discusses interpersonal psychotherapy and how it is used for clients with eating disorders, 7 p.m., Temple Sinai.

Deadline reminders:

The deadline for the issue of May 5 is April 25. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Packing for Passover

Grade 5 students of Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin Education Centre helped pack boxes for the Passover food drive sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women.

Tuesday, April 26

YOUTH CARNIVAL

A carnival with rides, games and more will be held at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, Thornhill, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 416-398-2300.

BOOK TALK

Barry Olshen reads from his book, *Love Learned* and discusses poetry, 7:30 p.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Sponsored by Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. $15.

Wednesday, April 27

JEWISH HISTORY

Hana Werner discusses "Isaac: how nations were affected by the Akedah," 1:30 p.m., dessert. Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10. RSVP 416-781-3511.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Michelle Zikovitz leads a workshop on creating vessels using found textile materials, 7:30 p.m., Temple Sinai. Non-members $10, which can be applied to annual membership. For more information, visit pomegranateguild.ca

Thursday, April 28

THE REFUGEES' EXPERIENCE

With drama, music and story, Temple Sinai explores the Exodus from Egypt, 7:30 p.m.

Et cetera

PASSOVER SEDERS

- Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism hosts a seder, April 22, 6 p.m., for teens and adults, 175 St. Clair Ave. W. $45. RSVP roby@oraynu.org or 416-385-3910.
- Miles Nadal JCC hosts a Passover seder, April 22, 7:30 p.m. For tickets and prices, Chabad of Midtown, 416-516-2005 or Jewish Family and Child, 416-961-9344.
- Congregation Habonim hosts a seder led by **Eli Rubenstein, Avrum Rosensweig,** April 23. Free. Donations welcome. Register at www.congregationhabonim.org

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Circle of Care, in partnership with Jewish Family and Child, is looking for volunteers to join the hospice program team. Volunteers receive a 30-hour training program, which starts May 16. Call **Arnold,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or email afoss@circleofcare.com

INCLUSION CORNER

- Join Team Yachad at the Toronto Goodlife half-marathon or 5k walk/run on May 1. Contact **Devorah Marmer,** 416-986-1985 or torontoyachad@ou.org
- An information session for the developmental disabilities counsellor program will be held May 2, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Reena, 927 Clark Ave. W., 905-889-2690, ext. 2048.
- **Dr. David Pelcovitz** discusses "Protecting children: the role of the educator and the community," May 8, 10 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.
- DANI and Dreamworks present *Shrek Jr.: The Musical*, May 30, 7 p.m., Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. For tickets, 905-889-3264, ext. 231.
- Shabbat Itanu celebrates inclusion and Jewish values at most synagogues, May 13-14. www.jewishtoronto.com

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ART SHOW
Smadar Meiri exhibits her paintings at the Bathurst Clark Resource Library, 900 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill, to April 30

MAY DAY SECULAR SEDER
The United Jewish People's Order and the Morris Winchevsky School host a secular seder "Honouring our labour roots," with music by **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner,** May 1, 4 p.m. at Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave. For tickets, $30-$48, call 416-789-5502 or info@winchevskycentre.org

YOM HASHOAH
- Temple Har Zion holds a Yom HaShoah service, May 5, 7 p.m.
- Temple Sinai marks Yom HaShoah with a commemorative concert featuring the work of playwright **Evan Malach,** May 1, 2 p.m.

POST-PASSOVER PANCAKE PARTY
PJ Library and Holy Blossom Temple hold a post-Passover pancake party, April 30, 5:30 p.m., for families with children aged 2-5. Register at www.postpassoverparty.eventbrite.ca

MAH JONG MADNESS
A mah jong fundraiser for Aid to Disabled Soldiers of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, will be held May 18, 1-4 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. $25. Pre-registration required. Call **Lena Berman**, 905-881-7469 or ronlen.berman@sympatico.ca

YOM MANUAL LABOUR
Join Shoresh in getting the Kavanah Garden ready for the growing season, May 1 and May 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Lebovic Campus Dr., west of Ilan Ramon Blvd. Email, sabrina@shoresh.ca

CAMP BB RIBACK REUNION
Camp BB Riback on Pine Lake, Alta., is celebrating its 60th anniversary, June 24-June 26. Visit www.campbb.com

JF&CS

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Passover seder, April 21, 1:30 p.m.; Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, May 3-June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; Yom Hashoah commemoration, May 5, 1:30 p.m.; Yom Ha'atzmaut concert with **Yitzhak Argaman,** May 12, 1:30 p.m
- **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Periodontist **Yair Lenga** discusses "How old is your mouth?" April 27, 6 p.m.; Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. April 26, **Robert Shechter** discusses "Majestic Norway," 10 a.m.; April 28, wellness lecture on "Eating well as you get older," 1:30 p.m. Drop-in for book club, Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama May 11; Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.
- **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
- **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
- **Shaar Shalom Synagogue**. Play duplicate bridge, Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- **Beth Emeth Synagogue**. Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.
  Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
- **Temple Har Zion**. Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- **Beth Tzedec Synagogue**. Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m.
- **Beth Sholom Synagogue**. Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
- **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Amy, 416-633-6224, ext. 134. Call Maureen, 416-781-3514.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Family ceramics runs Sundays, noon or 2:30 p.m.; jazz, hip-hop and funk classes for children aged 3 to 9, Mondays; Art adventures for children aged 4-6 offered Wednesdays, 4:45 p.m.
- Learn to play recorder, Wednesdays at noon.
- The Shalom Singers are looking for new choir participants. Mondays, 2 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Degas and his dancers," May 3, 10 at 1 p.m
- Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott,** "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.
- Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," May 4-25, 1 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- *Scots Jews: Identity, Belonging and the Future* is on display at all 3 JCCs until April 27.
- Illusionist **Vitaly Beckman** performs May 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m., May 8 at 2 p.m., Al Green Theatre. For tickets, www.eveningofwonders.com
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Against the odds: celebrating female artists," May 9 and 16, 1:30 p.m.
- Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Klezmer ensemble, conducted by **Eric Stein,** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.
- Red Cross babysitting course for ages 11 and up, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Make baby hand and footprint keepsakes, May 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Yom Hashoah commemoration May 5, 11 a.m.; Yom Hazikaron commemoration, May 11, 11 a.m.
- Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 26, 1 p.m. ■

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Wishing you and your family a happy Passover!

sherkin langer castle

416.844.5704

HARVEY KALLES

416.543.4833

Hot market. Low inventory.
Now would be a great time to turn your property into $$$!!
Let's "right-size" your home and add income to suit your lifestyle.
My "Mission": To help my clients LIVE WELL! by building their wealth through Real Estate. Seize the Day!

Ellen Ann Keshen
Broker
Direct: 416-725-0400
www.ellenkeshen.com
ekeshen@rogers.com

RE/MAX HALLMARK Realty Ltd., Brokerage
3434 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4N 2M9

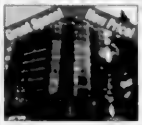
#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!

ROYAL LEPAGE

Elli Davis

416.921.1112 www.ellidavis.com

Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli



SELLING YOUR HOUSE?
33 Jackes Avenue $2,250,000
Grand suite of approx. 3,000 sq ft! Steps to Yonge-St. Clair/Summerhill shops and amenities. Direct elevator access, 2 bedrooms + den, reno'd kitchen, 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Stellar service, valet parking, indoor pool, sauna, exercise room & party room.

BRUCYNE SUD Sales Representative
Combined Honours B.A.
Director's Circle

BRUCYNE SUD

Chag Sameach
Wishing all my clients, family and friends a Happy & Healthy Passover

416.441.2888
x 339
bsud@trebnet.com
www.brucynesud.com

HARVEY KALLES

WWW.ABONYSTEINBERG.COM

HAPPY PASSOVER
ABONY STEINBERG

PERRY STEINBERG
Office 416 441 2888 x334

RHONDA ABONY
Office 416 441 2888 x335

HARVEY KALLES

Michelle Schipper,
B.A., M.S.W. Broker
Top Producer and
Award Winning Chairman's Club 2015
at Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.

Wishing all my clients, family and friends a Happy Passover!

New Listings
57 Renaissance Court $1,880,000
165 Greenbrooke Drive $8,880,000
15 Odessa Court $4,288,000
Lot 14 Davina Circle $2,675,000
65 Sa,mark Drive #1604 $828,800
8 Napa Valley Ave Bsmt apt $1,700 mo
Just Sold
1 Sprea Court Asking $1,288,000
32 Hunterwood Chase Asking $2,299,800
6 Sprea Court $2,488,000
Woodbury Crescent $1,498,000

Visit...www.michelleschipper.com
Email...michelleschipper@rogers.com

416-441-2888
ext. 289

HARVEY KALLES

Slavens & Associates

North Toronto Office 416.483.4337
Midtown Office 416.944.1818
Mono Office 519-940-9995
www.SlavensRealEstate.com

Our Team of Associates Wish All of Our Clients, Family and Friends a Healthy & Happy PASSOVER!

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ESSIE SHER
Sales Representative

Wishing You Peace, Health & Happiness this Passover

416-739-7200
• Cell 416-464-5261

Sutton Group-Admiral Realty Inc.
brokerage Independently owned & operated

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy Passover

from

TED WAXMAN
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

MARK WAXMAN
BROKER

Tel: 905-764-7200

MARSHALL R.E. LTD.

CHAG SAMEACH

to our valued clients, associates, relatives & friends

Marshall Real Estate Ltd. • Brokerage
416-961-3300 • marshallre@trebnet.com
www.marshallreltd.com

Elise Kalles BROKER

30 YEARS OF REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE

Proven Performance . . . Makes the Difference!

#1 in Toronto - Luxury Homes Sales over $2,000,000*

REGENTS
Greater Toronto and Cottage Country
*Dollar Value Sale Of MLS Listings Sold

WYCHWOOD PARK ESTATE $8,980,000

Spectacular unique estate. Gated private driveways from Burnside & Wychwood Park. Impressive south views to Lake Ontario. 8 bdrms. Elevator. Self-contained lower suite. Gazebo, pool & cabana. Wychwood Park tennis courts.

ANNEX CONTEMPORARY LOFT $4,680,000

Architectural masterpiece inspired & designed by world-renowned architect Gordon Ridgley. Soaring ceilings, ash wood flooring, custom stainless steel cabinetry, Art Déco fireplace, skylight, dramatic fountain & walls of glass.

FOREST HILL RD $4,680,000

Beautifully situated in prized estate area. Centre hall design. 5 bdrms, baths. Impeccable details incl. leaded glass pane windows, marble gas fireplaces & oak paneled walls. Enchanting gardens & pool

THORNCREST VILLAGE

One-of-a-kind contemporary home. Soaring 15' ceilings. Ultimate entertainer's paradise, 5,900 sf on 3 levels. Exquisite gdns, hot tub & pool. Must be seen to be believed. $2,950,000 + $500 000 fully furnished.

BRIDLE PATH CONDO $3,098,000

Penthouse Suite. Private elevator access to approx 3,275 s.f. 11' ceilings. 2 bedrooms plus library. Separate eat-in area. Natural light freely cascades through w-w & f-c & bow windows. 24/7 valet & concierge.

10 BELLAIR CONDO $2,998,000

Floor-to-ceiling windows fill approx. 3,000 sf with natural light. Sliding doors from breakfast area & master to east & north terraces. Family room, study + den. Bellair Club & Spa

HK HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE

416-441-2888 ext. 291
elisekalles@harveykalles.com
www.elisekalles.com

Sutton

Ian & Sarah **Maged**

416.739.7200
MagedPartners.com
MagedPartners@rogers.com

Ian & Sarah Maged

LOOk to the experts

Wishing our Valued Clients, Dear Friends & Relatives
Chag Pesach Kasher V' Sameach

To view all our current MLS and EXCLUSIVE listings go to
MagedPartners.com

Sutton Group Admiral Realty Inc., Brokerage
an independent Member Broker
1206 Centre St., Unit 100, Thornhill, ON L4J 3M9

"WE OPEN DOORS FOR YOU"

DAVID EICHORN
REALTY LIMITED BROKERAGE

416-787-1712
www.eichornrealty.com • david@eichornrealty.com

JUST SOLD! BATHURST / VIEWMOUNT

Custom Built Elegance, Over 9000 Sf Of Combined Living Space / 8+2 Bdrms, 9 Baths / Chefs Kitchen Incl. Granite Island, S/S Built-In Appliances & Kitchen Eat-In Luxury Defined! Ben Eichorn** and Diana Da Silva*** 416-787-1712

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN

Custom Designed Beauty / S+2 Bdrms, 6 Baths / Over 7000 Sf Of Finished Living Space / Granite Floors And Large Skylight / Oversized 60' X 132' Lot / Gourmet Kitchen / Center Island & W/O To Yard From Family Room & Kitchen / Bsmt Level, An Entertainers Dream! Features Rec Room, Games Area, Built-In Bar, Sauna++ / Asking 2,199,000 / Ben Eichorn** and Diana Da Silva*** 416-787-1712

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Bright, Spacious Family Home / Oversized 55' Lot / Child Friendly Street Huge LR/DR / Interlocked Walkways And Patio / Front Windows (2015) A/C (2013) / Home Being Sld With Approved Plans And Permits For Large 1750 SF Renovation Addition / Akiva Serebrowski*** 416-787-1712

DUFFERIN / GLENCAIRN

Beautifully Maintained, S+1 Bdrm Home / Premium 40 X 132' Lot / Renovated Eat-In Kitchen, Granite Countertops And W/O To Garden Finished Bsmt W/ Large Rec Rm, Bedroom & Kitchen / Fully Fenced Backyard W/ Interlocking / Desirable Neighborhood / Close To All Amenities: Public Transit, Schools, Shops+++ Ben Eichorn** and Diana Da Silva*** 416-787-1712

*BROKER OF RECORD **BROKER ***SALES REPRESENTATIVE

We wish all our friends a happy and healthy Passover!

SY SEKLER YOUNG
REAL ESTATE TEAM

חג שמח!

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A **HAPPY PASSOVER!**

www.sekleryoung.com

SUSAN YOUNG
sales representative
416.875.7042
susanyoung18@gmail.com

RACHEL SEKLER
sales representative
416.841.0519
info@rachelsekler.com

HK HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE
2145 Avenue Rd., Toronto, ON M5M 4B2 | 416 441 2888

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. wishes their clients and friends a happy and festive Passover

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

18 LOWER VILLAGE GATE – 2 BDRM + DEN $1,099,000
Faces West Overlooks Garden Natural Light Open Living + Dining Eat-In Kit, 2Bths, Great Storage, 2Pkg, 24hr Gatehouse, Near Forest Hill Shops + Restaurants & Subway. Marilyn Mernick* & Saul Mernick* 416-488-2875

FANTASTIC SPACIOUS 1 BDRM PLUS DEN
Luxury New Condo In The Heart Of Bayview Village. 2 Bthrms, High Ceilings, Modern Kit W/Top Of The Line Appl's, Hrdwd Flr Thru-Out. *Multiple Upgrades! Ferey Deyhim-Gouran* 416-226-1987

NORTH PROPERTY

BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED 4BR DETACHED HOME
$988,000! Family Friendly Neighbourhood,Close To All Amenities. 3Br In-Law Bsmt Apt W/ Own Washer+Dryer & Sep Entrance. Reno'd Kit W/Brkfst Area+W/O To Deck. Nathalie Gheorghiu* & Shahin Jahanzadeh* 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

368 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,325-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Just Completed! Sensational Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,915! *Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST ADS! 34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
Carscadden Park Apts! Your Choice Of Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,450 Plus Parking+Utilities! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

510-368 EGLINTON AVE. E! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
$1,275/Mo! Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Spectacular Reno'd 1Br 1Bth North Facing Ste W/Large Balcony! Loads Of Storage! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987
LEASED

96 RIDGE HILL DRIVE $4500/MO
Outstanding Renovation. Just completed $4500/mo. 3 bdrms, 2 Bths, Hrdwd Flrs, DR with w/out to terrace & garden. Spacious, Sunfilled! Move now! Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

UPDATED 3+1 BDRM IN CEDARVALE $4300/MO
White marble in kitchen, walk-out to deck from dining room, 3 bths, available May 1. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! NOW $2,500/MONTH!
Just S/Lawrence! Unbelievable! Approx 950' Storefront W/Rear Deck+Bsmt! 2 Entries! 2 Car Parking! Was Restaurant! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

Reach qualified buyers
GET RESULTS!
CJN

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE
416-226-1987
www.foresthill.com
sandon@foresthill.com

Best Wishes for a Happy Passover! Thank you for your continued support.

SANDON SCHWARTZBEN, M.S.W.
BROKER

Michelle Kahn, Broker
CHAIRMAN'S CLUB at Harvey Kalles RE Ltd.

B'H
Wishing my beloved family, dearest friends, invaluable clients, and the entire community a Safe, Healthy & Meaningful Passover.
- CHAG KASHER V' SAMEACH -

416 930.0399
michellekahn.realtor@gmail.com
HARVEY KALLES

RE/MAX
Realtron Realty Inc., Brokerage

Our warmest wishes to all our relatives, friends & clients for a Happy & Healthy Passover

WILLOWDALE	THORNHILL	RICHMOND HILL
416-222-8600	905-764-6000	905-764-8688
BATHURST	**MARKHAM**	**SCARBOROUGH**
416-782-8882	905-470-9800	416-289-3333
SHEPPARD	**NEWMARKET**	**HEAD OFFICE**
416-222-2600	416-798-7365	905-944-8800

www.realtronhomes.com

Valued Clients, Family, Friends
May you be blessed with good health, prosperity, happiness and peace on Passover and throughout the year
Chag Sameach. Pauline Gold

Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd
PAULINE GOLD
905-764-7111
416-917-7701 cell

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED BROKERAGE
416-633-7373
Abe, Donna and Staff
Wish their Relatives, Friends and Clients
A HAPPY & HEALTHY PASSOVER

HAPPY PASSOVER!
My thanks and best wishes to all my clients, family and friends for a Happy Passover!
If you're thinking of a move, let me....
Make a Difference For You!
T: 416-543-7252
E: SAM@SAMCHAIM.COM
W: SAMCHAIM.COM
Thornhill – Toronto
SRES-ABR Salesperson

SAM CHAIM

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE

Best Wishes for a
Happy & Healthy Passover
from
The Kalles Family.

416-441-2888
harveykalles.com

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Wishing all my Family, Clients and Friends a Happy & Healthy Passover

HARVEY KALLES

JUDY HENDLER

Sales Representative

35 years in the business

416-605-7994 | judyhendler@rogers.com

Wishing all my clients, family and friends a Happy & Healthy Passover

MARCI KOIFMAN

BROKER

IT'S [illegible] MOVE!

TOP 10 IN ONTARIO FOR ROYAL LEPAGE 2012

ROYAL LEPAGE Partners Realty

416.229.4454

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Spacious 4 bdrm/2 full bathrooms,, laundry rm., 1800 sq.ft., A/C, winterized 100' x 200' lakefront cottage in Belle Ewart/Lefroy on Lake Simcoe. Sprawling 60' deck, cement breakwall w/sandy bottom, private paved driveway w/extra parking, private dock, overlooking Lefroy Harbour Resort w/amenities including security gate, play grounds, swimming pool, marina & restaurant. $839,900 call 647 406 5792.

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Fully furnished 4 1/2 rm apt. on the first floor in Richon Lazon, alarm & air conditioning. Asking 1,750,000 shekels. Call: 416-917-8124/ or Ruty@03-958-6680

220 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

WANTED! Apt. building or plaza (3 - 50 apts.) private buyer, no commission. Carlos@416-990-4412

240 EMPLYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Print Production Coordinator/ graphic designer: 1 year maternity leave position w/potential for a full time graphic design position. Proficient in OSX, Adobe CS (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator). Photography & video editing a plus. Excellent English, read/write Hebrew. Cover letter & Resume to: careers@ketubah.com.

Position for Full or Part-time ECE teacher. Fax resume to 416-631-8383 or call 416-638-9610 (Helen)

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Live-in caregiver for elderly exper. w/ refer. salary negotiable. 416-460-2854/416-656-8863

Are you looking for someone who is reliable, trustworthy, dependable and caring. I provide these svcs. for seniors. Call 416-663-2903

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER for ELDERLY. Gentle, Reliable live-in or live-out. Excellent CDN references. 647-402-4506

SERVICE DIRECTORY

345 ACCOUNTING

CPA - Corporate & personal tax returns. Financial statements & Consulting. Reasonable rates. Stephen Green 647 895-4550

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

357 AUTOMOTIVE

PLAZA PORTLAND AUTOBODY LTD.

GUARANTEED QUALITY & SERVICE

416-787-1622

Your Smart Choice for over 58 years

- Quality Collision Repairs
- All Work Guaranteed
- All Insurance Claims
- Competitive Prices

The Cowen Family wishes all their family, friends & clients a Happy and Healthy Passover

15 Bentworth Ave. (Dufferin/401) www.plazaportlandautobody.com

388 CARPETS

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

455 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683. BestWayToMove.com

370 CATERING

cafe sheli

Catering • Restaurant

COR

HAPPY PASSOVER

7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill

Promenade Village Shops

905.762.0640

www.cafesheli.com

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

ESSIE SHER

Call 416-464-5261

Bathurst / New Westminster 839,900

Stunning 3 bdr 3 bath condo townhouse. On private street Shows like a model 9 ft ceilings Stunning Kitchen

SUTTON GROUP - ADMIRAL REALTY, BROKERAGE

416-739-7200

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

SANTEL REALTY INC., BROKERAGE 416-787-2000

SKYMARK Don Mills & Finch

Skymark 2: Well Appointed 1 Bdrm + Sol., (Den) + Balc., 1 Bath, Rarely Available Demanded Model

SOLD

Asking Only $310,000

Wishing my clients & friends a very HEALTHY & HAPPY PASSOVER

SANTEL REALTY INC., BROKER OF RECORD

35 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry, indoor pkg., immed 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL CLINIC SPACE AVAILABLE

Thornhill Woods

8707 Dufferin St. in Vaughan

Space with 9 rooms (4 rooms furnished), waiting room furnished, very bright rooms, EMR will be provided, pharmacy next door, terms negotiable.

Interested Physicians call 416-302-0816 (Rajiv Sharma)

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

455 MOVING

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

395 ELECTRICAL

Trio electrical services. Specializng in knob & tube removal, & all your electrical needs. For free estimate call Brian 647-282 3380.

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT.** 416-459-1383.

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old, refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglung, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

3636 BATHURST ST.

LARGE 1 & 2 Bedroom Suites. Large rooms, eat in kitchen, some with 2 bathrooms, lots of closet space, large balcony, central air conditioning, freshly painted and refinished floors. Ceramic tiles. Parking available.

Call: 416-931-2206 or 416-663-8662 for appoint.

Email: rentals@pinedaleprop.com

Web: pinedaleprop.com

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Eilat Health Provider Team: Compassionate reliable nursing care, providing private palliative care, respite care, medical & total private care at home, in hospital, and nursing homes. We have RN, RPN, & PSW's on staff. For further inquiry or careers at this company please apply to: eilatnursingcare@hotmail.com

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Find your perfect home

CJN CLASSIFIEDS

Mamdouh Shoukri: president says York

YONI GOLDSTEIN
ygoldstein@thecjn.ca

After years of reports that Jewish students don't feel safe at York University because of anti-Zionist agitation on campus, and in the wake of a recent controversy over a mural in its student centre that some say promotes violence toward Israel, Mamdouh Shoukri, York's president since 2007, spoke to *The CJN* to discuss some of the issues at play.

Is York University a safe space for Jewish students?

Yes, absolutely. York University is a safe place for Jewish students and, for that matter, for all students irrespective of their religion, ethnic background or political opinions.

We at York are committed to creating an environment where all people feel welcome, valued and safe. York has a deep and rich history of supporting inclusion and ensuring that all members of our community enjoy a safe and nurturing environment. This is clearly reflected in our stated principles, policies and procedures, and in our many pioneering programs to promote inclusion and campus safety. York University and I, in my capacity as president, will never tolerate acts of anti-Semitism or any form of discrimination directed at any group or member of our community.

The relationship between York University and the Jewish community is, in some sense, unique. For a number of historic reasons, York University was embraced by the Jewish community in its early years. York, in turn, embraced and reflected the needs of that community. This legacy is reflected today in the vibrant academic activities of our Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, our BA and MA programs in Jewish studies, the Jewish Teacher Education Program (one of a very few of its kind in North America), as well as in the engaged Jewish student organizations on campus such as Hillel. York also offers a number of services in support of Jewish life on campus.

Mamdouh Shoukri has been president of York University since 2007.

The Jewish community has heard from some Jewish students and organizations that claim they feel unsafe at York. At the same time, other Jewish students and student groups maintain they feel safe on campus. How do you account for this discrepancy?

I understand some of the reasons for this discrepancy. As with all universities, there are students and faculty at York who support the Palestinian causes and who are critical of policies of the State of Israel. Some of this criticism is part of a legitimate political dialogue, while part of it can be seen by some as a cover for anti-Semitic sentiment.

While the university, using its best academic and legal resources, is in a good position to protect and support academic freedom and freedom of expression, and to draw the line when it comes to hate or other forms of discrimination or intimidation, the emotional aspects of an issue may affect some students and can make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. This is understandable, as many of our students are the first in their families to attend university, and for others this may be the first time they have experienced the diversity of opinions that is typical of a vibrant academic environment.

I should add that the mostly unfair targeting of York by several Jewish organizations and individuals – perhaps in their zeal to combat anti-Semitism, which I can understand – has had a negative effect on some of our young students and has contributed to making them feel worried and victimized.

That said, the university has a responsibility – and indeed, is actively committed – to working with those who feel unsafe to ensure their positive engagement and to support fully their transition into the academic environment. At the same time, the university should stand firm on any attempt to intimidate our students or to advocate hate.

Toronto businessman Paul Bronfman made waves recently when he announced he would pull his funding from York over the controversial mural in the student centre. What is your view on that decision? Are you concerned that other Jewish donors may follow suit?

I regret Mr. Bronfman's decision to withdraw the in-kind support his company provided to a few students in our Film Studies program. However, such decisions cannot affect the policies and procedures of a university. We remain grateful to our donors and supporters. We are not concerned nor do we see any evidence that our major donors are less willing to continue their support for York.

In your mind, should there be any limits on discussions about Israel and the Palestinians on campus? Or should a university campus be open to all ideas, even if they may make some people uncomfortable?

Academic freedom and freedom of speech are central to the mission of any university. In principle, these freedoms should always be protected, within the limitations of the law. As such, advocating hate or violence, which is a violation of the law, cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. It is my strong view, however, that while acting within the limits of the law, vigorous yet respectful dialogue and exchange of ideas can be deeply enriching to the academic life of an institution.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

University committed to inclusion

I believe it is the responsibility of those with strong views on any debate to act in a way that does not demonize and threaten others or make others feel unsafe.
The university has a responsibility to promote and encourage this approach.

In Canada and in the United States, there has been broad discussion around what is often depicted as a struggle between the right to free speech on university campuses and the need to strengthen our efforts toward diversity and inclusion. It is important to recognize that these goals are not at odds. Free speech, diversity and inclusion are all efforts to reach the same objective. We need to be talking constructively and openly about all challenges to safe and inclusive environments, for all individuals and groups, whether those barriers are racism, sexism, homophobia or other forms of discrimination or intimidation. Indeed, the balance between freedom of expression and ensuring that all members of a community feel safe in sharing their views without intimidation is a subject worthy of discussion in a collegial environment.

These are the principles that should guide our approach to the debate about Israel and Palestine on campus. We have zero tolerance for anti-Semitism or other forms of racism, or the advocacy of hate and violence by any group or individual. We work very hard with all sides to promote constructive dialogue and debate. There are some successes, such as the work by the Mosaic Institute and the highly successful academic teachings by individuals such as Prof. Saeed Rahnema. In addition, an even-handed approach to the implementation of our policies has been instrumental in enhancing students' life on campus. However, it is understandable that there will be individuals who may feel challenged by some ideas. While the university community has a responsibility to acknowledge and address these concerns, I believe the experience of open dialogue and constructive discussion will help all to understand the nature of the university environment and to allow their own thoughts and arguments to evolve.

What is your take on the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, and more specifically, on the efforts to promote BDS among York student government and faculty?

York University uses best practices in developing its policy on investment. These practices are built on advice from major investment consulting firms and require investment managers to take into consideration environmental, social and governance factors in their investment decisions. It does not recommend the use of "negative screening" or divesting from particular companies. This approach is considered best practice by international standards. So, at this moment, our policies, as approved by York's board of governors, do not support BDS or divestment.

Obviously, any community group has the right to request a policy change. In this regard, York University also has a clear policy and procedure to be followed by any group seeking policy changes. Some time ago, we established the York University advisory committee on responsible investing (YUACRI). This advisory committee comprises students, faculty and staff who meet for the purposes of investigating, producing and providing advice to the university that is constructive and feasible, and making any recommended enhancements to the responsible investing process. YUACRI has a process for members of the York community to bring forward recommendations with respect to the management of endowment investments. Ultimately, the board has the authority to make any changes.

> *In Canada and in the United States, there has been broad discussion around what is often depicted as a struggle between the right to free speech on university campuses and the need to strengthen our efforts toward diversity and inclusion. It is important to recognize that these goals are not at odds.*

What might the Jewish community do to lower the temperature of conversation surrounding York?

The tenor of conversation surrounding York is upsetting our entire York community. It is important that we work together in understanding and promoting the important role that universities play in seeking solutions for the challenges that are facing the world through informed opinions and respectful exchange. I hope that future students from the Jewish community might hear more about the incredible opportunity to join a vibrant Jewish academic and community life, and to be exposed to the full richness of diversity that York offers.

I also hope that some of the external organizations in their advocacy and promotion to protect the Jewish people, who suffered greatly in the past, will review their approach and appreciate the inadvertent damage they may cause to the future of our students and to what we hope will continue to be a positive relationship.

What sort of relationships does York have with Israeli universities and institutions?

York University enjoys relationships with a number of Israeli universities and institutions, including Bar-Ilan University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, and Arava Institute of Environmental Studies. In addition to providing opportunities for research and faculty collaborations, signed agreements with these institutions have generated student exchange activity. Our Centre for Jewish Studies continues to be involved in and to support various forms of scholarly exchange.

The mural controversy: in your view, how has York managed this situation? Is there anything you could have done differently?

The controversy surrounding the mural is part of this broader conversation and suggests we have an opportunity to further foster an inclusive environment for all members of our very diverse community.

I believe it is the right of all students, professors, and in fact all Canadians, to express their opinions and to join together to advocate for changes they believe will improve the university and society in general. I believe, just as strongly, that an intelligent discussion requires that both sides listen, which is why we are reviewing our policies to promote that goal.

In terms of the mural, it is clear that the subject of the artwork is offensive to some individuals and groups, particularly some Jewish members of our community. I understand and respect these concerns. York University has requested and confirmed that the executive of the Student Centre, which is a separate and distinct legal entity from the university, will establish procedures for hearing and resolving complaints from students about their shared space.

The considered advice we received assures me that displaying the painting in question is not illegal, and as such I accept the right of the artist to share his political position using it. However, I would like to see Student Centre consider replacing it, not because it is illegal, but rather as a way to create an opportunity to explore a better framework for dialogue.

There has been some controversy over the makeup of York's new inclusion committee. Some people have complained that the committee features many anti-Israel and pro-BDS voices. What is your response to them? And how, in your mind, will the committee overcome the previously stated views of its members?

Inclusion is a broad campus issue, and therefore the membership of the President's Advisory Committee on Inclusion needs to reflect that breadth, and consider and provide advice on approaches to promoting inclusion broadly in order to ensure a safe campus environment for all. I have heard concerns from Jewish members of our community and was also aware of other student and faculty groups who have expressed the need for a greater focus on inclusion on campus.

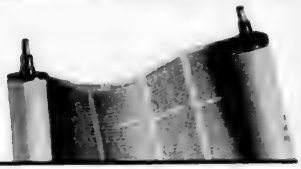
To be clear, this committee was not formed as a result of any specific incident, but rather to bring together York scholars to advance our shared goals of strengthening York's commitment to building an inclusive and diverse campus through collegial dialogue that nurtures the respectful exchanges of ideas, and supports and prepares our graduates for success anywhere. The committee is an advisory body, not a decision-making body, whose mandate is to ensure that all voices are heard. Most certainly, the committee would not consider the BDS question, nor will it make recommendations to the board.

Let me reiterate that while concerns raised by some of our members regarding the mural contributed to my decision to establish an advisory committee on inclusion, the committee's focus will be on strengthening inclusivity for all members of York's vibrant and diverse community. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Parshah

Pesach | Exodus 12:21-51; Numbers 28:19-25



Rabbi Ilan Acoca challenges us to respect each other's differences this Passover
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl says God redeems suddenly, but humans change slowly
Rabbi Catharine Clark cautions against being certain we know who today's wicked Jews are

Rabbi Ilan Acoca

The Torah teaches us (Exodus 13:8), "And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of this that God acted on my behalf when I left Egypt.'"

The *Sefer Hachinuch* (Mitzvah 21) says that we learn from this verse the mitzvah to recount the story of the Exodus on the 15th of Nisan to each person according to the way and language he understands.

I believe that there is a great lesson of education we could learn from the *Sefer Hachinuch*. God created every individual differently from one another. Therefore, when it comes to relating the story of the Exodus, or, as a matter of fact, to educate, we have to tailor the message accordingly, as King Solomon writes (Proverbs 22: 6), "Train a child according to his way; even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it."

The Talmud (Brachot 58b) teaches that "as the faces of people do not exactly resemble one another, so do their opinions do not exactly resemble each other." In other words, not everyone is supposed to fit the same mould.

The same goes for communities as well. The Jewish People had 12 tribes, and each one was different. As a Jewish nation, we have different communities with unique customs, and each community is responsible to observe and perpetuate it.

It is very easy to disqualify an opinion or a custom that is not in keeping with what we are used to, but it's much harder to understand it.

Our challenge is to respect each other's differences.

May God give us the wisdom, courage and appreciation to respect each other's dissimilarities and understand that we belong to the same God, same nation and same Torah.

Wishing you all a Chag Kasher v'Samayach! ■

Rabbi Ilan Acoca is rabbi at Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

A central aspect of Passover is the idea that our nascent nation departed Egypt in *hipazon* (anxious haste). Twice the Torah tells us God directed the Israelites to leave quickly: "Thus you shall eat [the lamb]; with... your sandals on your feet and your walking-stick in hand; you shall eat it in anxious-haste." (Exodus 12:11) "You shall not eat the Passover-offering with leaven; seven days you shall eat matzot, the bread of affliction, for you came out of Egypt in anxious-haste." (Deuteronomy 16:3).

Years ago, I waited for hours in a drizzling rain for the final stage of the Tour de France bicycle race. Then, in mere seconds, the racers zoomed past. Erica Brown has observed, "Sometimes important days in our lives take months, even years to prepare for and then pass by in the blink of an eye."

But the hasty exodus may have contributed to the challenges of the wilderness trek. God can redeem suddenly, but humans change slowly. The anxious-haste of the Exodus preceded 40 years in the wilderness.

In *Thinking Fast and Slow*, Daniel Kahneman identifies two modes of thought. One is fast, instinctive, emotional, stereotypical and subconscious. The other is slower, deliberative, logical, calculating and conscious. Together, they provide an effective balance for decision-making.

The term *hipazon* is found only one more time in the entire Bible. Describing a future redemption, Isaiah (52:12) states: "You will *not* leave in anxious-haste... for the Eternal will go before you." Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook taught that the messianic moment will not disrupt nature, but will grow as a gradual awakening from below (*itaruta deletata*). The Jewish People will return to their homeland, gain independence, restore field and city, defend themselves, develop centres of study and re-establish a spiritual centre.

On Passover, as we recall the hasty exit, we also proclaim our hope, "Next year in Jerusalem." ■

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Rabbi Catharine Clark

At the seder, the wicked child finds no meaning for herself in the proceedings and asks, "What is this service to you?" It is a bold and dismissive stance, worthy of the name wicked. Surely, no one would behave this way at seder. Who is this wicked child?

The Schechter Haggadah: Art, History, and Commentary, published by the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem in 2009, offers a number of possible answers to this question. The book includes illustrations from a wide collection of medieval and modern Haggadot. The depictions of the four children are fascinating. The wicked child always stands out.

Some of the depictions of the wicked child, such as a Roman centurion or knight of the Middle Ages, are what one would expect. Other representations of the wicked child are less obvious, even bewildering. In a 1941 Haggadah illustrated by Saul Raskin, the wicked son is portrayed as a Mongolian warrior. In a 1952 Haggadah illustrated by Ya'akov Zimberknopf, the wicked son is a dog owner.

A 1997 Haggadah edited by Noam Zion and David Dishon is one of the first in which the four children are depicted as daughters. The wicked daughter is dressed as a cowboy and playing with trucks. A 2004 Haggadah illustrated by Michele Kishke portrays the wicked daughter as a middle-aged adult with a cigarette and a book by Amos Oz.

Many Jews love their dog. My daughter plays with trucks all the time. I read Amos Oz. (The Mongolian warrior is just weirdly out of context at a seder.) What was wicked in these Haggadot seems normative to many of us. This discrepancy should caution us against being too certain that we know who today's wicked Jews are. ■

Rabbi Catharine Clark is the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in London, Ont.

A matzah factory on Ontario Street

Backstory

BILL GLADSTONE

One good thing about matzah is that even after the passage of many months, it often tastes no more stale coming out of the box than when it was first baked. In a parallel vein, I hope the following tales concerning an early matzah factory in Toronto won't seem too stale, even if they go back more than a century.

In March 1908, the *Toronto Star* reported about the existence of a matzah factory on Ontario Street in the city's east end, near a sizeable cluster of Jewish families who then lived in the neighbourhood. The *Star* didn't think it important to mention the name of the matzah factory (it was the National Matzo and Biscuit Company), but noted that its employees were working night and day on the production of kosher matzah for the upcoming Passover holiday.

Jews eat matzah at Passover "in remembrance of the curse which in the old days passed over Egypt," the newspaper explained, but it neglected to mention that the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt was so swift there was not enough time for the dough to rise.

However, the *Star* noted that every stage of the manufacturing process was conducted under strict rabbinical supervision, from the grinding of the flour to the mixing of the flour and water. "The machine used to mix them is only in operation 15 minutes, at the expiration of which time the rabbi orders its removal. One perfectly clean is substituted, and it is used for 15 minutes in its turn."

The dough was rolled under a heavy roller, perforated and cut. Then the unbaked matzah was placed on a conveyer belt, which carried it through a 50-foot-long oven. "The heat of the oven is easily regulated, and by the time the matzah passes through it, it is delicately brown and baked to a turn."

The matzah sold for seven cents a pound, but there was also a tastier and more costly variety available. "The wealthier Jews demand a more expensive matzah, and to gratify them wine, eggs and flour are used in its manufacture," the story reported.

The Ontario Street matzah factory was Canada's first matzah factory. Previously, the Jewish community had to import matzah from the United States and pay an import duty of 25 per cent.

National Matzo & Biscuit Co., Limited.
95-105 ONTARIO STREET
TORONTO
Only MATZO FACTORY in Canada
Manufacturers of High Grade Matzos of all Kinds.
Egg Matzos, Berliner Tea Matzos, Social Tea Matzos
Square and Round Matzos, and Macaroni
The Kashruth of Matzos, manufactured by us is vouched for by Rabbi Meldola de Sola, of Montreal, Vice-President of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of the United States and Canada, also by the best known rabbis of the Dominion.

One Sunday in 1909, a team of police constables raided the factory from a second-storey window, charging some workers with violating the Christian Sabbath. Toronto mayor Joseph Oliver was publicly annoyed at this, and was not alone in asking the force to adopt a more tolerant posture toward Jewish bakers.

In a letter to a Mr. J. W. Gurofsky, the mayor elaborated: "I received your letter regarding the action of Police Sergeant Pogue, and a constable, in climbing through a second-storey window of the National Matzo and Biscuit Company, Limited, at the rear of 105 Ontario St., where some employees of the company were found preparing dough for baking purposes. You call attention to the fact that nearly all the large bakeries in the city have employees working on Sunday, but that police activity seems to be directed only against bakeries owned by Jews. You also point out that Jews should, if anything, be given a little more latitude than gentiles, inasmuch as the former are permitted to work on Saturday, while the latter are not.

"My own opinion is that the police department should be more tolerant in cases of this kind, and I think some arrangement should be made whereby the police should not interfere in the case of Jewish bakeries... It is my intention to place your letter before the Board of Police Commissioners for consideration at its next meeting."

Sadly, a fire swept through the factory one night in 1908, killing Ephraim Gelman, the night watchman. His wife and five children were still in Minsk at the time, and eventually settled in the United States. (Last summer, one of his great-grandchildren asked me to uncover more information about the tragedy, about which the family had retained only the barest details.)

Apparently, for reasons unknown, the matzah factory on Ontario Street ceased operation after only a few seasons. ■

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Green, Hedy	April 6, 2016	9700 Bathurst St
Goldberg, Eric Henry	April 7, 2016	3000 Bathurst St
Champagne, Queenie	April 7, 2016	484 Steeles Ave W
Schulman, Peter	April 7, 2016	17 Mallingham Crt
Abramov, Shifra	April 8, 2016	Private
Pollack, Faye	April 8, 2016	133 Torresdale Ave
Wiseberg, Shaefy Pearl	April 9, 2016	Private
Freud, Linda Jean	April 11, 2016	1 Emerald Lane
Shakvashvili, Shalom	April 11, 2016	1 Cordoba Dr
Epelbaum, Carka	April 12, 2016	7300 Yonge St
Orlean, Brian	April 12, 2016	148 Southvale Dr

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Gertrude Mandlowitz	Apr 2/16	120 Chelton Road
Lawrence Pollack	Mar 30/16	1717 Avenue Road
Sam Osak	Apr 2/16	44 Charles Street West
Magda Gardner	Apr 3/16	58 Joseph Aaron Boulevard
Rae Frank	Apr 5/16	55 Ameer Avenue
Jonah Goodman	Apr 5/16	66 Glen Park Avenue
Ronnie Barnett	Mar 29/16	34 Carscadden Drive
Lionel J. Rubin	Apr 6/16	
Joseph Mepen	Apr 8/16	541 Finch Avenue, West
Morris Sternberg	Apr 9/16	343 Clark Avenue West
Lucille Bensky	Apr 8/16	25 Sutcliffe Drive

MEDRAEW BASIC Khatskel "Harry" Koblent Apr 8/16 219 Ellerslie Avenue

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of
LAURIE LEIFER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 1, 2016
at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Stopnitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Best wishes for a Happy and Kosher Passover, from our family at The Israeli Source, to yours.

חג מצות שמח! לשנה הבאה בירושלים הבנויה!

BEING JEWISH DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE EXPENSIVE!®

THE ISRAELI SOURCE

2006-2016 10 YEARS OF SAVINGS!

LET MY PEOPLE SAVE!

YOU CAN EXPECT CANADA'S BEST DEALS ON ALL YOUR PASSOVER NEEDS!

SHMURAH MATZAH • SEDER PLATES • PASSOVER COOKBOOKS
KITCHENWARE • HOSTESS GIFTS • TOYS • ARTS/CRAFTS • GREETING CARDS

AFTER *NOW!*

IN PRIZES TO BE GIVEN OUT IN OUR AFIKOMAN RIDDLE CHALLENGE! VISIT ISRAELISOURCE.COM/AFIKOMAN TO PLAY!

SAVE 33%!
$19.99
PER 500g
(1.1 lbs)
Handmade Shmurah Matzah
Mehadrin, Product of Israel

SAVE 50%!
$2.49
BUY 10 AND GET ANOTHER 2 FREE!
Rabbi Nathan Goldberg Haggadah
Hebrew/English

SAVE 33%!
$99.99
Shabbat & Yom Tov Warming Tray
Large Size, Stainless Steel Finish

SAVE $$$!
FROM $24.99
Kiddush Cup Sets
Nickel or Silver Finish

SAVE 66%!
FROM 49¢
26-Hour Yahrzeit Candles

SAVE 40%!
FROM $74.99
Shabbat & Yom Tov Compliant
Kitchen Water Pot

SAVE 30%!
$13.99
"Tic-Tac-Toad"
Wood Passover Game

SAVE 25%!
$199.99
Aluminium Seder Plate, Multicolour
By Yair Emanuel

SAVE 25%!
$14.99
"Who Am I?" Headbanz-Style
Passover Game

SAVE 20%!
$25.99
Haggadah, Hebrew/English
with R' Steinsaltz's Commentary

SAVE 80%!
FROM $9.99
Antique Finish Seder Plate
Nickel or Pewter

SAVE 31%!
$8.99
Bib, "Who Stole My Matzah?"

SAVE 50%!
$39.99
Seder Plate, Wood with Silver Effect
3 Legs

SAVE 43%!
FROM $3.99
Welch's Manischewitz
Concord Grape Juice, 1.9L
Suitable for Kiddush and 4 Cups

SAVE $$$!
FROM $11.99
Matzah Covers, 3-Layer
Satin, Assorted

SAVE 20%!
$23.99
Haggadah, Hebrew/English
with Rabbi Sacks's Commentary

SAVE 38%!
$59.99
Veggie Bug-Checker Light
From the makers of KosherLamp

SAVE 50%!
FROM $19.99
Stain Resistant Tablecloths
90" to 132"

Prices shown are guaranteed maximums until April 22 while supplies last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Some items may be final sales, check at point of sale. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion, and we cannot be responsible for typographical errors in product prices or descriptions.

SUN APR 17	MON APR 18	TUE APR 19	WED APR 20	THU APR 21	FRI APR 22	SAT APR 23
10-6	10-7	10-7	10-7	10-8	10-3	CLOSED
SUN APR 24	**MON APR 25**	**TUE APR 26**	**WED APR 27**	**THU APR 28**	**FRI APR 29**	**SAT APR 30**
CLOSED	12-4	12-4	12-4	12-4	CLOSED	CLOSED

60 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill · info@israelisource.com · (905) 482-2025 / 1-877-613-18-18

LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

PASSOVER GREETINGS 2016

Contributors

Flying Forward, Flying Back *Nora Gold* . . . . . PAGE 3

A Single Red Rose *Joseph Peretz* . . . . . PAGE 11

My Holiday Poem *Zoe Chandler* . . . . . PAGE 12

Almost April *Gail Berman* . . . . . PAGE 12

A Flurry of Motherhood Remembered *Sophie Soil* . . . . . PAGE 13

Zaydie's Lucky Feather *Julie Bergman* . . . . . PAGE 14

Bubbie's Brisket *Ryan Allen* . . . . . PAGE 15

Sammy the Thief *Ronald Levy* . . . . . PAGE 16

In Memory of Adam Fuerstenberg *Pearl Adler Saban* . . . . . PAGE 18

Little Grandmother *Kenneth Sherman* . . . . . PAGE 19

Flight *Bena Singer* . . . . . PAGE 19

On Time: Montreal, 1989 *Judy Batalion* . . . . . PAGE 20

I Saw a Zaida...With a Little Boy *Marvin Hershorn* . . . . . PAGE 25

In Spite of Everything *Rita Wilder Craig* . . . . . PAGE 26

The Good Son *Norma Barkin* . . . . . PAGE 26

Is This the Little Girl I Carried *Jacqueline Markowitz* . . . . . PAGE 27

On the cover

Cover concept and illustration by veteran Israeli artist Avi Katz
www.avikatz.net

Lest We Ever Forget *Masha Rutitsky* . . . . . PAGE 28

Love With Respect *Alvin Abram* . . . . . PAGE 28

Mima Cha Tzura *Selina Appleby* . . . . . PAGE 29

The Contest *Alvin Abram* . . . . . PAGE 30

The Antidote *Harold Pupko* . . . . . PAGE 34

Memory *Donna Seidman* . . . . . PAGE 37

I Have Not Spoken With You (for Sam) *Per Brask* . . . . . PAGE 37

The Wish *Len Phillips* . . . . . PAGE 38

Oh, Gaaawd! *Suzanne Reisler Litwin* . . . . . PAGE 41

The Last Survivors *Sam Hoffe* . . . . . PAGE 41

Solly The Baker *Marvin Zylber* . . . . . PAGE 42

Goodbye *Erika Rakowsky* . . . . . PAGE 43

Magnify *Ariel Goldie Gottheil* . . . . . PAGE 43

A Passover Story *Herb Cohen* . . . . . PAGE 44

Friday Night Special *Jaime Kastner* . . . . . PAGE 45

WISHING YOU A PASSOVER
FILLED WITH PEACE AND HAPPINESS

DELMAR.
www.delmarcargo.com

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDING
CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE SERVICES
TRUCKING AND GROUND SERVICES
WAREHOUSING AND DISTRIBUTION
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW)
Helping Children. Improving Healthcare. Supporting Women.

CHW Children Healthcare

Chag Sameach!

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) wishes all our members and friends a joyous Passover Holiday!

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support of our mission, which makes a tremendous difference in the lives of children, patients, and women at CHW projects in Israel.

Claudia Goldman
CHW National President

Alina Ianson
CHW National Executive Director

CHW Board of Directors

Fran Luborsky
CHW Toronto President

Ellen Ostofsky
CHW Toronto Executive Coordinator

CHW passionately supports programs and services for **Children**, **Healthcare**, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

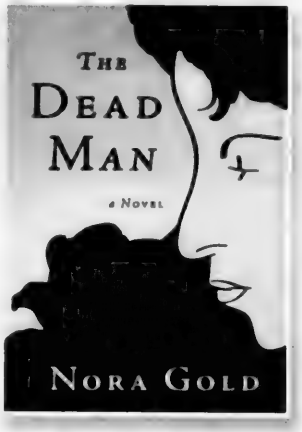
416.630.8373 www.chw.ca/toronto info@toronto.chw.ca

Flying forward, flying back

NORA GOLD

She's never been obsessed before. This is her first time and it's kind of interesting. It's like watching some psychopath in a movie, stalking someone, plotting to kill them, except that the psychopath is her. In Canada it's not so bad – she can't call Jake from Toronto because he'd see the area code and guess it was her. So it's only in his country, in Israel (where she'll be in 90 minutes) that it happens. There she won't be able to walk by a pay phone without having to wrestle down the desire to do again what she has already done numerous times: Dial his number and then keep silent on the end of the line – an ominous, threatening silence. And then hear the anger mount in his voice as he says, "Hello? Hello? *Hello*?" And then, when he gets no answer, he'll slam down the phone with a bang so loud that it hurts her ear. When Jake's wife answers the phone, though, it's not anger; it's fear. Instead of her voice getting stronger and more violent like Jake's, Fran's gets smaller and thinner ("Hello? Hello? Hello?") till at the end there's almost nothing left of it. It's a high and squeaky-scared voice, like a mouse or a little girl. On one of the last times, though, instead of going squeaky-scared on her third hello, Fran gathered all her remaining strength and called out "Jake!" in a loud, frightened voice – calling him, Eve knew, from the phone on the kitchen counter to Jake's study upstairs. Then Eve hung up fast before Jake could come on the line, and stood in front of the orange pay phone on a Tel Aviv street corner, her knees trembling and her hands sweaty.

Eve looks out of the airplane window. It didn't start out like this – as a form of stalking, or harassment, or whatever this would be considered under Canadian law. It started out just as a phone call because she missed him. She loved him and wanted to hear his voice again. But he told her not to call or write him anymore. He said this had to end once and for all – this relationship of theirs, their love, was destroying his marriage. So Eve wasn't allowed to call him after that. But she needed him still. She needed to hear his voice just one more time. His beautiful, deep voice. Even anonymously, if that was the only way. So she started phoning him and hanging up, each time thinking this time would be the last.



Eve looks out the window at the clouds below. In the beginning dusk, they look like furry, pale grey animals. The backs and sides of hippos, or rhinos. Flying animals floating in the sky. Sleeping in the sky. Jake never sleeps in in the mornings. The first time she called and then hung up on him, it was only six o'clock in Israel, but he was already wide awake. He always woke up before six, and his wife never did before seven, so as Eve had predicted, Jake picked up the phone. He answered the way he always did, with a musical wave in his voice, "Hel-lo-o," with the middle note higher than the others: C, G, E. Eve registered automatically. At that point, Jake's voice still sounded quite normal, if a little surprised at a 6 a.m. call. But after his first hello, when Eve didn't say anything back, it quickly got more insistent: "Hello? **Hello?**" and then turned frustrated-enraged, "Who *is* this?" and Eve hung up swiftly in fear. He was yelling at her.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Kosher Approved

כשר COR 421

SpongeTowels. Nothing absorbs like it.

SAVE $1.00

Off any SpongeTowels® Ultra 6-rolls or larger

SpongeTowels ULTRA

12018215

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

One-and-a-half years after sending her away, after surgically removing her from his life, here he was, yelling at her. But a couple of hours later Eve, though blushing at the memory of this phone call, was also grinning broadly. There was a funny side to it. And it was validating, too. It reminded her of something that deep-down she knew but kept on choosing to forget: that Jake was not the gentle, sensitive man he'd become in her fantasies (or anyway not only this); he was also someone with profound anger and a very short fuse. Laughing, Eve felt powerful. She had played a trick on Jake, but there was no way for him to know it was her, so he couldn't retaliate. However powerless she had felt over the previous year and a half (powerless to regain his love, or even to make herself visible to him), she realized now that she wasn't actually all that powerless. She could call him. She could torment him. So over the next three years, Eve phoned Jake's house five or six times on each of her visits to Israel (which, between conferences, board meetings, and holidays, turned out to be seven different trips). Seven trips at five or six calls each trip – she quickly does the math – that's altogether 35 or 40 calls. This may sound like a lot, but really it's not all that much. Anyway, she had no alternative. She had to keep calling back because she kept missing Jake and getting Fran instead.

The first time this happened, Eve was taken aback by how nice she sounded. Jake's wife had a sweet voice. She was a therapist, Jake had told her once. Not a music therapist, like Eve, or any other real type of therapist – Fran hadn't studied any mental health profession in university; she just did some sort of New Age bodywork. But still, on the phone, Eve could hear some of that in her voice: the therapeutic tone, the desire to proffer help. In this first "conversation" with Fran (which came after Eve had already called and hung up on Jake several times), she could tell that he and Fran had discussed these calls, because Fran reacted now without surprise. She seemed to have decided that the silence on the other end of the line wasn't coming from anybody dangerous. Just a shy first-time client (or maybe a troubled old one) who had dialed her number but then couldn't screw up the courage to ask for an appointment.

"Hello?" said Fran in a normal voice on that first phone call. Then, after Eve said nothing, Fran said "Hello?" again, but this time encouragingly, with a sort of professional kindness. When Eve still didn't answer, Fran asked in a warm, empathic way, "Is there something I can do for you?"

Yes, thought Eve: You can let me be friends with your husband. (Friends – just friends. I would settle now even just for that.) And Fran sounded so nice that Eve, always drawn to, and eager for, kindness and human warmth (and in this case to the therapist-empathy that dripped like milk-and-honey from Fran's voice), nearly said this out loud. But then she remembered that as sweet as Fran sounded on the phone, she was the one who had told Jake that he and Eve couldn't stay friends. Friends — just regular friends — that's all Eve was asking for by then. But even this regular non-physical friendship with Jake meant the world to her. She would never have allowed herself to become intimately involved with him if he hadn't promised her, repeatedly and unequivocally, that for sure – 100 per cent for sure – they would remain friends afterwards, no matter what happened. Staying friends meant to her that she hadn't been cheap. That it hadn't been cheap. That apart from the sex, there had been a real relationship between them. Which there had.

But Fran would not agree. She would not allow Eve and Jake to be even the most casual, innocuous of friends. They couldn't even meet in a public place for a coffee (in Aroma or Caffit), surrounded by dozens of other people (mostly English-speakers like them, and at least a few of whom knew either Jake or Eve) once or twice a year when she came to Israel. So now Eve didn't let herself fall for the sweetness in Fran's voice. Fran was her sworn, lifelong enemy. Eve wouldn't say a word to her, not a single word. She just hung up the phone that day. After that, in the subsequent calls, Fran started sounding afraid.

> *Laughing, Eve felt powerful. She had played a trick on Jake, but there was no way for him to know it was her, so he couldn't retaliate.*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Then about a year ago, making these phone calls stopped being fun. They even started becoming onerous: a chore, a responsibility, something Eve had to cross off her list of things to do while in Israel. She had no choice but to call Jake at home because he worked primarily at home and was rarely at the institute he'd founded. And she had to call the family phone number because Jake didn't believe in cellphones. And she had to call from a street pay phone - otherwise he or Fran could trace the call to her cellphone or her hotel. And it had to be early in the morning before Fran woke up so that she'd get Jake on the phone, not his wife. And it began feeling like a huge pain, having to wake up early on a holiday, in order to rush to the nearest pay phone a block-and-a-half away before 7a.m.

> *Eve realized then that what she was doing was crazy, truly crazy, and maybe she, too, was crazy, tottering somewhere very close to the edge.*

But even more than all that, it started to get creepy. Creepy hearing Jake's rage and Fran's fear. Instead of feeling powerful and in control, Eve began feeling powerless and out of control. She wasn't doing this anymore out of her own free will; it had turned into an obsession. A compulsion. An obsessive-compulsive disorder. By this time a year ago, the third week in December, she couldn't walk past any pay phone in Israel without wanting – without needing – to stop and call Jake. This offended her self-respect. What was she – a slave to this thing? Plus one day she told an Israeli friend she had known for many years about these phone calls – told her about them, laughing, like it was a joke she was playing on Jake, just something slightly bizarre. But instead of laughing along with her, her friend blanched and looked at her strangely. Eve realized then that what she was doing was crazy, truly crazy, and maybe she, too, was crazy, tottering somewhere very close to the edge. So she forced herself to stop making these calls.

Still, even though a year has passed since she last phoned Jake (and it's five-and-a-half years since she and Jake parted ways), Eve knows that when she lands in Israel one-and-a-quarter hours from now, and passes her first pay phone in the airport, it will take an enormous effort on her part to just keep on walking. To not stop in front of the pay phone, slide in her phone card, and dial Jake's number, to hear his voice one more time. She turns now toward her window. Outside, darkness is gathering at the edges of the sky and sea. I can do this, she thinks. I'll just do what I did the last time I was here. After they land, after she has collected her bags from the carousel and is heading for the exit, as she approaches the first set of pay phones in the airport, she'll tell herself to keep on going, keep on marching. And at the same time, she'll reach deep into the concealed pocket inside her purse and touch the Israeli phone card she always keeps there, the one with the picture of a tiger on it — this "transitional object" of hers, as she knows it's called in psychology. She'll touch it and she'll stroke it over and over again, the way she once stroked Jake, and the way she used to stroke her favourite doll when she was little and afraid. Her tiger card, smooth and sleek between her fingers, will comfort her and give her strength.

• • •

Eve's eyes are shut, and she is lying with her seat pushed back as far as it goes and a blanket over her head. At the beginning of this flight the blanket stank of some industrial cleaning chemical and felt coarse and scratchy against her face. But now she doesn't notice. She's listening to the *Largo al Factotum* from *The Barber of Seville*. She doesn't just hear this music; she feels it in her body. Its notes dance like tiny leprechauns on the skin of her arms and up and down the length of her muscles. She can sing this music, dance it, and play it on several instruments. As far back as she can remember, her father walked around the house singing opera, and this aria was one of his favourites. He sang it in the shower, of course, but not only in the shower. Also while making her breakfast. And dressing. Knotting his red bowtie in front of the mirror. Running the comb back through his increasingly thinning hair while he admired his reflection. And then, feeling satisfied with his appearance – and more than that: proud as a peacock – he'd sing to the mirror, "Figaro Figaro Fiiigaro!" with the same joyful, shamelessly bragging self-worship as Figaro himself. Now, listening to this music, she is once again three years old, hearing her father's voice singing "Fffiiiiiigaro!" Or else, she's three years old and cuddled up with him on his lap, listening to music together as they did every Saturday afternoon, just the two of them, before Daddy got married again, to Julia.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Chag Sameach!

From our family to yours, we wish you joy and many blessings at Passover and all throughout the year.

Say hello to VIVA Thornhill Woods, Vaughan's premier all-inclusive rental retirement community. Just steps from Schwartz/Reisman Community Centre, VIVA Thornhill Woods offers spacious suites, stunning amenities, delectable dining, Jewish cultural traditions and celebrations, and a team devoted to *Making Today Great!* for you and your family. Call us today to schedule your tour at 905-417-8585.

Jewish Cuisine | Independent and Assisted Living

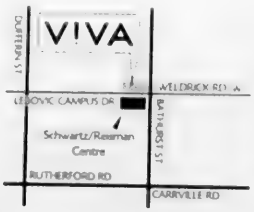
Second Person Free!*
Plus, get an extra 10% off*

Laugh and Sing with Deb Filler
Wednesday, May 4th, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Enjoy a live performance by Deb Filler, critically acclaimed comic, as she gives a heartwarming performance of Jewish humour, songs and stories.

Call Wendy Teperman at 905 417 8585 to RSVP today!

VIVA Retirement Communities
Making Today Great!

9700 Bathurst St., Vaughan
Visit us at vivalife.ca
or call 905.417.8585



*Conditions apply

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

First Eve and Daddy would hear an opera on the radio broadcast *Live From the Met*. Then they listened to records: mainly Schubert, Mozart, and Brahms. Now, listening to *The Barber of Seville*, she is back in that world.

"Crapper omlep?" someone says right in her ear.

"What?" Confused, groggy, she drags the blanket from her face, causing her earpiece to fall out, putting an end to Rossini. A flight attendant, perky in a navy blue uniform and bright crimson lipstick, is leaning toward her with a smile. "Crepe or omelette?"

Crepe or omelette. "Omelette." But she's sorry as soon as she unwraps the tin foil and is hit by the rotten, institutional smell. She tentatively tries the yogurt – it's sour. The roll, even after she has slathered it with butter and strawberry jam, is so stale when she bites into it that it's inedible. She pushes away her tray.

The pudgy man on her right, however, is digging in with gusto. She watches him for a couple of seconds in amazement: *How can he eat that s--t?* The man turns and smiles at her. Eight hours ago they chatted for a few minutes before they both went to sleep. He's part of a church group visiting Israel for the first time, which she found interesting until he began talking about the importance of settling every inch of the Holy Land before The Day of Reckoning comes. Now she gives him a vague half-smile, turns away, and again gazes out the window. It's darkening quickly. The sea, the sky, and all the clouds in between are melding together into one big indigo-charcoal-coloured mass. If my clients knew how f----d-up I am, she thinks, they'd never come to me for music therapy. They think I'm so sane and "healthy." When for the past five years, I've been more f----d-up than all of them rolled together.

It's not just the pay phone business, she knows. It's the thousands of letters, maybe the tens of thousands, that she has written to Jake since they broke up. For the first few months, she wrote them down on paper or on the computer. Then after a while it felt like too much work – there were too many words, too many pages – so she just spoke them aloud to him in her head. She was already in the habit of sharing everything with Jake. They'd emailed each other at least four times a day every day of their five-month relationship because he was in Israel and she in Canada (other than the 17 days she spent in Jerusalem). These letters became the emotional focal point of her life, so that even after they broke up, she kept on composing letters to him. Letters full of rage and raging desire, as well as all the other things she felt and thought that she used to discuss with Jake, but now had no one to discuss with. For instance, music. She would be sitting in a concert composing a letter to him, telling him that she found the flutist too "technical" and cold, yet the violinist accompanying her was too romantic and emotional. What do you think? she would ask Jake in the concert hall.

> *It's not just the pay phone business, she knows. It's the thousands of letters, maybe the tens of thousands, that she has written to Jake since they broke up.*

She also shared with him all sorts of little incidents that occurred in her day-to-day life. The people around her were sometimes strange or hurtful, and imagining Jake's response helped her put into perspective the things they'd said or done. He had an ironic, wry way of seeing things, and he'd look down from above on human folly and stupidity with a sardonic twist of his thin lips. That twist she loved. Those lips she loved. She had never before been with a man with the same sense of humour as her (not even Brian), and it was both a relief and a joy. It was a joy, too, being on the top of Mount Olympus with Jake, standing there side by side with the great man, looking down with him on everyone and everything in the little world below. Jacob Gladstone was a world-renowned music critic, music theorist, and ethno-musicologist who was universally acknowledged as the greatest living authority on Jewish music. He was also credited with the recent renaissance in Jewish sacred music because of the Jewish Institute of Sacred Music (JISM!) that he'd founded 15 years before.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ALICE KERN

A•B•R
Financial Services

Wishing everyone

Chag Pesach Sameach

We are an Independent Travel Insurance Broker Licensed by QC - AMF Ontario - FSCO We sell ONLY Canadian Insurers We find the RIGHT PRODUCT FOR YOU!

***YOU** are our #1 Priority*

Your Travel Insurance Specialist

- Pre-existing Medical Condition Coverage*
- Immediate Medical Underwriting *
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Single Trip coverage
- Multi-trip (annual) coverage
- Visitors to Canada
- Super Visa (for eligible visitors)
- Expatriate Coverage
- Call for your quotation

*subject to stability requirements starting from 7 days onward.

Tel: (514) 332-3776
Toll Free: 1-866-270-4996
Fax: (514) 486-3925
Email: alice.kern@abrfinancialservices.ca
Website: www.abrfinancialservices.ca

5775 Cavendish Blvd, #805
Cote Saint-Luc, Qc H4W 3L9

Montreal • Toronto
www.slf.ca

חג פסח שמח
Happy Passover!

Schwartz Levitsky Feldman LLP
Member of HLB International
A worldwide network of independent accounting firms and business advisors

SLF

Chartered Professional Accountants • Trustees in Bankruptcy
Business Valuators • Litigation Accountants

Eve, listening to him talk about his work, felt that through him she had entered the inner circle of the international Jewish music scene. This was confirmed for her when Jake told her what he thought of the latest CD by Nathan Singelman. (*The* Nathan Singelman: the founder and editor-in-chief of *Niggun*, the pre-eminent journal of Jewish music.)

"It's second-rate," Jake confided to her on what turned out to be the last of their phone calls. (They spoke on the phone only infrequently because of the risk of Fran overhearing; there were just four calls, one hour each, over the whole five months.) Nathan was 20 years younger than Jake, looked up to him as some sort of father figure/mentor, and paid him handsomely to contribute quasi-regularly to *Niggun*, playing the role of its in-house public intellectual. Nathan, with an obsequious note attached, had recently sent Jake a copy of his CD to get his opinion of it, and Jake had written him back something complimentary. But to Eve he told the truth.

"It's utterly mediocre," he told her bluntly on the phone. "The first part isn't bad, but then at the end he wimps out. He obviously didn't know how to finish his composition, so he just tied it up with a big phony bow. One of those pat, conventional endings. Shows a total lack of courage and character. You'd never do something like that, Eve – just wimp out. You've got backbone. You're brave."

Of course she loved hearing that at the time. But not long afterwards he left her, and along with the many other things she didn't understand was why he'd said that to her. Why compliment someone you're about to dump? Her friend Bonnie thought this was Jake's way of telling her (and even more so, himself) that she would be OK. She was brave and strong, so he didn't have to worry about her, or feel guilty for what he'd done. Who knows? Eve thinks now. But no, I'm not brave. I'm not brave at all. I wanted to die when you left me. When I got that email from you, it was like someone had blown a hole the size of a cannonball right through my stomach, and I was slowly bleeding to death, though no one seemed to notice. I went on with my daily routine – I had to take care of my boys, I had to earn a living. But all I really did was wait for you to come back.

She sips some water from the plastic bottle on her tray. Her lips were getting dry; the water helps. "*Mayim Hayim*," says the label, and under it, in letters formed out of different-coloured flowers: "Live Your Life." She pulls the blanket over her head.

There is only one letter to Jake left in Eve now. All those hundreds of thousands of words, all those tens – or hundreds – of thousands of sentences, have boiled down now into just one: the one-line letter she has been writing and re-writing for the past two-and-a-half years. From all its long simmering and bubbling, this letter has, like any well-cooked sauce, become concentrated down to its essentials:

> *From all its long simmering and bubbling, this letter has, like any well cooked sauce, become concentrated down to its essentials*

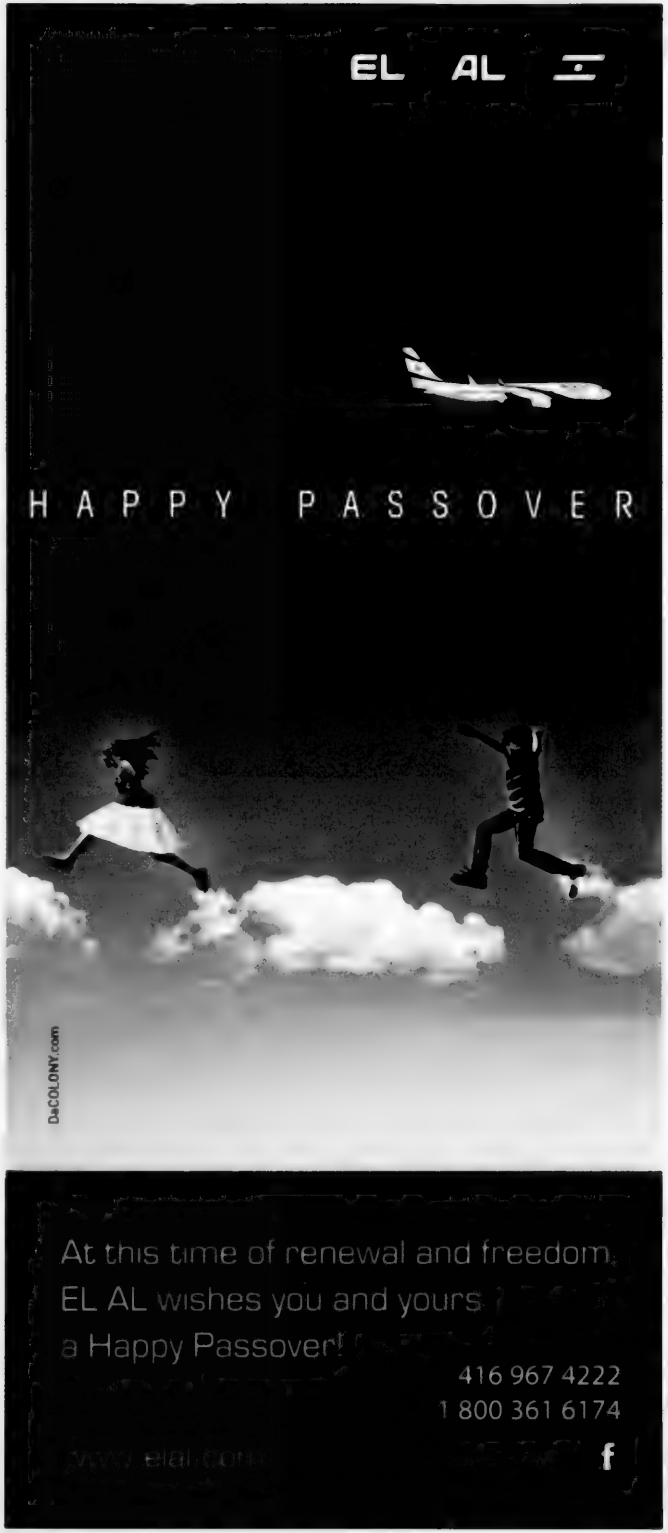
Dear Jake,

Thank you for your invitation to meet next time I'm in Israel, but I am going to decline.

She'll be cool but not cold, she decides for the 100 time. She also won't be snarky or hostile, much as that's how she feels. Because at this point Jake is the most powerful man in the world in her field. With a single review, he can make or break someone's reputation – he does it every day – so she can't afford to make an enemy out of him. She is just starting out as a composer – she began composing late in life – and she hopes that maybe he'll even help her at some point (back then he intimated once that he would). So she has written this letter very carefully. Two or three hundred times. Two or three hundred drafts didn't seem to her excessive last week when she thought about it, given what's at stake. It's not that many drafts, she told herself; it's not even one a day for a year. But now as she pulls off the smelly blanket with a sigh and looks out the window, it seems quite mad. And anyway how stupid could she have been to imagine that Jake would ever write to her again? How could she ever have believed something so ridiculous?

But she had. She had because Jake had promised he'd contact her again. And also because she had taken him for what he presented himself as: an honest man, a man of integrity. (He used these words – *honesty, integrity* – more often than anyone else she had ever met.) So it took her a while to realize that he was a liar. She had laughed with him like a co-conspirator, an insider, when he lied to Nathan Singelman or to Fran. Yet for some reason (naïveté? wishful thinking?) it never occurred to her that sooner or later it would be her turn. In his final email to her, the follow-up to his break-up email, he wrote,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

We'll meet again, Eve, I'm sure of it. In three-to-five years, when things have cooled down. Even Fran agreed that in three-to-five years we could be friends. You and I have lots to talk about, and when the time is right, we'll do it.

He said three-to-five years. He said so. She had it in writing. So for the next three years, she counted every day she didn't hear from him, and every week, every month, and every year. Counting down to the three-year mark, the earliest possible point of re-connection, according to his promise. When he didn't contact her then, she was astonished and deeply wounded. At the four-year mark, as well, Jake didn't contact her. But both these times she assured herself that he would be in touch with her before the five years were up. She was sure of this, because he'd said "in three-to-five years." Five years was the outer limit. So even though by the last year leading up to the five-year mark, she was functioning fairly well externally – building her music therapy practice, seeing friends, keeping in touch with her two boys, both now away at college, and even doing some composing – in fact all she was doing was waiting to hear from Jake.

But not anymore. The five-year mark came and went six months ago, and now she is starting to really grasp that Jake isn't ever going to contact her again. It's hard to take in emotionally, but intellectually at least, she knows it's true. For Jake, the whole thing's probably in the past, and has been ever since they broke up. Most likely he hasn't thought of her even once in the past five-and-a-half years. Plus even if he did, she is a sore point with his wife, so why would he jeopardize the peace he has re-established with Fran for someone he no longer even cares about?

Of course he'll never write to her again. Why would he?

But still. That letter – the one she keeps re-working in response to the one he'll never send – lives on in her with a life of its own.

Thank you for your invitation to meet next time I'm in Israel, but I am going to decline. At this late date, I don't think we have anything to say to each other... (No, don't write that.)

This letter pops into her head unbidden, whenever it wants, as do a few other specific phrases:

Do you love me?
Hold me. Hold me tighter.
I've never loved anyone more in my life.
You don't love me anymore, do you?

> *All those letters she wrote to Jake, and all those letters she read of his, were not (as her father used to say) a total loss.*

No. You don't care if I'm alive or dead.
I don't love you either.
I haven't loved you for a long time now.
Please don't love me anymore.

These phrases, like the letter, don't have meaning the way such phrases or sentences usually do. They don't mean what they appear to mean. They're old, dead words – words that have lost their meaning – but somehow keep popping up, and ejaculating themselves, inside of her. They're like a computer glitch, some weird default computer program that keeps appearing on your screen. They're a stupid, meaningless recurring tic.

Not surprising, though. None of this is uncommon in people who have been traumatized, thinks Eve, as the lights in the cabin turn a shade brighter. I have a broken mind. I've never had a broken mind before. A broken heart, yes. Other men have broken my heart. But only Jake has broken my mind.

She begins to laugh. Crazy. *Crazy.* Waiting all this time. Wasting all this time. Crazy. And sad.

As she laughs, she hears a baby cry on the other side of the cabin. It cries in just two tones – from a high A to a high B-flat – over and over again. How do babies know how to cry in musical intervals? she wonders. She straightens out her messed-up blankets and retrieves her earpiece from the tangle. Well, one thing that's not sad is music. All those letters she wrote to Jake, and all those letters she read of his, were not (as her father used to say) a total loss. She got a beautiful song cycle out of them.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ZIM GLOBAL REACH LOCAL TOUCH Integrated Shipping Services חג פסח כשר ושמח

ZIM INTEGRATED SHIPPING SERVICES (CANADA) CO. LTD.
www.zim.com

MONTREAL Tel. (514) 875-2335 Fax (514) 875-2746
TORONTO Tel. (416) 703-7301 Fax (416) 703-7310
HALIFAX Tel. (902) 422-7447 Fax (902) 429-1515
VANCOUVER Tel. (604) 693-2335 Fax (604) 693-0094

cansew inc. depuis/since 1924
90 years of excellence ans d'excellence
Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Passover
CANSEW INC. & THE SCHACHTER FAMILY
www.cansew.ca 1-800-361-7722 info@cansew.ca
MONTREAL – TORONTO – WINNIPEG – CALGARY – VANCOUVER

Modern+Sleek @ Sherbrooke & Peel
Enjoy modern, sleek designer suites featuring king size beds and black leather sofas with walnut and chrome accents in the centre of Montreal at Sherbrooke and Peel

Hotel le Cantlie Suites
Reserve now online at www.hotelcantlie.com
Call 1-800-567-1110 or 1-888-CANTLIE

About a year ago, on a long, boring, rainy day, she started setting some of their letters to music, and in a way used these to tell the story of their whole relationship, and she likes how it came out. She patterned this composition on the love songs Schumann wrote for Clara and presented to her on the night before their long-awaited wedding. Originally Eve called her song cycle *The Life Cycle of Love*, but by the time it was finished, she was juggling titles like *The Death Cycle of Love*, *The Bi-Cycle of Love*, and *Cycles of Love and Hate*. She still hasn't settled on a title and she also doesn't yet have an ending. But now she begins to hum one of the letter-songs from this cycle under her breath, softly, so Born Again won't hear. This one is a medley of some of the things that Jake said or wrote to her five -and-a-half years ago.

"For a single hour with you, I would burn every music score in the world."

"I've never loved anyone in my life more than I love you now."

"You're the best friend I've ever had. I've never before had a friend like you."

"Look at me, I'm crying I'm so happy. I haven't cried since I was seven years old."

"I'm a new man. I'm not the same person who walked into this hotel room four days ago. You've given me a new life."

"I can't imagine living my life ever again without you in it. We'll always be together, Eve, one way or another. At the very least as friends. That much I can promise you for sure."

The letter-song that she is humming now is set to flute, harp, and strings, one of her favourite combinations because of Mozart's concerto for these instruments. Her letter-song has various complex strands, and multiple voices interweaving with each other, but at the same time it has a simple, beautifully haunting, singable theme. As she quietly hums it, she can feel herself lying in Jake's arms. She is safe and secure, knowing how much he loves her.

The flight attendant with the bright crimson lipstick reaches over Eve's pudgy neighbour to collect her tray. "It's almost untouched," Eve tells her. *Almost untouched* is another way of saying *almost virginal*, but you can't be "almost" a virgin; either you're a virgin or you're not. The flight attendant removes Born Again's tray. Born Again is bug-eyed now, watching the beginning of an episode of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Eve's amazed. What kind of an idiot starts watching a 30-minute TV show 25 minutes before landing? Doesn't he realize they're going to turn it off in the middle? Pull the plug on Larry David? He'll be right in the middle of a sentence, and the screen will go dark.

> *She begins to hum one of the letter-songs from this cycle under her breath, softly, so Born Again won't hear.*

On her neighbour's screen Larry David looks sort of like Jake. He has much less hair, and straighter hair, than Jake. But still there is something similar about the two of them. They're both white-haired, lanky, 65- or 75-year-old Jewish males. They're both impatient men who don't suffer fools gladly. And they're both brilliant, charismatic, socially awkward, neurotic, tender-hearted, cruel, narcissistic, endearing, and f----d-up. Of course, to be fair, there are differences between them, too. Jake is an intellectual, a thinker, and "LD" just a comedian. Jake is a serious person; LD is funny. Very, very funny. Or as LD would say, "Pretty, pretty..."

Suddenly there's no more Larry David; the screen's gone black. The pilot's voice booms over the loudspeaker: "This is your captain speaking. We are now beginning our descent into Israel."

Eve, even though she anticipated Larry David's disappearance, is annoyed by it. Descent? she thinks contemptuously. One doesn't descend to Israel; one ascends. Arrival in Israel is a spiritual ascension. Don't Canadian pilots know anything?

"Please place all your hand luggage below the seat in front of you, switch off all electronic devices, and fasten your seat belts."

She obeys. But as she is shoving her carry-on under the seat in front of her, some of those phrases return.

I don't love you anymore. I don't. I haven't loved you for years.

Then: *Do you love me?*

There's a pause.

No. Of course you don't. You don't care if I'm alive or dead.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Happy Passover

REITMANS

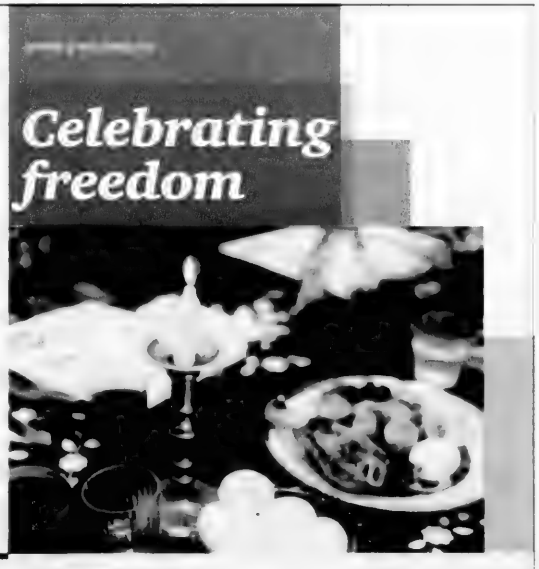
CANADA LTÉE / LTD

Reitmans

ADDITION ELLE

thyme RW&CO.

Penningtons hyba



pwc

PwC wishes our friends, clients and families a happy and healthy Passover. ***Chag Kasher V'Sameach.***

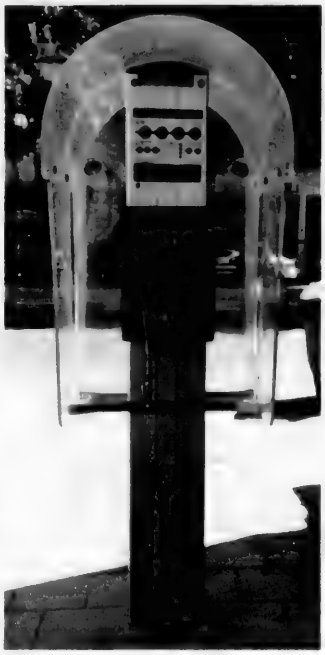
© 2016 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership. All rights reserved.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

She straightens up in her seat and looks out the window: blackness dotted with yellow lights.

Not *You don't care*, she corrects herself: *He. He* doesn't care. Third person. Stop talking to him like he's still your eternal I-Thou after all this time. It's been five-and-a-half years.

The plane plummets and she feels her stomach plummet, too. She clutches both armrests, her eyes shut tight. The plane drops again; it feels like it's diving, and she thinks she is going to vomit. Then the plane steadies itself. She opens her eyes. Gradually her stomach settles down. This thing with Jake, apart from everything else, is embarrassing. First of all because of its banality. The powerful older man at the peak of his career, and the young woman just starting out as a musician (or anyway the younger woman – 50 to his 65). It's such a cliché. Secondly, it's embarrassing because she can't get over it. She's not a fool. She knew from the beginning that a relationship between a married man and an unattached woman couldn't last. But even so, here she is, stuck in this state, and unable to move forward. It doesn't make any sense that she should be so f-----up over what was, after all, just a five-month



> *She knew from the beginning that a relationship between a married man and an unattached woman couldn't last.*

affair. She wasn't like this even after Brian died, and he was her husband and she'd loved him for over 15 years. She did suffer terribly at first after Brian's death, but then she quickly recovered. She had no choice, in a way, 10 years ago: Michael was 10 and Ethan was eight; she couldn't just fall apart. Yet here it is five-and-a-half years since she and Jake parted ways, and she's still obsessed with him day and night. There's something here she doesn't understand. Some mystery she can't solve.

Now the plane lands in a series of three rough bumps. Loud clapping erupts. Right. Israelis always clap whenever a plane lands. Celebrating survival – implicitly reminding you of all the possible disasters you have just narrowly escaped. The plane is still coasting along the runway, but already people are standing up, taking down coats and parcels from overhead compartments, phoning relatives and friends to say they've arrived, and squinting at hand-held devices to check their email. Good idea, thinks Eve. I should see what I've missed while up in the air. Probably 10 or 15 emails. Still sitting in her seat (practically the only person on the plane not yet standing up), she turns on her BlackBerry. Maybe, she thinks, I'll have an email from Jake. ■

Excerpted from The Dead Man *by Nora Gold. Copyright © Nora Gold 2016. The Dead Man will be published by Inanna Publications on May 5, 2016. It is already available online at Amazon.com.*

Nora Gold is the author of Fields of Exile, *which won the 2015 Canadian Jewish Literary Award, and* Marrow and Other Stories, *winner of a Canadian Jewish Book Award. Gold is the founder and editor of Jewish Fiction.net, and the writer-in-residence at the Centre for Women's Studies in Education. For more information, visit noragold.com.*

WISHING ALL OF OUR VALUED NAOT CUSTOMERS A HAPPY PASSOVER!

NAOT

Naot Footwear is handmade in Israel and has superior quality and comfort.

Come in and see our new Spring 2016 collections!

Note: Store locations closed Saturday April 23rd

NAOT GTA STORE LOCATIONS

968 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto (416) 782-4596

16635 Yonge St, Unit 8 Newmarket (905) 235-5505

DR. RICK KOCHMAN and DR. HAYLEY STARKMAN

would like to wish all their Patients & Friends a Happy & Healthy Passover

3555 Don Mills Rd., Ste. 206, Willowdale 416-491-5625

WISHING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY A VERY HAPPY & HEALTHY PASSOVER

TORONTO DRIVEAWAY SERVICE (NATIONWIDE) INC.

WWW.TORONTODRIVEAWAY.COM

5603 Yonge Street, Suite 101, Willowdale

416-225-7754

Operating since 1969

A Very Happy Passover

Faigie & Rubin Zimmerman and Family

Browns

wishes all our clientele and friends a very Happy and Healthy

PASSOVER

Montreal - Quebec City - Ottawa - Toronto - Halifax
Winnipeg - Calgary - Edmonton - Vancouver

A single red rose

JOSEPH PERETZ

Out of the ashes of the Holocaust two orphans found each other back and united, eked out a living with all the ups and downs. One thing remained constant in their life – not a year would go by and regardless of the circumstances, every birthday or anniversary would not pass without a dozen red roses my wife's favourite flowers, would grace the breakfast table.

We enjoyed life to the fullest until one day my sweetheart was stricken with Alzheimer's, that terrible disease, which like a thief steals your brain and condemns you to a zombie-like existence. She would sometimes smile at me with that far away look in her beautiful eyes and I wondered if she remembered me or if she even knew who I was.

I spent every day with her since I was fortunate to obtain the room next to hers at Baycrest. She had a wonderful caregiver and often we would walk together, at first with a walker and then in a big wheelchair. Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren would visit Bubby regularly and she just would smile at them.

Her condition worsened rapidly and her doctor, with a sad expression, told me to expect the worst. The whole night I sat at her bedside, holding her hand while she struggled and gasped until her last breath and after 72 years of a long and happy marriage, I lost my life partner.

I don't know what made me look at the clock. It was 4:35 a.m. – these numbers will forever remain engraved on my broken heart.

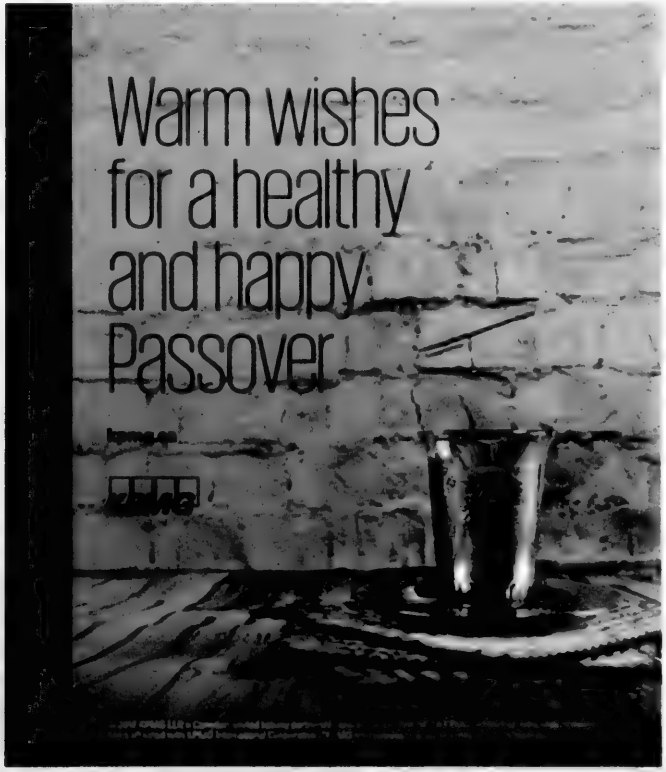
I was lucky that my daughter and son-in-law looked after the arrangements for the funeral. I was in a daze, the only thing I remembered is that it was very cold.

I was in shock, my organs stopped functioning. I went from x-ray to ultrasound and everything in between. My wife's caregiver became my caregiver and thanks to the good and obstinate care of the doctor, I slowly overcame my problems.

Now it was spring. My daughter who had looked after everything told me to be ready for the unveiling of the monument. I asked her to get me a red rose before going to the cemetery.

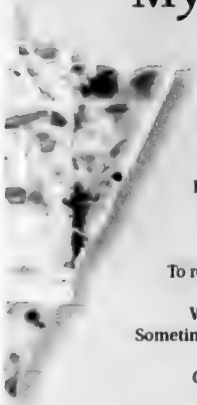
It was a dull, rainy day when we arrived at Pardes Shalom. As soon as the rabbi unveiled the monument, the sky opened up with a downpour as if someone up there joined in my grief. When I deposited the single rose on top of the monument amid the customary pebbles deposited by family members I was hoping that the rain, mixed with my tears would keep the red rose alive for a while. ■

Chag Sameach!
And a Healthy Passover to all our Donors, Supporters and Friends
Magen David Adom is no ordinary emergency service...
As Israel's official national rescue and blood services organization, it provides emergency medical services and blood services to the people of Israel, as well as humanitarian aid to other countries in times of crisis. This requires a vast amount of resources, vehicles, equipment and supplies. Emergency vehicles must be maintained, medical equipment and supplies need to be replenished.
All of MDA's equipment, medical and blood products are supplied solely by the Diaspora. That is why your donation is so important.
www.cmdai.org
ISRAEL CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT MDA - MDA CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT YOU



My holiday poem

ZOE CHANDLER



Passover is a special time of the year.
It tells us that spring is near.

HaShem saved us, he opened the seas.
He gave us freedom, you and me.

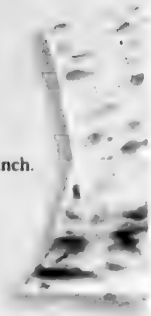
Off to Mount Sinai, we did go.
To receive HaShem's laws, made out of stone.

We bite our matzah and hear it crunch.
Sometimes we get to have matzah ball soup for lunch.

Candles, lettuce, grape juice and wine,
God helped us, he heard us whine.

Eggs, matzah, charoset are delish.
Won't you please, put some on my dish.

We learn the story and the four questions at school.
Being with our friends and family during Pesach is super cool!



Almost April

GAIL BERMAN

One day when Rose went into her kitchen
and made ready to cook up her chicken,
She happened to look upon the wall,
where the calendar her attention did call.

It was close to the end of March,
and time was passing as quick as a dart.
Rose had realized that it was almost April,
and Pesach soon the days would fill.

Rose had to think about family and friends,
and how she would accommodate to that end.
There were relatives to invite from both sides,
to the two seders, like every year to abide.

There was cooking and baking fine kosher treats,
And Rose could achieve all without missing a beat.

The time would arrive in April, to be sure,
With Pesach and Rose's home so pure.

To all our friends, family and the entire Jewish community, we extend our warmest wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Passover!

441 Clark Ave. West (at Hilda)
Store Hours
Sun 8am-10pm, Mon-Wed 7am-10pm,
Thurs 7am-11pm, Fri 7am-10pm,
Sat 8am-10pm

Sobeys
Kosher Market
Clark & Hilda

PG&C Parker Garber & Chesney, LLP
Chartered Accountants

Extending Our Warmest Wishes
For A Happy And Healthy Passover.
חג כשר ושמח

Allan Garber, CPA, CA, LPA, CPA (Illinois), TEP
Stephen Chesney, FCPA, FCA
Jack Hauer, CPA, CA

1 West Pearce Street, Suite 700, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K3
Tel: (905) 764-0404 • Fax: (905) 764-0320
www.PGCLLP.com

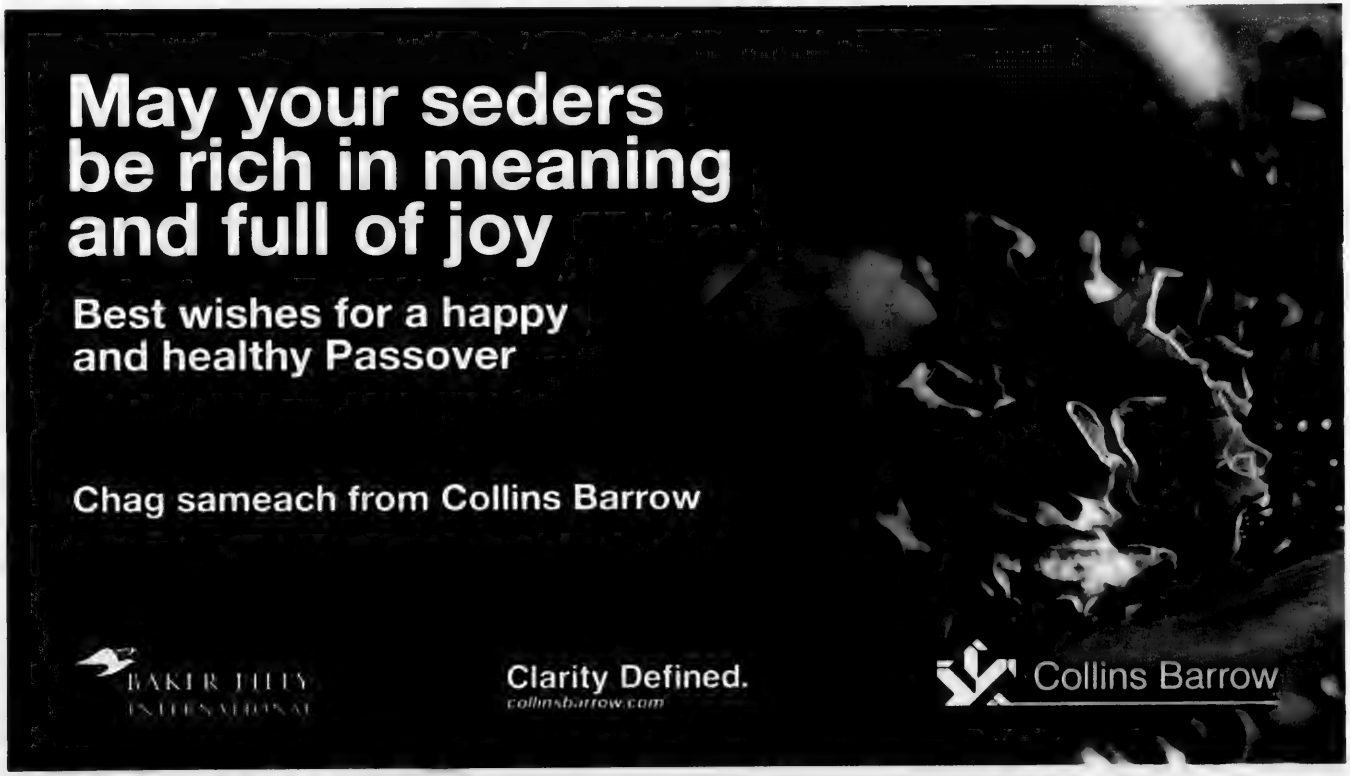
A flurry of motherhood remembered

SOPHIE SOIL

I can well remember mama sitting at her sewing machine, feet pedaling furiously, by her side bits of chalk, a humungous scissors and a dish of pins; large hands ever busy threading needles, cutting patterns, making seams, darts, gathers, tucks and hems; a flurry always in a hurry to finish a project, cook, wash, clean, in between dishing out a bit of love; either lecturing an errant apprentice, or having endless fittings, or making her own patterns from old newspaper, muttering something in a language I couldn't understand; and all of this, to be finished and put away before Shabbos, when her always busy hands would stop for the duration, only being used to light Friday night candles and praying in the synagogue next day.

During the week, her voice gargantuan and looming, hands sometimes slapping, mapping deeply-etched genetic lessons forming shoots, roots, shaping what was to happen; hands and tongue meant to shake, curb, mend a scarred world pain-proof; a world where being Jewish was a thing to be despised, tortured and obliterated, a world so cruel, it forgot the meaning of humaneness and remembered only hate.

Young as I was, what I decided was: people are cruel basically; enveloped in a blind miasma of hate and armed with a dagger of greed forged by an envy they cannot even put a name to, the object of that hate and envy starts looking like something to abhor and punish, and they cannot remember for what; and the object of that hate and envy finds itself in a disintegrating world making you pay for something you don't even remember doing. But when their callous inclinations in the shape of crooked crosses are worn on their sleeves and in their quasi-hearts, it becomes inhumanity at its worst, with love and peace and brotherhood reduced to ashes left to linger in its own demise....


May your seders be rich in meaning and full of joy
Best wishes for a happy and healthy Passover
Chag sameach from Collins Barrow
BAKER TILLY INTERNATIONAL
Clarity Defined.
collinsbarrow.com
Collins Barrow

Zaydie's lucky feather

JULIE BERGMAN

"Zaydie!" David shrieked as he raced down the stairs. He pushed off the bottom step and leapt into his grandfather's outstretched arms.

"Davey!" Zaydie cried as he squeezed his arms around David's waist.

David reached up and snatched the hat off of his grandfather's head. "Zaydie?" David asked. "How come every time you come to visit you wear a hat with a feather in it?"

"Oh, my boy," Zaydie explained. "This is not just any feather. This is my lucky feather."

David's eyes widened. "Lucky?" he asked.

"Yes," Zaydie said. "Every time I wear this feather, something extra special happens to me."

David set the hat on top of his own thick pile of curls. "Wow, Zaydie! Can I borrow your lucky feather? So something extra special can happen to me too?"

"Well," answered Zaydie, "I suppose it would be okay, as long as you promise to take good care of it."

David beamed. "I promise."

The next day, David carefully tucked Zaydie's feather into his pocket. He stroked the smooth quills and imagined all of the wonderful things that might happen to him that day.

At school, his English teacher, Mrs. Mayer announced. "Class, I need a volunteer to be my special helper today."

David quickly threw up a hand. His other hand slipped into his pocket and grasped onto the feather. "Please be me," David mumbled.

"Lucy, you are the lucky one," Mrs. Mayer declared.

David's arm dropped limply and landed on his desk with a thud. He slowly loosened his grip on the feather.

Gym class was next. Mr. Rosenberg was about to pick the captains for the day's soccer match. Once again, David dug his hand deep into his pocket.

"Justin and Abbey," Mr. Rosenberg announced. "Pick your teams."

David scowled. Why wasn't Zaydie's feather working?

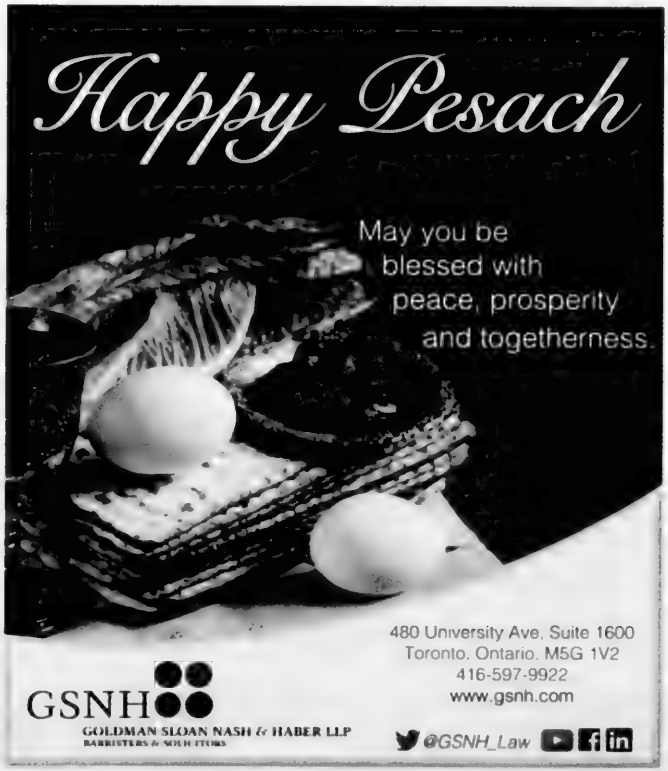
That night, David lay in bed, rolling the feather between his palms. The softness of the quills tickled him as they brushed back and forth against his skin. What was he doing wrong? Was he supposed to make a wish on the feather or hold it in a certain way?

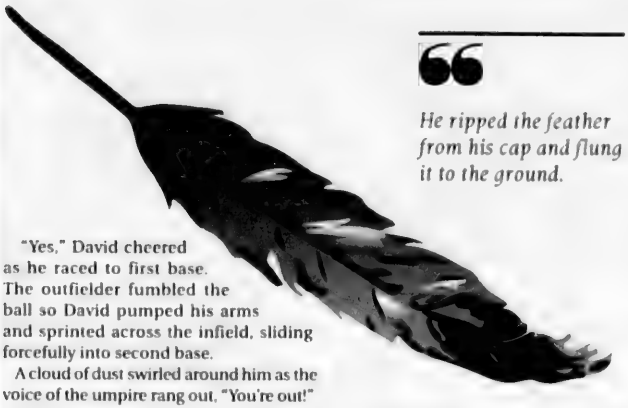
"I know!" David cried. "I have to wear the feather in a hat, just like Zaydie does."

David bounded off to school the next morning with Zaydie's lucky feather perched high in his favourite cap. "Today is going to be a great day," he announced. But as the day wore on, David's excitement faded.

That evening David played baseball. It was his favourite sport and with Zaydie's feather in his hat, he was sure to shine. His team was down by a run heading into the last inning. David was up to bat. He dug his heels into the dirt and reached up to pat the feather that peaked out beneath his batting helmet. David pounced on the first pitch and sent the ball rocketing through the air.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





"Yes," David cheered as he raced to first base. The outfielder fumbled the ball so David pumped his arms and sprinted across the infield, sliding forcefully into second base.

A cloud of dust swirled around him as the voice of the umpire rang out, "You're out!"

David stomped off the field. He ripped the feather from his cap and flung it to the ground. He kicked at the earth and covered the feather with dirt. Suddenly, David stopped and looked down at the mess he had made. He scooped up the feather and frantically dusted it off.

The next day, Zaydie came to visit. "What is it, my Davey?" Zaydie questioned when he saw David's grim face.

"Zaydie," said David. "I ruined your lucky feather. I promised you that I would take good care of it, but the feather didn't work and I got angry."

> *He ripped the feather from his cap and flung it to the ground.*

Zaydie raised an eyebrow. "Didn't work?"

"Yes," said David. "I waited and waited, but nothing special happened to me."

"Oy, Davey!" laughed Zaydie. "My feather is not magic. It brings me good luck because every time I wear it, I come to visit you. What could be more special than that?"

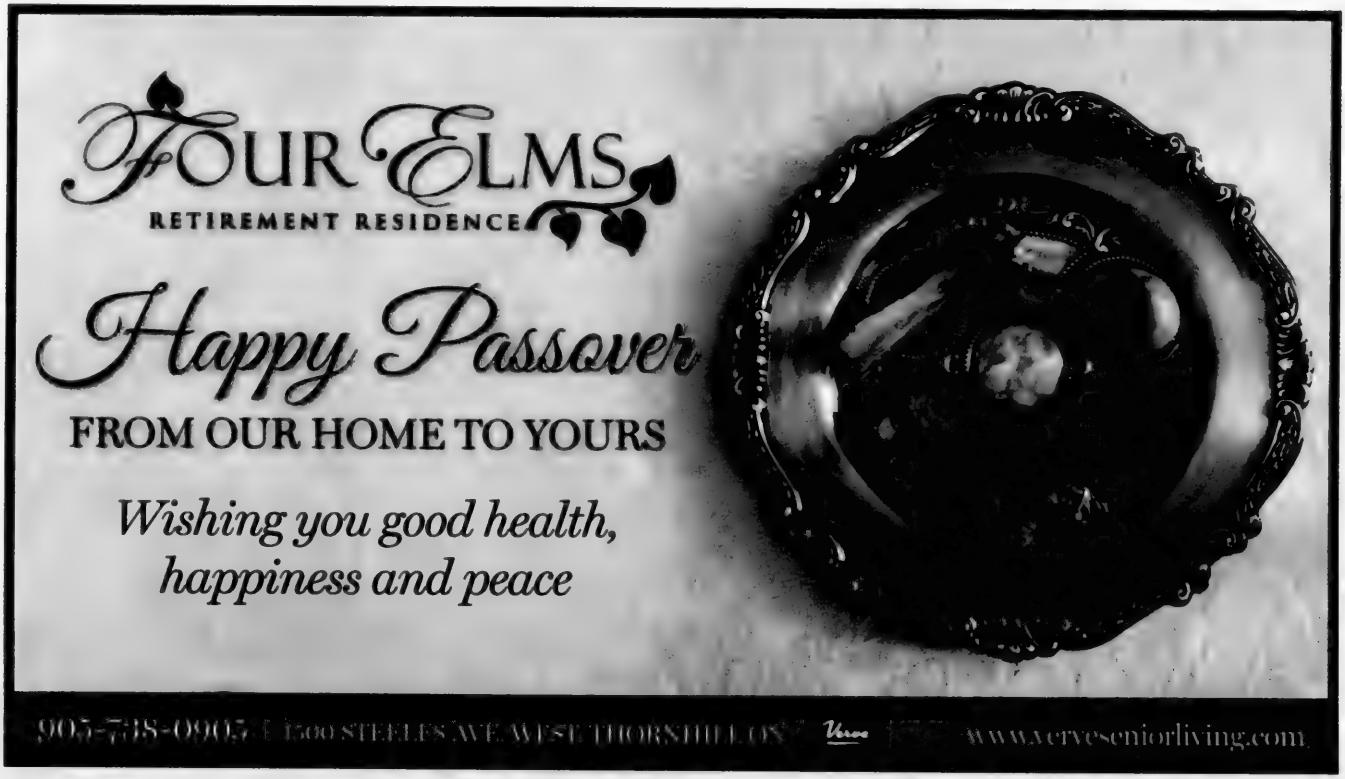
David thought for a moment and then laughed too. "I guess something lucky happened to me after all, Zaydie," David said. He jumped up on his grandfather's lap and hugged him tightly. "Today, I got to be with you!" ■

Bubbie's brisket

RYAN ALLEN

Brisket is not a food for me, it is more an experience. First, it's a feast for the senses. Try to imagine a soft, moist, chewy brisket that has been bathed in its own juice, wine, onions, and fresh garlic. We inhale the cooking aroma from the brisket, cooked the night before and then left in its juices, so that the scent of sweet sauteed onions and wine-drenched meat invites us, and our mouths water the entire day leading up to the meal. Then we taste the meat itself, a bit salty with a hint of bitterness and the savoury taste of aged wine.

Bubbie's brisket brings people in our family together like nothing else. Prepared from her own recipe, Bubbie would make it for our entire extended family at every Friday night dinner. Bubbie valued family and being together more than anything, and that's why, even though she is gone, we continue to eat and talk and joke about her delicious brisket to honour her and what she loved. For me, brisket is not just a delicious savoury food for us, but a reminder from my late grandmother about the importance of family. It continues to bring us together every Friday night. ■



Sammy the thief

RONALD LEVY

I'm not sure when I first became aware of talk of the black sheep of our family. I knew I was young, so young, that I didn't know what "black sheep" meant. But, through the sharp intake of air and downward turning of my father's mouth when Uncle Sammy's name was mentioned, I understood that Uncle Sammy was persona non grata, in our home.

Maybe I should tell you a little about my family.

My grandparents were from Russia, as were their parents and their parents' parents.

When my grandparents fled from Europe, the latest pogrom being the straw that broke the Jewish dromedary's back, they came with few possessions, some religious articles and one prized possession, the family heirloom.

In the harried time of departure from the old land and arrival in the new, somehow this heirloom was lost. Where, how? No one really knew. However, there was a suspicion that one of my father's three brothers had taken it, claimed it as his own, his birthright. Uncle Sammy, I was told, had vehemently denied this to his parents and his siblings.

No matter, he was tried and convicted in the court of family opinion, and without one iota of proof, he was cast out, soon after the family settled into their new home in Canada.

Over the years, Sammy, by then labelled "Sammy the thief", had moved away and lost touch with his parents and his brothers. The next generation had never met or even seen him. In my family, "Sammy the thief", was the stuff of legend, not a living breathing person.

When my beloved grandparents passed, there was no sign of Sammy at their funerals or shivahs.

Over the years I remember talking to my father about his family. He was very giving of his recollections, as faint as they were, of his early years in the old country, of cheder, of carp in the bathtub before the yom tovim and the life of Jews in that precarious time and place. He spoke fondly of his grandparents, his parents and his two, yes, two brothers.

"But Papa," I asked, "didn't you have three brothers?"

That innocent question provoked the characteristic sharp intake of air and downturned mouth and a shake of the head. "No," he replied, "your Uncle Sammy is dead to us."

Not willing to accept this simple pronouncement I pursued my question. "Why?" I asked. "What did he do to deserve this treatment?" "He stole from the family," he replied. "What did he steal Papa?" I asked. After some hesitation and obvious internal conflict he blurted out, "The family silver seder plate." And that was the end of the discussion.

Years witnessed my brothers and sister flourish, take mates and have children. The years stood by as my Papa grew old and my beloved Mama passed away.

The years stood testament to family celebrations and festive holiday meals. Some of us stayed the traditional course set by our grandparents, some strayed from that road but all staying true to our roots, culture and people.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Wishing a happy Passover to all of our clients and friends.

Miller Thomson
lawyers avocats

Miller Thomson LLP
millerthomson.com

we wish you and your family all the best for the holiday

brian murphy design & associates inc.
interior design
furniture design
renovations
additions
project management

ph-416-293-4917
web-brianmurphydesign.com

CITY COMMERCIAL
REALTY GROUP LTD., BROKERAGE

Happy Passover to All Our Clients and Friends

Representing Landlords, Tenants and Investors For over 30 Years

Become a member of the City Commercial Team!
www.citycrg.com • info@citycrg.com

1240 Bay Street, Suite 207 TORONTO, ONTARIO M5R 2A7 Office: 416-968-3434 Fax: 416-968-3980

I became a teacher, sprinkling the course material on Jewish philosophers with stories inspired by the hours spent with my father and his tales of the old world.

I was a specialist on Rabbi Soleveichik, a teacher himself and a leading Jewish thinker. From time to time I was called upon to lecture, to share my perspective on this towering intellect of our people.

One such speaking engagement took me to Berkeley, Calif. The Hillel House was sponsoring a symposium on Rabbi S., as I liked to refer to him, and I, along with another professor, who coincidentally had the same last name as mine, were invited to talk.

With literally thousands of North American Jews sharing that name, it was not that surprising to see two professors who shared both an interest in Jewish thinkers of the 20th century and a last name.

After our talks, scheduled for late afternoon on a Friday, which, I would add were well received, the two of us sat down for coffee and some Jewish geography.

"Where is your family from?" he asked.

"Well, my father came here as a young child with his parents from Vitebsk. You probably have not even heard of it. It was a very small town, even by Jewish shtetl standards."

It was not that surprising to see two professors who shared both an interest in Jewish thinkers of the 20th century and a last name.

"What a coincidence," he said. "My grandparents also came from around there."

"My father had three brothers," I offered "but we only stayed in contact with two of them. There is a family legend about the third brother stealing a family heirloom, a silver seder plate."

"My father," he said, "also had family, but he lost contact with them soon after coming to America. I know nothing about them."

We moved on to other topics and by the end of the afternoon we had become friends.

He kindly invited me to stay with him, to meet his wife and children and I gratefully accepted.

That night, Friday evening, we arrived at his home to a beautifully set Shabbat table. His wife and children greeted me warmly and I was introduced to all. Miriam, his wife, Jordan, Sarah and his youngest, named after his grandfather who had passed 10 years ago, but whose name got lost in the pre-blessing tumult.

After a beautiful supper, strangely reminiscent of Shabbat meals at my father's table, I was led to the basement where I was to sleep.

"Sammy," my host called out to his son, "please bring our guest some pillows."

"If you need anything," he called down, "please do not hesitate to ask...after all," he added, "family is family."

I did not quite understand this comment, until settling in, a little later, and taking in the place that was to be my room for the night, I spotted, hanging on the wall, a beautiful, gleaming, silver seder plate.

"Oh," he called down, "by the way. Don't even think about it!"

** Inspired by a true story*

RENTAL RETIREMENT LIVING IN THE YONGE & EGLINTON NEIGHBOURHOOD

OUR BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & HEALTHY PASSOVER

חג שמח

UN-RETIREMENT
the new attitude

Call today for more information or a personal tour.

The Dunfield
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

DUNFIELD AVENUE TORONTO • 416 481 8524 • WWW.THEDUNFIELD.COM

ROYAL LIGHTING

Sid and Michael
Gladstone
and Families

Wish our Customers & Friends a Happy and healthy Passover

1549 Avenue Road
416 782 1129 (north of Lawrence) • www.royallighting.com
Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 9:30 am - 6 pm; Thurs: 9:30 am - 9 pm; Sun: 12 pm - 5 pm

In memory of Adam Fuerstenberg

PEARL ADLER SABAN

"Are you writing?"
he'd ask me
whenever our paths
would cross.
"I want you to write something,"
he encouraged me
time and time again.

"Um..."
I'd falter and make excuses.

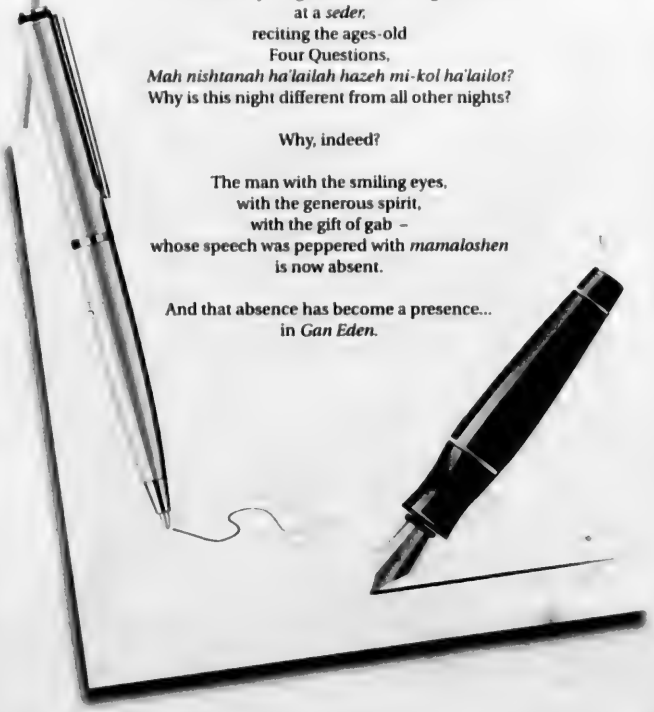
He felt me capable
of reaching a wide audience,
recognized my ability
to weave Jewish concepts and
Hebrew expressions
into my imagery,
into my stanzas.

He gave me opportunities
to see my words in print,
then had me stand before my peers
to share them –
like a learned one spouting fine words of Torah.
Like a teenaged girl delivering a bat mitzvah speech.
Like the youngest child standing tall
at a *seder*,
reciting the ages-old
Four Questions,
Mah nishtanah ha'lailah hazeh mi-kol ha'lailot?
Why is this night different from all other nights?

Why, indeed?

The man with the smiling eyes,
with the generous spirit,
with the gift of gab –
whose speech was peppered with *mamaloshen*
is now absent.

And that absence has become a presence...
in *Gan Eden*.



ROSEN GOLDBERG

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY PASSOVER

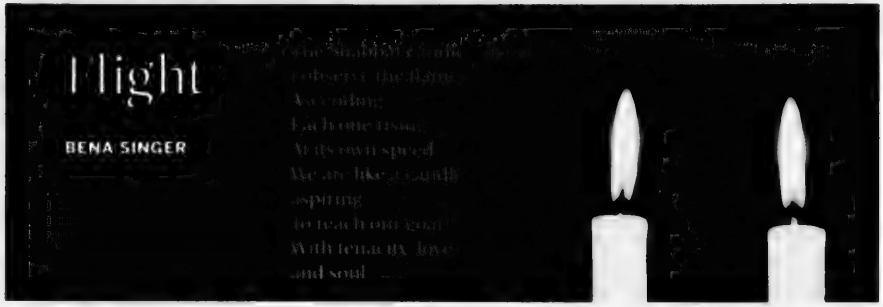
Brahm Rosen
Steven Goldberg
Joel Ross

ROSEN GOLDBERG INC.
Licensed Insolvency Trustee
416. 224. 4200 • www.rosengoldberg.com
5255 Yonge Street Suite 804
Toronto, Ontario M2N 6P4

KROFCHICK VALUATIONS
Investigative Accounting, Business Valuations,
Forensic Economics, & Actuarial Services

Wishing Everyone A Happy Pesach

info@kval.ca 1-877-250-5682 www.kval.ca
Toronto Ottawa London



Little grandmother

KENNETH SHERMAN

My little grandmother
in a smeared apron
wire-rimmed spectacles

you died when I was
a child
my image of you blurry
as if seen through
frosted glass

you kept chickens in your yard
that you butchered
and wrapped
sent my mother
a young girl
to carry stinking packages
down Baldwin Street
collecting cold quarters
from customers

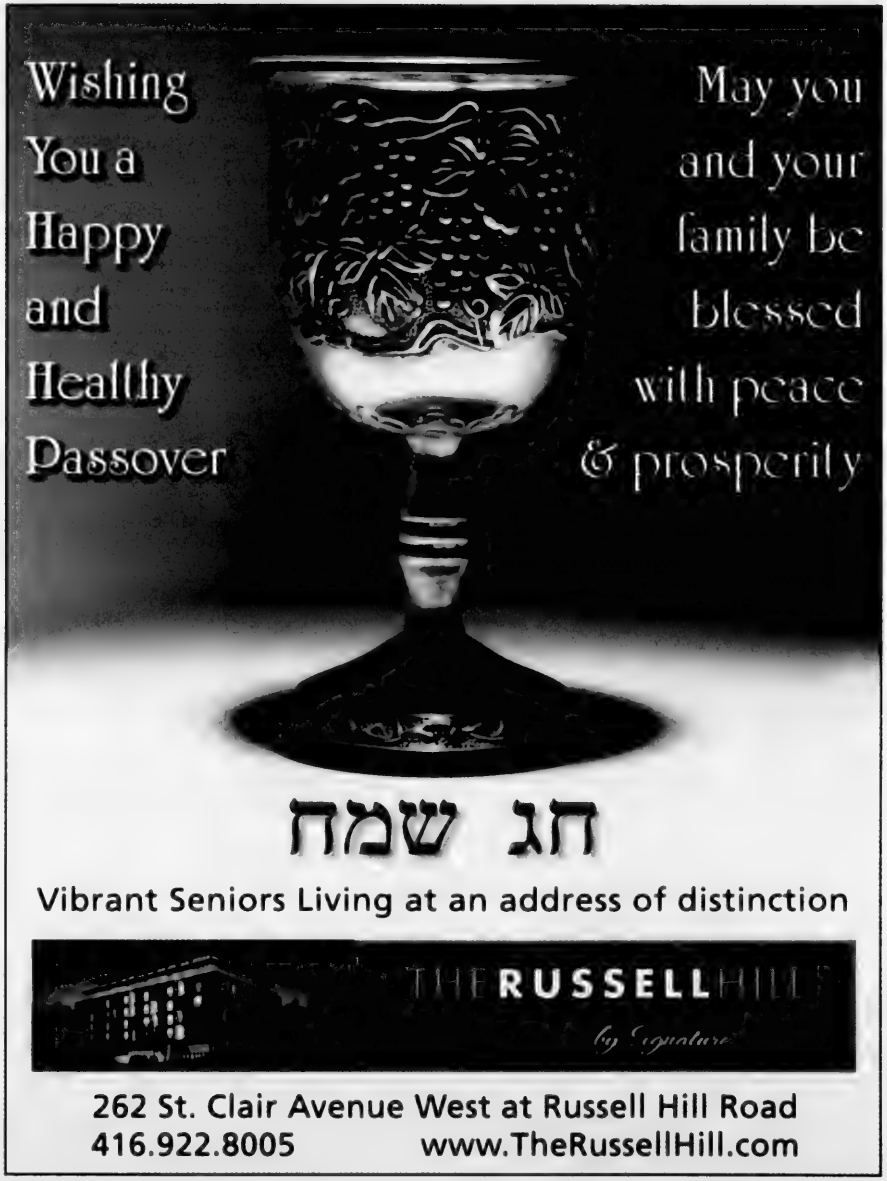
you told me nothing of
the pogroms, wars
your sisters
in cattle cars

you didn't want to deprive me
of childhood
turn my happiness
to cinders

your painterly apron's red and yellow
the blood and fat of slaughtered fowls

breasts, drumsticks,
featherless wings

I recall you saying
the days are long
the years
short



On time: Montreal, 1989

JUDY BATALION

"Is everyone ready?" I called from my room.

One of my eyes was focused on the mirror as I checked out my creation – an all-white *Working Girl* power suit from Jacob Jr. with shoulder pads, a pleated skirt, and a blue and white polka-dot shirt that sported a medieval jester's six-inch collar, all of which molded my 12-year-old shapeless physique into the strong, sharp contour – of a square. I'd had my hair done the day before; I'd gone with Samantha Horowitz and her mother Fran to the salon in the Cavendish Mall. Samantha got a flowing perm, but I knew Dad would freak out (*no piercings, tattoos, or perms—NOTHING PERMANENT*) so I just said "tease me" and lord. Sylvain the Quebecois Indian hairdresser who bore an incredibly suspect resemblance to Vanilli (including both leather pants and mane) had split my fringe in two, making half my hairs stand on guard, while the other half were plastered down my forehead. Then he'd blow-dried my long frizzy tresses straight, his arms sinewy as he drew out the strands, humming at how alluring I appeared. *Girl . . . you know it's true.* Of course, sleeping on it all night had not tamed the look, shall we say, and now several areas of the do were fully erect. Worse, the bottom of my hair turned outward like a '70s artsy fling. I used two brushes and all my strength to try to curl these tasteless waves under, power-woman straight. Overall, the look had the sexual appeal of smoked trout.

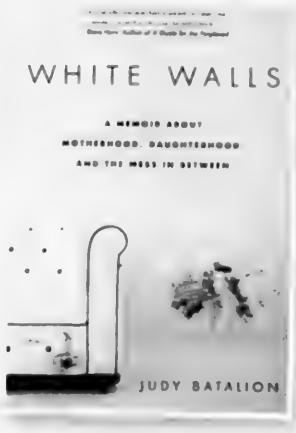
"Everyone? Anyone?"

My other eye was on the clock. June 12, 1989, 9:48 a.m. In 72 minutes, I'd become a woman!

I brushed harder. Damn rebellious hair ends. "Hello?"

No answer, except for the sound of morbid trumpet calls and a voice so deep it was as if the speaker had awoken from his own death. *It's Jewish hour*, emanated from one of the many radios that were always on in the house, crowding even the air with sound waves. *Today: a new story from the gas chambers.* "Hello?"

I ran down the slippery hall (particularly so due to my fishwife beige stockings) to the den, where Dad lounged hidden behind his papers. I smelled rare minty aftershave and saw his shoes sticking



out from beyond the newsprint. He was ready, as always. Eli, on the other hand, was wearing a shirt and navy blazer, but no pants. "Eli!" "I have 212 lines," he said from behind his Game Boy.

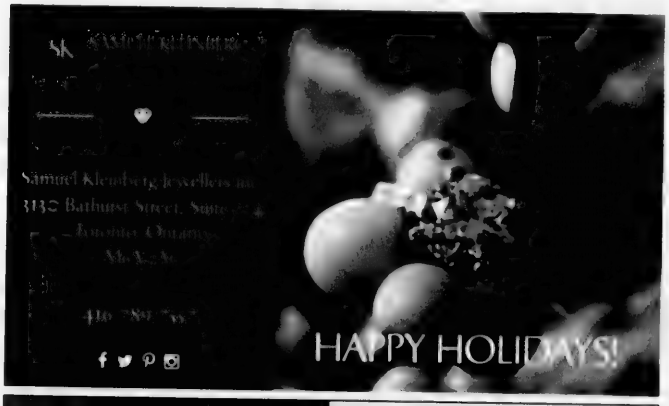
"Wow." That was pretty good. We were both obsessed with Tetris. I spent my days trying, in my imagination, to make the shapes around me fit neatly together—which this house's piles of expired *TV Guides* and bargain basement towels did not. At school, I'd dropped out of drama, choir, and the annual reading competition to become a scientist, like Dad. I was a math nerd, drawn to balanced equations, ordered graphs, patterns that plotted neatly along the x-time-axis.

"It's getting fast," Eli said, his thumbs punching with force.

The more blocks that dropped, the more time that passed, the faster it all became, heading toward frenzy. I understood. Nintendo was one of our sibling ways of interacting along with a slew of imaginary characters – the Ukrainian Robot, Tony the Tiger, the jailer of Nottingham – that had peopled our make-believe games and our real conversations. "When you're done, please put on your pants, Captain Crunch," I pleaded and left for the kitchen, where I assumed I'd find Mom among the piles. "Mom." I took a deep breath. Gentle, abrupt. I was always saying the wrong thing. "Mom, I—"

She wasn't there.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



HAPPY PASSOVER

Best wishes for a Happy Passover

DELMANOR
Northtown

Tridel inspired Retirement Rental Suites with hotel-style service

416.225.9146 • delmanor.com
5351 Yonge St. just south of Finch

BORLAK

Steven C. Borlak
Business Lawyer

Chag Pesach Sameach to all our clients, friends and family

305 Renfrew Dr., Ste. 201
Markham 905.477.6662
www.borlak.ca

OUR PARTNERS AND STAFF WISH OUR CLIENTS AND FRIENDS A HAPPY PASSOVER

SEGAL
Adding to your success

SEGAL LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants
Phone: 416 391 4499
www.segallp.com
2005 Sheppard Ave. E., Ste. 500
Toronto, ON M2J 5B4

Larry Citrullo • Michael Daren • Michael Dennis • Elliott Kosher • A. Harold Garfinkle
Eli Gembom • John Iliffe • Dan Natale • Leslie Nevsky • Robbie Rotin • Stanley Segal
Andrew Shalit • Errol B. Wolff

"Mom?" My heart skipped, but excited for the day, I had hope.

Her absence could be a good sign! Perhaps she was ready, slipping on her shoes, grabbing her coat, spraying on the final touches of her Charlie or Jean Naté or even Dior Poison that Dad had bought her as a special gift last summer (the name was so apt, Dad *hadn't* even made jokes about it), beaming, proud. Normal. Her present to me.

I hopped to her room. "Mom!" But as I opened her broken blue folding door, the one that was missing several hinges so it actually lunged toward me when I moved it (a relic of the former home owners, 1960s divas whose bold taste we never erased but instead covered over with layers of mess) I glimpsed Mom's backside, her beige tights pulled over extra-large underwear, the rolls on her sides. She was sitting at her desk, in front of a complex of boxes filled with colourful fastening supplies: paper clips, pins, sewing kits. "Mom."

"Shut the door, Judy. I'm getting dressed."

"We have an hour," I said. "Until my actual bat mitzvah."

"I know." She didn't turn around. "Now go."

Behind her loomed her king-size bed, the real Mount Kildare, stacked with clothes, blankets, and papers that now covered its entire surface except for a small edge where Mom slept. I wanted to hang out with her in the evenings and watch *Thirtysomething*, pretending I understood it and laughing along with her chuckles, but there was no room. A broken door wasn't the same as an open door.

> *The women in my family kept stuff, not time.*

I tucked my worry into myself, and decided to go practice my speech. This wasn't *really* a bat mitzvah, just a group simchah; the girls – all nine of whom I would be celebrating my personal coming of age with – would not read from the Torah. Though my Montreal Jewish community was obsessed with Club Med and teppanyaki dining, and though my school taught experimental Hebrew poetry instead of prayer, the synagogues were strictly Orthodox, and there was no such thing as a bat mitzvah in Jewish tradition. Instead of reading from the Torah or leading prayers, we girls gave speeches about Jewish themes we'd studied. This was fine with me. School – with its clear systems, tests, grades – was my forte; my solidity.

For my speech, I'd picked my favourite holiday. "Passover is the celebration of freedom. It commemorates spring. It is a time of fresh starts. A holiday symbolized by the egg, itself the symbol of the circle. Of life. Cyclical life." Then there was the fact that Passover was the quintessential holiday of order. Obsessive order. The word seder means order; the whole evening begins with a chronologically determined to-do list and ends with a repetitive chant about goats. Ten plagues, 10 commandments, four glasses of wine, three forefathers, two tablets.

The one meal of the year that my family ate at home, together, at the same time.

"Mom?" Forty-five minutes. No answer. The rush to flee Egypt. *Why is this night different from all other nights?* But, of course, it wasn't.

• • •

The women in my family kept stuff, not time. Neither Mom nor Bubbie arrived at any destination less than extremely tardy, be it after-school pickup, or a play where I had to squeeze between legs to get to my seat for a show that had started without me. When I was five or six, every Saturday we used to go shopping and it would take hours for Mom to get ready, while Dad, Eli, and I engaged in the elaborate gymnastics of peeling on and off coats, circling in the rusted blue faux-wood-paneled Pontiac station wagon with the engine running, the heat blowing into the backseat from the one working vent at the front, the freezing and boiling air mixing, causing the windows to fog up like a dream scene as Dad silently grew angrier and we waited for Mom to come trundling out of the house, dredging heavy bags on each arm. Then there would be stops: the bakery, the library where she had to negotiate fees for her overdue books, and finally, Bonimart – the discount store with a psychedelic orange and yellow globe in its "B" – the crowning glory atop the Decarie Square, a mall that was an architectural mess, not a square at all but a conglomerate of crevices and levels, arriving at 4:50 to a store that closed at five o'clock.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto

APRIL 3 - 13, 2016

DONATE TODAY

SO ALL CAN CELEBRATE

Thank you for Caring for Our Community

DELIVERY DAY: APRIL 17, 2016 | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

416.633.5100 · pfd@ncjwctoronto.org · www.PassoverFoodDrive.org · www.NCJWCToronto.org

Our Sponsors: **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** Barrday Dov Capital · Durante's No Frills Pat's No Frills · Circle of Care · Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Foundation · Liberal Great Gulf Homes Carlo's No Frills Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Jewish Family & Child · Brampton Brick · Metroland Media · Sobeys Hilda & Clarke · Terrapian Landscape Architects · DMS Property Management · Universal Lamp · Jewish Immigrant Aid Services · HomeSweetHomeToronto.com · Jewish Youth Network · Burnbrae Farms · Y5 Creative Studio

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

We had to climb several escalators to reach the apex of Decarie, which always seemed to be perpetually on its last legs, dying since the day it was built (even the name sounded like decay). Mom planted herself on a step, Dad carried Eli, then two years old, and I would lose my mind, alternately staring at the mock marble walls with grey splodges that looked like ash, and my black Casio watch, wishing for the numbers to freeze, running up the moving walkway that never moved fast enough. Did she not see the time? What if we were locked in, forgotten?

Mom would finally arrive and start her full-on shopping mission, examining circulars, picking up products, while my heart beat, my colon bloated. She was in no rush, took her time price-shopping for the best paper towel deals, while the metal grate at the front of the store began to descend, clinking with each inch. I was on watch, noticing every movement, aware of each announcement on the loudspeaker: *"Chers clients, nous fermerons nos portes dans cinq minutes."* The voice may have been chipper but the message was militaristic: customers, you have five minutes left. We would be stuck here forever, trapped. I would cry, tears streaming down my ashen face, begging for us to go. None of this bothered my mother, and even my father could not understand my panic. *Who's gonna lock us in?* he tried to calm me. *They don't WANT us here all night.*

But no rationale helped, and eventually I refused to enter. While they shopped, I waited on the threshold of the store, looking up at the gate's metal teeth, making sure that I was on the other side of the boundary. I would not be swallowed up by Bonimart! I felt safer being alone outside the store than inside with my parents, with my mother, even though, as I reminded myself now, she never did get locked in.

> *Every third cousin, each hairy-eared uncle, the entire transplanted shtetl of Radzymin would be in attendance.*

• • •

"Eli, pants!" I called, and went to his room to lay them out on his bed next to his *MAD* magazines, risking Mom's anger. *You're not his mother,* she accused me when I tried to care for him. She was right. Even then, I knew my efforts were as much an attempt for me to take control of my world as they were to help him. I felt guilty for being bossy, selfish, needy, but also angry. *Do you think I want to be his mother?*

My heart pranced out triple lutzes. I needed distraction. Forty-five minutes until womanhood, until somehow, I prayed, I would magically be transformed into a specimen of grace and self-composure, with hair that turned inward and bangs that never clumped together due to increasing forehead sweat.

Why did it have to be this way? This delay made no sense, especially since I knew Mom wanted me to have the bat mitzvah. I thought of the enormous birthday parties she threw for Eli and me when we were younger, the house overrun with cakes and party sandwiches. How long would it be before she returned to that state, the star storyteller who entranced the kids, my cousins all wanting to sit in her lap as she spun tales about fallen heroes, a chatty host with piquant laughter, the extra dining room sets coming into their own? When would she finally be less tired again?

Mom wanted this bat mitzvah, I consoled myself. She'd participated, gone to all the meetings in the living rooms of the other mothers (families who went to Benihana and sang "hands up, baby, hands up" while mine went for early bird specials that included unlimited trips to the knish bar, and "hands up" reminded them of the Gestapo). Each of the other girls, most of whom I had anxiety just conversing with, let alone blossoming into my full womanly expression with, had invited 10 family members to the service and luncheon, whereas my mother, the least wealthy but most caught up in abstract notions of family, had fought vehemently to secure us 80 tickets – every third cousin, each hairy-eared uncle, the entire transplanted shtetl of Radzymin would be in attendance.

They'd all be there. Waiting. Thirty-eight minutes. "Mom! We have to leave."

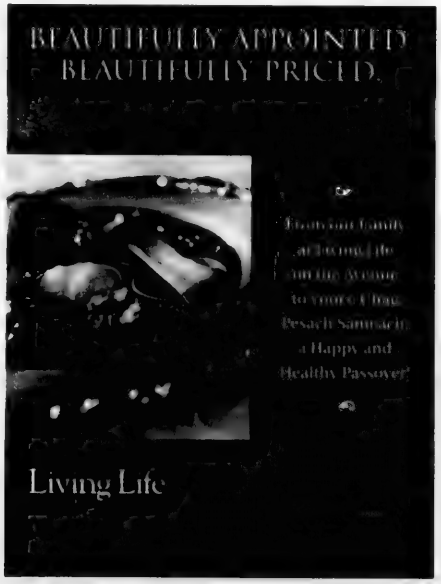
"It doesn't take a half hour to get there." "But there's parking, and red lights, and . . ."

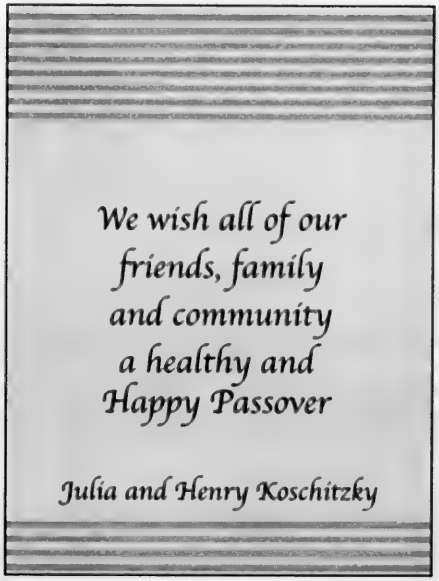
"I need to do the place cards." Now? "You're the one stalling me, Judy." Me?

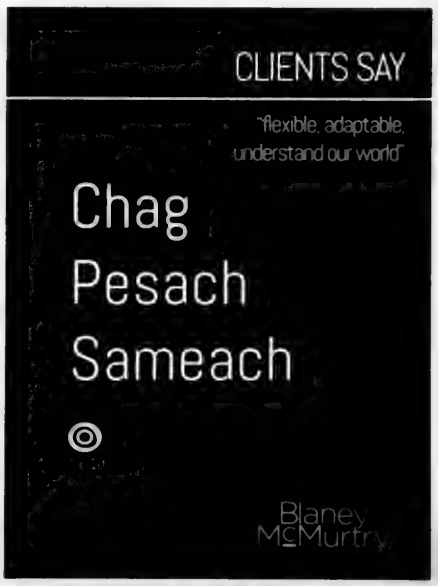
Sweat was trickling, my armpits dampening, tights chafing. I tried to rehike my shoulder pads and straighten the power angles of my suit. Then I remembered! I splayed my hands out in front of me, stretching each finger to its maximum: my first manicure, electric pink French, selected by Fran Horowitz. My nails were shiny, neat with a perfect sliver of white crowning their rounded tops. Samantha had also had a pedicure, but I declined. (*Ay, who's gonna see your toes?* Dad's voice echoed in my mind.) Dad had taken me shopping, let me buy the full-priced white flats with the blue polka-dot bows that matched my shirt, a detail I was sure would command attention and awe. I ran to my room and took them out of their box, smelling their fresh leather. With my flawless fingers, I slipped them on – they fit perfectly. Then – my final anointment accessory – a shpritz of Exclamation eau de toilette. I smelled like orange-crush-scented baby powder. I was completely ready.

I scurried back to Mom's room, her door knocking on me, her boundaries flailing in every direction. Lately, I'd been using this door as our messenger. I'd wait for Mom to be asleep, then tape a note on it, reminding her to please find and initial both my and Eli's report cards in the morning before she went to work.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE







Written communication was easier, safer than telling her in person, which risked unleashing her moods, no matter how softly I tried to put it. I knew she got upset because she knew it was her fault –how could it be mine? – but still.

"Relax, Judy. I'm almost ready."

Years after Bonimart, on the first day of second grade, a woman knocked on my classroom door and asked me to grab my bag and come with her. I'd turned red. Had Zaidy died? I shook as I gathered my items and stepped out in front of 25 staring students, only to be taken to the library where Eli was reading a book. Apparently, my parents had been late in paying tuition – again – and we were not allowed to stay in our classrooms. From then on, I spent each August anxiously leaving notes, pleading with Mom and Dad to pay for the upcoming year, which would never happen until the last minute.

Then again, I'm not sure what I expected from parents who couldn't decide on my name for three months, each petitioning for the labels of their own relatives who'd died horrific deaths in murder-camps and blood-soaked countrysides, my title flipping between Cheryl, Celia, and Rebecca until a compromise was struck: Judith (means Jewish girl—neutral) followed by a series of middle names from each side commemorating various atrocities. Three months! Why would I expect anything different?

> *I'd have to walk across the sanctuary by myself, my bangs clammy, my family's dysfunction glowing neon.*

...

But then I saw her. In a slip. Still sitting at her desk, writing, her hefty frame resting too comfortably on her brown cushioned swivel seat. Not. Going. Anywhere.

I expected something different because this was my bat mitzvah. I felt the door swing behind me, connections unhinged, wild breeze on my back. *Not a store, or a puppet show. My bat mitzvah.* A night different from all other nights. A chill ran along my damp skin. A slick of papers slid off one of the dozens of folders on her bed.

"Mom." No answer. "Mom?" *What are you thinking?* Why are you doing this to me? Where are you?

"Dad." I ran to the den. "We have to go."

"Don't look at me," he grumbled, hidden behind the papers. He was ensconced in the room, planted in his chair, yet seemed detached from it all, like a realist figure set in a cartoon painting. I knew this lateness wasn't his fault. She was the artist, he was the scientist. She was a hippie, he was what hippies rebelled against. He was always on time, early even, but forever being coupled with late- comers. *Jack was always late,* he used to tell the story of his best friend with whom he'd traveled the world. *The plane would be taking off – TAKING OFF – and Jack would run up to the gate, dragging his suitcase. It was a compulsion, a need to squeeze out every second and use it twice, to trick the clock and conquer time. We once climbed Mount Sinai. Jack insisted on finding the exact spot where God talked to Moses. Then he dumped orange peels right there. On the spot where God handed Moses the ten commandments! And, of course, we missed the guided climb down.* Dad laughed. He never laughed at Mom's lateness. But he also never left without her.

"We need to be there in 28 minutes," I said.

"I'm ready," Dad said. *I know,* I rolled my eyes.

I couldn't take it any longer. If we didn't leave in *one minute* I didn't see how it could happen. I'd have to walk across the sanctuary by myself, my bangs clammy, my family's dysfunction glowing neon. I held back tears. My insides burned, my stomach coiling in on itself. "Mom!" I screamed.

"For God's sake, Judy," she yelled back. "I'm coming."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

HAZELTON PLACE
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE

Mother's Day
CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY [illegible] FROM 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Hazelton Place Retirement Residence
invites you to Honour Mother's Day.
(You don't have to be a mother!)

Complimentary Refreshments & Entertainment.
Tours will be provided.
Please RSVP 416 928-0111

Entertainment provided by:
Pianist Laura Nadeau
Piano Jordan Klapman

HAPPY PASSOVER TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS

111 Avenue Rd., Toronto 416 928-0111 www.hazeltonplace.ca

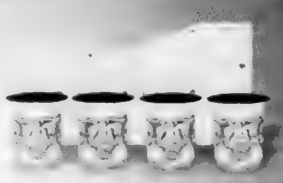
MINDEN GROSS LLP

Chag Sameach
Wishing you much joy and a Happy Passover
From all of us at Minden Gross LLP

MINDEN GROSS LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
145 King Street West, Suite 2200 Toronto, ON M5H 4G2
416.362.3711 @MindenGross www.mindengross.com

miller bernstein LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

We would like to wish
our clients and friends
a **Happy Passover**



ALPHA OMEGA

Happy Passover

from the members of the
Toronto Alumni Chapter
Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity

We are a philanthropic/educational organization
made up of 6000 Jewish Dentists worldwide.

For over 100 years we have represented
"The voice of the Jew in Dentistry"
whether it be combating discrimination
in our Universities or on Board Examinations,
financially supporting dental care to the needy locally and internationally,
or promoting dental research, continuing education
and expanding dental care in Israel.

חג שמח

Our Clients And Friends

Ralph Rabinowicz
Marshall Egelnick
Harris Kligman
Hartley Cohen
Armando Iannuzzi
Harvey Kestenberg
George Grignano
Vazken Izakel
Jie (Jenny) Lian

Accountants For Entrepreneurs
Kestenberg • Rabinowicz • Partners LLP
Chartered Accountants
krp

2797 John Street, Markham, Ontario L3R 2Y8
T. (905) 946-1300 F. (905) 946-9797 www.krp.ca

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

But when I reached her threshold, she was still in her slip, at her desk.

"How could you?" was all I said, before sprinting down the hallway, into the vestibule, and right out the front door.

• • •

I didn't really run.

In my fantasies, of course, I fled. I dreamt of galloping across intersections, speeding through the city. I imagined racing down highways in European cars, jet-setting to the Florida Keys, surrounded by a different family. But that day, I did not run, because the synagogue was far, and I wasn't sure how to get there, and also, I didn't *want* to take the bus alone to my bat mitzvah. I wanted to go to my bat mitzvah with my mother.

"Ay, let's go," Dad called in the direction of Mom's room. Even his forfeiture had its limits. Always, there would come one moment when he would suddenly realize how odd it was, how wronged he felt. Anger was tucked inside him like toy streamers buried in a box, building pressure. Then the lid would fly open and the strands would spiral out and attack everything, hissing like snakes. "Let's get the f--k out of here."

"Don't hound me," she yelled. "F--k you."

I cringed, relieved that my father was taking action, yet bracing myself for more yelling. I checked on Eli, who was OK, folded into his Game Boy. Pants on.

The method worked, and Mom emerged bedecked in Poison, pearls, and a purple dress. On top of her head, I saw, was a doily, the fragile, intricate covering that indicated a woman's married state, loosely fastened with a bobby pin to her hair, which was thinning, while her body was thickening. Mom knew I was guarding her and we didn't speak. She slowly made her way down the front stairs to the new Pontiac, tan, with bucket seats and electric windows. We all clicked our seat belts and the engine started and I looked at the digital green clock flashing, and my heart pounded and I knew there was a chance that Dad would drive crazy fast and drop me before he parked and that I would make it by a hair of a fraction of an instant, and then Mom said, "I told Bubbie we'd pick her up."

• • •

That's when I zoned out. It was too late. The math was impossible. Strapped in my brown seat belt, trapped in this Pontiac, I surrendered to the clock, squeezed my cue cards and squinted my lids until the green numbers became blurry, nonsensical. I closed my eyes and retreated inward, exiting time, to a fantasy world of kitchens neat and white like the crescent of my French manicure, imagining the moments between every second inflating, imagining myself softly slipping into the Mississippi, time melting around my limbs, warm and wet, washing over the discord between my mother's world and the social contract that I now saw was quickly growing too great, too confusing.

Strapped in my brown seat belt, trapped in this Pontiac, I surrendered to the clock, squeezed my cue cards and squinted my lids until the green numbers became blurry, nonsensical.

• • •

Dad sped, and as we pulled up to the synagogue with Bubbie in tow, and I saw the stairs littered in loitering, overdressed relatives who did not look like they'd been anxiously waiting for the final crazy bat mitzvah girl, I was once again able to breathe. The almost-summer sun was sharp, each guest's shadow crisp and dark against the jagged architecture. The tree-lined street looked particularly green, itching with verdancy.

"So she's here," a great-uncle said as I loped to the lobby. "Fashionably late," teased another, ruffling my now disastrous hair with his tobacco-reeking palms.

When I got inside, it was chaos. People were everywhere, in the hall, in the reception room putting out place cards. I tried not to notice that a large percentage of the attendees comprised my disgruntled Yiddish relations who were drenched in anxiety and knock-off Drakkar Noir, high from endless discussions about their bowel movements.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"You see"—my mother came up behind me—"I told you, you didn't need to worry."

"I have to go," I said.

I found my teacher and joined the group's formation. I only hoped my father was back from parking the car as the organ music began and we all proceeded down the central aisle of the sanctuary. I then sat down on the stage, finally able to be nervous about what I really should have been nervous about all along.

• • •

"Passover . . . the cycle . . . the egg." Each of my words rang out through speakers altered – rich and textured – as if whole symphonies were braided together in my syllables. I heard my own sounds, wanted to squeeze them in my fists. *The Angel of Death*, the sacrifice. I spoke these solid words to a sea of smiles, bobbing heads, to kippahs and dye jobs. And, to my shock, I loved it. One-on-one I would have choked, but up there I was the confident centre of attention. I controlled time. My voice, my tempo, even my silences, marked the passing of tenses, focused everyone's experience and shifted their states. Each second felt stretched out like caramel, like I could lick every side of it.

"On Passover we celebrate the fall of the Egyptian empire. Which never really surprised me. What kind of regime puts the Jews in charge of manual labour?" A burst of guffaws and applause. *I could live right here, forever.* In my cadence, I heard my dad, his shtick, his humour mantra: it's all in the timing.

It was Dad who'd helped me re-enter Bonimart, pushing me, each week, to take one additional step into the store. (His 12-step program, he joked.) He'd hold my hand as my turquoise faux-Reebok lifted off the linoleum, and while my leg dangled in the air, he'd point out that I hadn't been crushed or trapped. *You're fine!* Then I'd plant my toes down and feel the hard ground beneath me, holding me up.

"Thank you," I said to the audience, my speech complete. I glanced up at the applauding crowd, but unlike a movie scene, I did not lock eyes with a widely smiling, wildly nodding, crying-tears-of-joy parent. Into the anonymous blur, however, I held my gaze firm. For a moment, I sensed—albeit hazily—a future, the possibility of being alone in the world, and surviving. ■

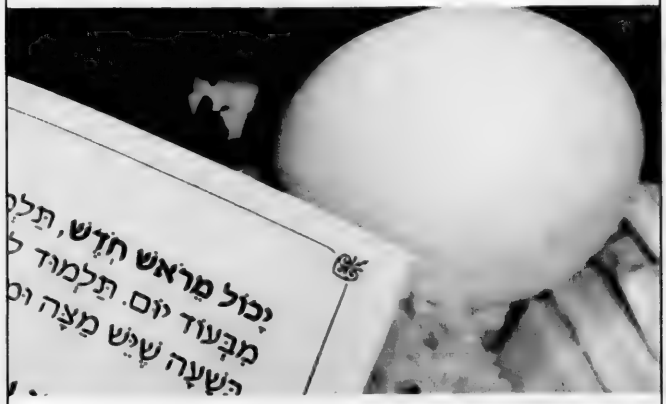
Excerpted from White Walls: A memoir about motherhood, daughterhood, and the mess in between, *by Judy Batalion. Published by New American Library. For more information, please visit judybatalion.com*

I saw a Zaida...with a little boy

MARVIN HERSHORN

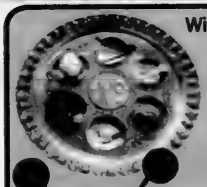
Loss is an inevitable part of change...of life
You pay a very heavy price for change
Even if it is necessary, change and pain are an integral part
Of life's palette, sometimes things cannot be said
That's life's unwritten rules...the loss of two hearts
The loss of a hug, a kiss or a smile...the mussing of hair
The high five, reaching down, holding hands while walking
I saw a Zaida on our crescent, walking with his grandchild
They were studying the rainbow of tulips
Planted in the center of the crescent
The Zaida looked old and tired, life worn... but with an angelic smile
He was bald, with close cropped white hair
He appeared to be warm, avuncular, eponymous, wise
He had that beautiful little boy...the ultimate happiness
He wore a traditional kippah, perhaps a deep dyed misogyny
His grandchild danced around the flowers in a child-like dance
A dervish whirlwind with proximity of being there...the Zaida kvelled
I am a Zaida too...without a little boy
My throat is full of glass shards
In the darkest of grandparenthood without a light
Perhaps geography challenged or subterranean reasons
I fail to understand...The great equalizer, like a ghost ship
That can never anchor, as aging is a non-stop inequity
A chronological mode turning faster than car wheels
With the passing years buttressed with resilience and perseverance
We must shed our protective layers and reveal
Our vulnerability, our sadness, our pain and even humiliation
Impermeable as reinforced concrete,
Know who you are, love who you are...
Perhaps one day I will be...
The Zaida in the crescent

Because Baycrest
knows that caring for the spirit helps heal the mind and the body.



Wishing you and yours
a happy and healthy Passover.
Baycrest Baycrest.org/give

Toronto's Largest Indoor Flea Market
BEST FLEA MARKET 16 YEARS IN A ROW!
Happy Passover
Allen & Simone Koffman and Family



With over 400 vendors, 1000's of great products at fantastic savings, a food court, and fresh farmers market (year round), it's no wonder Dr Flea's gets 1000's of visitors each weekend. You're sure to find something for everyone. Experience the difference yourself... see you this weekend!

Dr Flea's FLEA MARKET
Hwy 27 & Albion Rd Flea Market
8 Westmore Drive
416-745-FLEA (3532) Visit us @ www.drfleas.com
400+ Vendors Open Sat & Sun 10-5
Huge Indoor/Outdoor Farmers Market Under New Management.

In spite of everything

RITA WILDER CRAIG

The housekeeper came early
so we chatted for a while
She pointed to the framed poster
over my desk and asked if it was me

No I said - that young woman
died many years ago
her name was Anne Frank

I didn't tell the circumstances
of her death wondering if she knew
about concentration camps or Nazis

She looks like you she said -
perhaps it's the smile

The good son

NORMA BARKIN

One tiny angel's hand, by some design,
Now firmly clasps and gently steadies mine.
Two baby arms, once reaching up in hope,
Now mightily reach down to help me cope.

Recalling mischief, punished with regret,
And much that would be better to forget,
The healing laughter takes away my pain,
Along with other reasons to complain.

A gift with unexpected dividend.
From child to man and now my dearest friend,
His deep and rumbling voice, once like a bell,
First answered Torah's call, and answered well.

I blinked. A canopy appeared above
A perfect son joined with his perfect love.
Then, soon the time was right to satisfy
The call to dutifully multiply.

Beloved angel cheeks for me to kiss,
Awaken all my shameless prejudice.
Sweet miracles, that bless my life with joy,
Began with one delicious baby boy.

Though daily there's a little less of me,
I gaze into each precious face and see
. . . Eternity.

Happy & Healthy Passover from everyone at Maple Hyundai

SPRING SAVINGS!
EXCLUSIVE TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

Maple Hyundai
HYUNDAI
PARTS & SERVICE
Expect more. Get more.
HYUNDAI NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES
233 Sweetriver Blvd.
Maple, ON L6A 4G9
Sales 905-417-8886 | Service 1 (888) 310-8576
WWW.MAPLEHYUNDAI.CA

SPRING SERVICE PACKAGE
Includes: Oil, lube, and filter. 40 point multi-inspection.
$20* OFF
ALMOST 50% OFF
*Must present coupon at the time of purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers valid at Maple Hyundai. One coupon per customer per visit. Offers expire May 30, 2016

ACCESSORIES AND WIPER BLADES
Wiper blades should be replaced every 6-12 months.
15% OFF*
*Must present coupon at the time of purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers valid at Maple Hyundai. One coupon per customer per visit. Offers expire May 30, 2016

BRAKE FLUID FLUSH
$20* OFF
NOW $99.95
*Must present coupon at the time of purchase. Cannot be combined with other offers valid at Maple Hyundai. One coupon per customer per visit. Offers expire May 30, 2016

WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR PARTS & SERVICE HOURS!
Monday - Thursday: 7:00AM - 7:00PM
Friday: 7:30AM - 5:00PM
Saturday: 8:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday: Closed

Is this the little girl I carried...

JACQUELINE MARKOWITZ

By Thursday morning I went into my youngest daughter's room. She is home between adventures. It's 7 a.m. Phone alarm singing. Of course she doesn't hear it. I quietly nudge, whisper wakes ups, and then rub her back. Purrs as if she's a kitten. I stroke her head. Steeped in a drowsy tranquility. This doesn't happen often anymore. The morning can wait. I look at my hand twirling her tangle of curls. It looks like my mother's hand. I see some brown spots.

My eldest daughter is at the hospital waiting for labour to begin. Her first child. I'm going to be a grandmother. I remember holding her in my arms. Tick tock, the hands of the clock, gingham rocking horses, round and round, rhymes, prom dresses, butterfly kisses. Raindrop tears, hers and mine, over the years. A river flows between us.

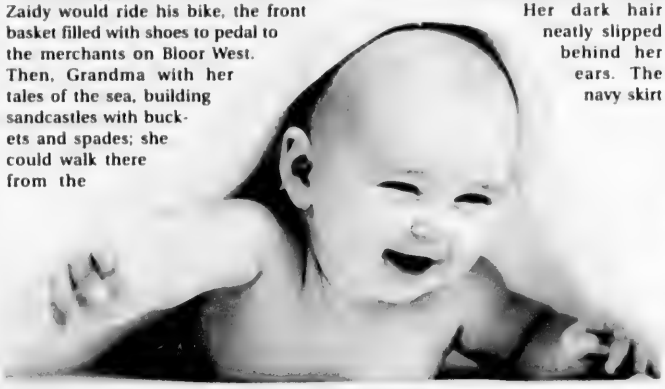
My middle daughter is sleeping in the room next door. This too is a moment. She doesn't live at home. I go in to say good morning. Light coming through the childhood curtain, single little bed, still the ruffled white linens. A ladybug is crawling across the cover. Like a picture in a storybook.

We waited. The baby came after eight in the evening. Morning to night. Life changes. Love happens. Something shifts. A miracle. He rests his perfect tiny hand on my daughter's chest. She can no longer remember a life without her son. Life begins again.

I am holding my first grandchild. A boy. Named for my mother-in-law, Julia and my mother, Leah - Julian Lee, his Hebrew name, Yehuda, in honour of my father-in-law. My daughter named for my father Harry and my brother John. *L'dor v'dor.* This is what we do. We remember. We continue.

My grandson is named after the three grandparents who adored my daughter. It was a mutual love. Hand in hand, they would go off to discover adventures on big screens, to bookshops, and to dine at a fancy table with oversized chairs, her feet barely touching the ground, and twirls of fettuccine Alfredo wound deliciously on the fork. There would be stories about the magic village of Toronto with houses that snuggled side by side, and how Zaidy would ride his bike, the front basket filled with shoes to pedal to the merchants on Bloor West. Then, Grandma with her tales of the sea, building sandcastles with buckets and spades; she could walk there from the house with the pretty wainscoting and panes of leaded glass windows, before we came on the big ship to Canada. Milky tea in flowered cups, and biscuits to dip and catch on her tongue. These are the gentle tendrils of a love that resides in our hearts.

I am relaxing in the oversized nursery chair. He is sleeping in my arms. His tiny fingers clasped around mine. I remember my mother holding my daughter when she was born. Her baby's baby. How aware she must have been of the time past and the time left in front of her. How old will she be at her bat mitzvah? Will she see her marry? *Is this the little girl I carried...* The vintage loveseat recovered in a canvas with peach brush strokes was in my bedroom, and the sun filtered through the slats of the blinds. Her dark hair neatly slipped behind her ears. The navy skirt skimmed just below her knees. She never wore pants until she was in her 80s. Her ankles crossed, lovely posture, her blouse tucked in just so. I can still see the tenderness. I smiled at her. She looked at me. I can feel her watching over us now. She is behind me, her hand resting on my shoulder.



On Shabbat I light the candles. Two in the tall silver sticks from Bubby that had stood in her home majestically alongside the kiddush cup one of the girls brought them back from Israel, the tzedakah box, and the one delicately painted porcelain shoe. I also light the beautiful antique candlesticks, which were a wedding gift from my brother. And, then, I light three candles in the candelabra that always sat in the centre of the table at my mother's home. I close my eyes. I feel her hands over mine. We say the blessing together. The maternal choir. We remember. We continue.

Friday evening we gathered for dinner around my daughter's table. Her new home looks like the dollhouse she played with as a child. The one we built together, cross-legged on the floor, putting the little flowers in the window boxes, setting up the nursery, and rocking the miniature cradle. Shabbat. She lights the little brass candelabra embellished with tiny doors that open like an arc to the blessings. It came with Grandma to Canada, and has now found its way home. We share challah, and drink sweet wine. Welcome to family, little boy. Look at what can happen in a day. What we can create. How life begins again. How much we can love. ■

La TRAVIATA
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
Happy & Healthy Passover from everyone at
La Traviata
10% OFF
of food with this coupon
Not valid on Saturdays
Accepting reservations 7 days a week!
652 Wilson Avenue, North York, ON
416 635 8891 www.latraviata.ca

We wish you peace and joy at Passover.
www.torkinmanes.com
Torkin Manes

Chag Kasher V' Sameach!
Happy Passover from your friends at Kensington Place Retirement Residence.
SPRING SPECIALS! Call to book a lunch and tour.
Kensington Place
866 Sheppard Ave West
Toronto, Ontario M3H 2T5
416.636.9555
www.TheKensingtonPlace.com

Lest we ever forget

MASHA RUTITSKY

There are special days of the year
The memorial days, lest we forget,
We remember all those who are
To our hearts dear,
We remember the terrible past lest we regret.

The memorial candles remind us
Of the flames of Inquisition,
The memorial candles remind us
Of the appalling crimes of the Holocaust,
Of the times when being a Jew was a prohibition,
And the six million Jews who perished,
It was such a terrible cost.

How many kids, like myself, never knew their relatives,
Whose lives had been taken before their times?
How many kids, like myself, never knew grandparents,
Never shared mutual love or saw their smiles?

All we can do now is remember the beautiful souls.
For them we light the memorial candles
Lest we non-action regret.
It is our good deeds that our hearts console,
It is our grandchildren with ancestors' names
Lest the past we ever forget.

Love with respect

ALVIN ABRAM

In our youth, our lifespan so many years away,
We gazed at each other, vowing never to stray.
We were in love – it was too obvious not to see,
Our bodies were one, our hearts set free.
Yet, what is love without each other's respect?
What are promises, when pursuing one disaffects?
What use are goals, if both won't support?
What good are plans if one decides to abort?
No love can last forever – respect must always be there.
Throughout the pain of life, only respect will care.
As time passes, uniting our lives together longer,
Love with respect will make the bond stronger.
And when the flame of life begins to cool the fire,
The candle in our hearts will glow ever higher.
For when all is said and done – as you would expect
What has survived is love with respect.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our patients, family and friends a healthy and happy Passover. And may we see peace in Israel and around the world.

חג שמח

PERLMUTTER DENTISTRY
Dr. Sharon Perlmutter & Associates
SMILING TOGETHER SINCE 1959
1 500 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario • 416.783.2272

We would like to wish our clients and friends a Happy and Healthy Passover!

SONE ROVET CHASSON LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
1220 SHEPPARD AVE. EAST, SUITE 406, TORONTO, ON M2K 2S5 • TEL. 416-498-7200
Howard Sone, CPA, CA Randy Rovet, CPA, CA
Marla Chasson Sone, CPA, CA

UPPER CRUST
FIERA FOODS COMPANY
CMS
WORLDWIDE ALLIANCE
BA BON APPÉ
Bon Appé Wishes you a Happy and Healthy Passover
www.uppercrust.com
1.800.701.8069

Gerald Pearson D.D.S. Dip. Perio

Dr. Gerry Pearson wishes his patients and friends a Happy and Healthy Passover
Periodontist
(416) 494-4477
Leslie Professional Building
4800 Leslie Street, Suite 306
Toronto, Ontario M2J 2K9
drgepearson@bellnet.ca

Mima Cha Tzura

SELINA APPLEBY

My mother and I went to visit her aunt, my great-aunt Cha Tzura, who lived in a home in the Kensington Market where the sights and sounds scared the bejesus out of me. This was the Jewish city market where the chickens were caged, to be bought alive and slaughtered at your leisure, and the fish swam free in the tanks. There was a special cheese store with mountains of cheese piled up high. The store-keepers' aprons jangled with pockets of coins and exotic smells of spices filled the air.

This trip was planned by my mother in order to visit her aunt who was in failing health and lived alone. Nothing prepared me for the sight of this wizened gnome. She wore a beaten brown felt cap pulled down over her ears and a faded, shapeless house dress and flat, broken-down shoes. She was bent over and her pale, watery eyes once spunky, were now deflated. She lived next to a synagogue so she could pray several times a day. Her Bible was her only friend.

When my mother presented her with a tray of food, she wanted to reciprocate. Looking helplessly around the room to find a gift for me, she settled on her clenched handkerchief. Inside she pulled out a penny and offered it to me. It was hot and damp. Since they spoke in Yiddish I understood very little but the one thing I did understand was the pain of being old and living alone.

She was waiting to die and since there was no one to talk to, she found solace at the synagogue. There, she said, she was talking to God and He understood. ■

EKATERINA LIN / SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

KRG INSURANCE BROKERS
A Division of RRJ Insurance Group Limited

KRG

2450 Victoria Park Ave.
Suite 700
Toronto, Ontario M2J 4A2
Phone (416) 636-4544
Fax: (416) 636-5555
http://www.krg.com

Wishes all our customers
Chag Sameach
and Happy Passover

MNP LLP

Wishing You a Healthy
And Joyful Passover

From your trusted business advisors at MNP

Wishing our friends and clients
a happy, healthy and peaceful Passover

Frank & Judy Wilson
Avi & Barbi Koifman and Family

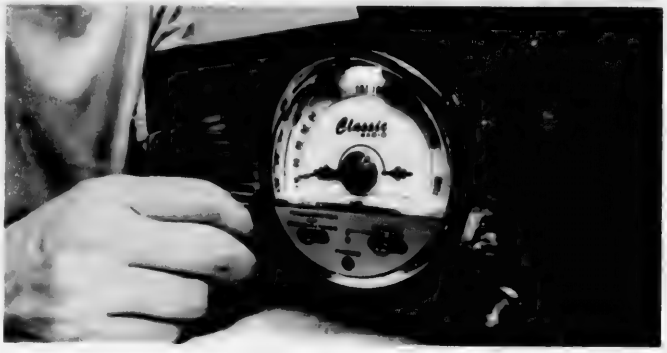
TES
The Employment Solution®
www.tes.net

40 Years

WHERE QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

The contest

ALVIN ABRAM



We had been married 25 years, and every year I had sent Marilyn a mushy card in February because it was expected of me. It was not a Jewish holiday but a day to renew one's vows of love. The mushy cards said sweet words I personally could never utter, and I received hugs and kisses for my paper affection. For the next five years ago, I impulsively sent Marilyn a dozen red roses to her office at York University.

I was at a loss as to what to give now? While driving, I heard the radio announcer promoting a poetry contest for Valentine's Day; the winner would receive an all-expense paid weekend for two at a resort in Muskoka, which is Ontario's prime cottage country. The runners-up would receive boxes of truffles. The contest called for entrants to compose an original poem about love, the winning selections to be read on the radio the night before Valentine's Day.

I decided to enter the contest, hoping to win a box of truffles. I didn't tell Marilyn what I intended to do. After all, if my entry was not selected, I could buy her something at the last minute, and my whim would remain my secret.

For several days, I agonized over a poem, writing and rewriting until I was sorry I'd become involved. It would be easier to buy a box of truffles than try to win a prize in a contest in which God knows how many poems would be entered. Finally satisfied with my efforts, I faxed the poem to the radio station and waited for the night of the program.

While I was secretly agonizing over the poem, Marilyn asked, "Are you going to send me flowers again?"

"Nope," I replied.

She gave me a hard look. "Why?" she asked.

"'Cause you expect it. It no longer gives you the message I want."

"Going to send me a mushy card?" The tone in her voice oozed with promises to come.

"Nope."

"What?"

I smiled mischievously. "I'm not going to tell you, so don't ask any more questions." And that was how I left it.

Periodically Marilyn would ask, "Are you sure about the flowers?"

"No flowers," I said.

"None?"

"None."

On the night of the contest, I had put in a long day at work and was having difficulty keeping awake. The reading of the winning poems was to start at 11 p.m., but long before that, I had difficulty keeping my eyes open.

"Why don't you go to bed, dear?" Marilyn said.

"Was I snoring?"

"That's one way of putting it."

My watch read 9:03. "Goodnight," I said, and trudged up the stairs to our bedroom. I set my alarm clock for 10:55, intending to sneak into the basement to listen to the program. It was possible to make it from my bedroom to the basement without anyone being aware I was there. I undressed, climbed into bed and fell asleep before my head hit the pillow.

When the alarm went off, I sprang from the bed and headed for the stairs without putting on my robe. For a heavy person, I had difficulty moving lightly. Just as I made it to the bottom of the stairs, I met Marilyn coming up to check on me.

"Where're you going?" Marilyn asked as I tried to pass her.

"Downstairs. I forgot something."

"What?"

"Something." I glanced at my watch; it was 11:05. "I'll tell you later," I said, and rushed to the basement door before she could utter another word, opened it and flew down the steps. I scrambled around the furniture to the radio, and tuned in the station.

Music was playing.

It was now 11:10.

I had missed part of the program.

The music ended and the announcer went into his patter. The volume from the radio began to warble and the announcer's voice faded. I fiddled with the dial, trying to regain the sound, but I could only catch the odd word. He was reading a poem. They were not my words.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

HOWARD NIGHTINGALE
Professional Corporation
Barrister and Solicitor | Mediator
CHAG SAMEACH – HAPPY PASSOVER
4580 Dufferin Street, Suite 302, Toronto, ON
Telephone: 416-663-4423 • Toll Free: 1-877-224-8225
www.howardnightingale.com

GOODMAN & ASSOCIATES LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
45 St. Clair Ave. West Suite 200
Toronto Ontario M4V 1K6
t:416-967-3444
f:416-967-1945
www.goodmancpa.ca
HAPPY PASSOVER
חג כשר ושמח

IMPERIAL
COFFEE AND SERVICES INC
COFFEE VENDING WATER SYSTEMS
Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy Passover to all our customers & friends
www.imperialcoffee.com 416-638-7404

For Generations...
a Trusted Name for Insurance.
Business • Home • Auto • Life • Group
Wishing you a Happy Passover
PAISLEY MANOR
THE PAISLEY-MANOR INSURANCE GROUP
ESTABLISHED 1965

HARKELOFFICE
Best wishes for a Healthy & Happy Passover
"Chag Sameach"
HARKEL OFFICE FURNITURE LTD.
1743 CREDITSTONE RD
VAUGHAN, ON L4K 5X7
CALL 905.417.5335
INFO@HARKELOFFICE.COM
HARKELOFFICE.COM

Jewish Community Organizations, Synagogues and Schools join our brothers and sisters in Israel in celebrating a Happy and Kosher Pesach. We pray for peace with security and honour.

Happy Passover

Act to End Violence Against Women
Adath Israel Congregation
Beit Rayim Synagogue & School
Bernard Betel Centre
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
Beth Radom Congregation
Beth Sholom Synagogue
Beth Tivah Synagogue
Beth Torah Congregation
Beth Tzedec Congregation
Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa
Canadian Council of Conservative Synagogues
Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University
Canadian Friends of Hebrew Univesity
Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital-Ezrath Nashim
Canadian Friends of Rambam Medical Centre
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
Canadian Friends of the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, Toronto Centre
Canadian Magen David Adom For Israel
Circle of Care
Congregation BINA
Holy Blossom Temple
Israel Bonds
Jewish Family & Child
One Family Fund Canada
ORT Toronto
Pride of Israel Synagogue
Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Har Zion
Toronto Council of Hazzanim

חג שמח!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Again music played, and the full volume returned for a few minutes, only to fade again. I strained to hear what the announcer was saying, but the volume went from hard to hear to impossible to hear. The situation turned critical. It was now 11:25 and the radio had become dumb with silence.

I dropped to my hands and knees, placed my ear against the speaker and faintly heard the announcer reading another poem. It was not mine. My back ached from my ridiculous position, forcing me to straighten myself. The announcer's voice became inaudible.

Marilyn called. "Hon, can you come upstairs?" There was a short pause before she added, "Please."

I didn't answer. I had bent down again, ear against the radio, concentrating on the words coming from the silent radio.

"Alvin. Come upstairs right now."

I was unable to leave the radio for fear I would miss the announcer reading my poem (I hoped). "I can't come up now. Give me a minute. I have to listen to the radio," I shouted back.

Marilyn called again. "Alvin, the police are here!"

"Who?"

"The police are here," she repeated, emphasizing each word.

I willed the radio to stop warbling, but it refused to cooperate.

"Alvin!"

I gave the radio a dirty look, struggled to my feet, raced up the stairs, flew through the door and stopped before two tall, well-built policemen. They looked down at me with their stern, official faces. I felt small even though I am six-three and weigh three hundred pounds. Perspiration leaked from my forehead and droplets of moisture from my neck dripped down my chest. Gazing up at them, in my baby-blue pyjamas and bare feet, my hair in a state of shock from not being combed, I wished I could disappear. "Yes, can I help you?" I said with as much dignity as I could muster.

"Dear," Marilyn cooed, "they're here in response to the burglar alarm you set off."

> *The situation turned critical. It was now 11:25 and the radio had become dumb with silence.*

"What burglar alarm? We don't have any burglar system. They're coming tomorrow."

"The security company came a day early," Marilyn said, her face flushed with embarrassment. "They were in the neighbourhood, so they decided to do ours, but forgot a cut-off switch. They told me not to go into the basement until they returned tomorrow, because the system was activated, and opening the door would automatically trigger a response at the police station that was monitoring this area."

I looked at my watch. "I don't believe this," I mumbled. "Officers," I said to the policemen, trying to look professional in my night attire, "obviously I must live here, otherwise why would I be wearing pyjamas? I'm sorry about the alarm, but as you just heard, I wasn't informed that the security system was installed. Had I known about the door, I wouldn't be running around at this ungodly hour trying to listen to a radio that doesn't work."

One of the officers tried to say something, but I edged towards the basement door. "This must look odd to you, but I'm caught in a ridiculous situation and I've got to go back downstairs.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Please accept my apologies." I turned to Marilyn and pleaded. "Marilyn, tell them I'm not crazy."

Marilyn's eyes had grown, her mouth opened and she pointed her finger at me, jabbing at the air as I backed away. "Your pyjamas," she mouthed. I looked down and realized the front had come undone and I was partially exposed. I clutched at the opening and disappeared down the stairs, raced over to the radio, threw myself onto the floor and jammed my ear against the speaker. I barely heard the announcer, catching a word here and there – words from my poem. Impatient with the radio, I scrambled to my feet and raced up the stairs, my fist gripping the top of my pyjamas to prevent them from opening. The police officers were saying good night to Marilyn as I passed them, and I could see one officer look at the other with puzzlement and concern.

Like a tank, I thudded up the steps, dragged my tired body into my bedroom and turned on the clock radio. It was already tuned to the station, and with clarity of sound I heard the announcer wish everyone a good night and express the hope that the winners would enjoy their prizes. I sank to the floor and began to moan.

"What's going on?"

I didn't answer. I just looked at her with glazed eyes, my head shaking from side to side.

"What's going on?" Marilyn repeated.

"You wouldn't believe me if I told you."

"Try me. The policeman wanted to know if he should stick around until a doctor showed up. I told him this was normal. Now start talking or I'll call them back."

I told her everything. The look on Marilyn's face changed from annoyance to utter disbelief. When I finished, she was the one shaking her head and rolling her eyes. As the shock wore off, I knew what her next words would be, and as she started to speak, I mimed them. "Did you win the truffles?"

"I don't know! I don't expect there's anyone at the switchboard at this hour, so we'll have to wait until tomorrow to find out. But the words I heard sounded like my poem and I figure maybe we won something." I stressed the word we.

"I'm going to call now," Marilyn said. She looked up the radio station's number in the telephone book and dialed. When she hung up, she said, "Answering machine."

I was standing in the middle of the room, looking like the conclusion of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. "I'm going to bed. I'm too tired to think. I'll call the radio station in the morning and find out who the winners were." I then dragged my exhausted body towards the bed. Marilyn grabbed my pyjama top, my eyes already closed, and I felt her kiss on my lips.

I opened my eyes. "What's that for?"

"For the thought. Good night – I love you." She was smiling as I toppled into the bed.

The next morning, early, my office telephone rang and a sweet voice asked for Alvin Abram.

"Speaking."

"Congratulations. Your poem was judged number one in our contest and you won the grand prize of a weekend at Deerhurst."

I was stunned. I could not speak.

"Sir, are you there?" she asked. "Aren't you pleased?"

"Lady," I finally answered, "if I told you what happened to me last night, you wouldn't believe it." Next year, I'm gonna buy my wife flowers. ■

CHAG PESACH SAMEACH!
JOYEUSES PÂQUES
חג פסח שמח

As families gather around the seder table to share the story of the Exodus — from generation to generation — let us reflect on the journey from slavery to freedom and celebrate the peace we enjoy and cherish as Canadians.

On behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada and my family, I extend our very best wishes on this Passover.

- Justin Trudeau
Leader, Liberal Party of Canada

The antidote

HAROLD PUPKO

After thoroughly reviewing the medical chart, Dr. Solomon Teyku strutted with an air of confidence from the nursing station towards Nissim Fresserman's room in the hospital's surgical ward. The strutting was in defiance of the fact that Dr. Teyku suffered from Imposter Syndrome, a gnawing sense of inadequacy despite significant professional accomplishment. Dr. Teyku tried to convince himself that, by successfully managing the first patient of his career as a newly-certified psychiatrist, he could set himself on the road to his own recovery.

He ignored the chuckles from the nurses who had cautioned him that his cross-cultural sensitivity training might prove lacking in dealing with the self-described "Jew in room 302."

Upon entering the room, Dr. Teyku was somewhat surprised to find a stereotypical Jewish patient in his rural hospital, but reminded himself that modifying expectations is one of the goals of psychiatry, and so, he carried on.

The only intimate knowledge that Dr. Teyku had about Jews was that which he had gained from his Jewish friends during his medical residency.

"What could go wrong?" he thought to himself. "I love Jewish food."

Dr. Teyku's Jewish friends had given him the impression that Judaism was all about the food, especially holiday food. He was soon to discover a new dimension to that cliché.

"Hello, I am Dr. Teyku. I am a psychiatrist. Your surgeon, Dr. Komos, asked me to stop by for a chat. Do you understand why he might have suggested that?"

Nissim Fresserman was in an irritable mood.

"It's all my mother's fault," grumbled Nissim.

"I see," replied Dr. Teyku, sensing a potential wealth of psychotherapeutic opportunities.

"And why is that?"

"Because she married my father," answered Nissim with a smirk.

Dr. Teyku heard cash registers kachinging is his head. He resisted the urge to immediately offer Nissim a business card for his private psychoanalytic practice.

"I see. And why was that a mistake for your mother?"

"She should have married her own kind, but no, she decided to marry an Ashkenazi guy, and I have had to suffer every year on Passover because of that. What kind of woman doesn't consider her children's potential future suffering before making such decisions?"

Dr. Teyku was lost.

"I'm sorry, I don't understand what you are saying, but perhaps we should limit our discussion to what is happening to you right now.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Chag Pesach Sameach
חג פסח שמח
Wishing a Happy Passover to the Jewish communitites in Canada, Israel, and around the world

Ali Ehsassi, MP
Willowdale
416-223-2858

Michael Levitt, MP
York Centre
416-638-3700

Marco Mendicino, MP
Eglinton-Lawrence
416-781-5583

Deb Schulte, MP
King-Vaughan
905-303-5000

Rob Oliphant, MP
Don Valley West
416-467-7275

Majid Jowhari, MP
Richmond Hill
905-707-9701

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, MP
Toronto-St. Paul's
416-952-3990

"It says in your chart that you were found wandering the streets before you collapsed. Yet it also says that you had pain for hours before collapsing. Any reason you didn't call 9-1-1 earlier?"

"My cell phone was in the closet. I couldn't get to it. I don't have a land line."

"Was the closet locked? Did you lose the key?"

"No, it wasn't locked. Unfortunately, I left my phone in the closet with the chametz that I sold before Passover. Chametz are the foods that are forbidden on Passover. They either have to be destroyed before Passover, or they can be gathered in one place and sold to a non-Jew. So, it was forbidden for me to trespass into that non-Jew's closet, and even more forbidden for me to even look in the closet just in case I saw the chametz within my property."

"What would happen if you saw the chametz?" Teyku asked with a sense of befuddlement.

Fresserman grimaced and replied:

"The worst thing that can happen to a Jew: karet! "

"Karet: the end of my soul's connection to 3,000 years of its heritage. I can't even begin to imagine that horror!!"

Dr. Teyku began formulating a diagnosis. Mother issues, father issues, neurosis bordering on psychosis. He understood enough to understand that Nissim did not sound like a mentally healthy man.

Dr. Teyku began formulating a diagnosis. Mother issues, father issues, neurosis bordering on psychosis.

"OK, I think we can postpone talking about the horror. Could you describe what you were doing the day that you collapsed?"

"It was the fourth day of Passover. Passover is supposed to be a holiday to enjoy the delights of springtime, but it was freezing cold outside, and raining too. My family went back to the city, and I was stuck here alone in cottage country, with not much to do. So I started to binge-watch Netflix. And I was getting hungry, so I started munching on matzah. By the end of the second box, I wasn't feeling well. I was already constipated for days. That didn't help."

Dr. Teyku smelled a psychiatric opening.

"I see. So you were binging on Netflix and food. Do you have a tendency towards impulsivity and poor self-control? Alcohol, for example?

"Yeah, I had four cups of wine for two nights in a row," playfully replied Nissim.

Dr. Teyku duly noted the indulgence.

"Do you understand how you ended up in surgery?"

"Yeah, apparently the matzah got stuck and formed a ball that eventually turned into a stone-like substance that couldn't be budged by any means other than surgery. Dr. Komos called it a bezoar. He told me that bezoars were at one time considered to have magical properties, that they were useful as antidotes to poisons. So it looks like I produced a magical healing substance with my own body. I have the power to heal. Feeling a little jealous, Dr. Teyku?"

Dr. Teyku added narcissistic grandiosity to the list of observations and continued his probing.

"You mentioned that you had a problem with constipation. Is that a regular problem for you?"

"Ha-ha doc. Very punny. Regular. You think I'm anal? Let me tell you, for the past six months, ever since I became a vegetarian, I have had beautiful bowel movements, sometimes two or three a day. But come Passover, my mother issues plugged me up."

Dr. Teyku treaded carefully.

"Please explain."

Nissim elaborated.

"On Passover, it is forbidden for a subset of Jews to eat from a class of foods called kitniyot. This illogical list of the forbidden includes peas, beans, lentils, corn, peanuts: the list goes on and on. Those were the foods that I was thriving on.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ON BEHALF OF THE ONTARIO LIBERAL CAUCUS
Chag Pesach sameach to the entire community

Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario

Michael Chan
Markham-Unionville
905-305-1935

Mitzie Hunter
Eglinton-Lawrence
416-781-2395

Michael Coteau
Don Valley East
416-494-6856

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Halton
905-878-1729

Eric Hoskins
St. Paul's
416-656-0943

Monte Kwinter
York Centre
416-630-0080

Tracy MacCharles
Pickering-Scarborough East
905-509-0336

Cristina Martins
Davenport
416-535-3158

Peter Milczyn
Etobicoke-Lakeshore
416-259-2249

Reza Moridi
Richmond Hill
[illegible]

Glenn Thibeault
Sudbury
705-675-1914

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

People from my mother's Sephardi background are permitted to eat those foods, but because she married a man from a different culture, she and her children had to take on his culture's traditions of not eating kitniyot. And why are these foods forbidden? Only God knows. Some overprotective Ashkenazic rabbis, beginning in the 13th century, became so afraid of people suffering from karet that they started making up bizarre rules about kitniyot to protect our souls. And they haven't stopped in the hundreds of years since.

My family on my father's side are descendants of one of those rabbis, the Shvertzuzeiner Rebbe. He was stringent in his teachings about kitniyot and also forbade gebrokt, which is the mixing of broken matzo in any form with water, for fear of it turning into a chametz-like substance. He even taught that drinking water with matzo was forbidden, and I guess subconsciously, that teaching stuck with me, even though I think it is ridiculous. Yet, for some bizarre reason, he allowed eating gebrokt on the eighth day of Passover, but we could only eat it from special dishes. On a special tablecloth. White, of course.

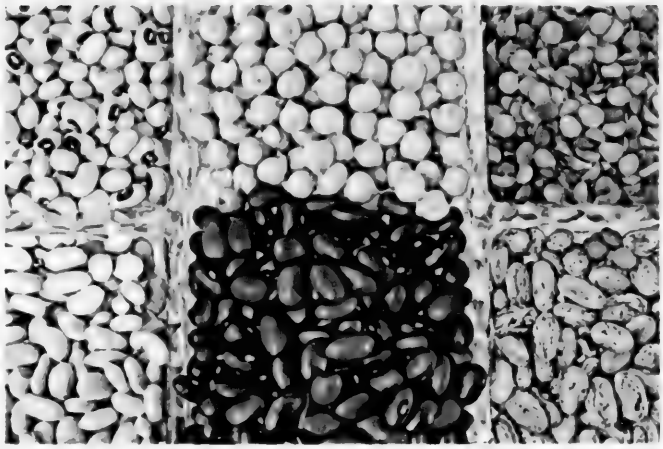
Even my mother's family tradition was affected by the folly of kitniyot. Her people are permitted to eat chickpeas and sesame seeds, but are forbidden to eat them ground up together as hummus. Why, you ask? Because it sounds like chametz. What do you make of all of that, Dr. Psychiatrist?"

"On your father's side, severe obsessiveness. On your mother's side, a clear looseness of association. Classic formula for psychosis," Dr. Teyku thought to himself, while trying to maintain a professional sense of detached composure.

Dr. Teyku remained silent, and nodded to allow Nissim to continue.

Nissim started to get angry.

"My heart breaks knowing that the Temple of Jewish Law is collapsing under its own weight, and God is getting buried in the rubble. Contradictory and illogical rules do not bring people closer to God. Instead, they potentially lead people astray, or even worse, they can lead to madness. MADNESS!!!"



Suddenly, Nissim observed Dr Teyku's face started to change.

His nose turned into a cob of corn. His eyes turned into kidney beans, his eyebrows, sesame seeds. His hair turned into buckwheat. Teyku's upper lip became a green bean, his lower lip, a snap pea. From those lips, hummus began dripping into a beard composed of tofu peppered with lentils. Dr. Teyku's face was turning into a kitniyot-themed Arcimboldo painting before Nissim's terrified eyes.

Nissim's visual experience made him wonder if his disrupted connection to reality was a prelude to a darker disconnection, that of karet. However, he could not understand what he may have done to bring that about. He did not eat any chametz during Passover. Suddenly, he became suspicious that there was some chametz in the narcotics that his surgeon still allowed him to liberally self-administer post-operatively through an intravenous pump.

"Dr Teyku, you are a psychiatrist, a healer of souls. Am I losing my soul?"

Dr. Teyku calmly responded.

"Nissim, let us try to gain some perspective on your problem. You have a fear of karet, the disintegration of the essential connections of your soul. What is the opposite of karet? It is that state of being where the connections of your soul are all integrated as one. Your ancestors playfully called this state keter, rearranging the Hebrew letters k, r and t of the word karet and manipulating the vowels. Likewise, by rearranging your thoughts and emotions, you may find yourself closer to keter than karet. So, as you indicated to me earlier, it is true, you do have healing powers within you. My prescription for your soul is that you strive to find within yourself the capacity for love and compassion, which is the path to keter.

Nissim, I feel your pain. Nothing is as whole as a broken heart, but through such pain one can find the wholeness of healing. Rules should be soft and firm so that they can sustain you, like a nice piece of bread, not rigid and breakable like a dry piece of matzo.

Here is a simple rule from your ancestors that may take you a lifetime to master: love the stranger, love your neighbour and love yourself, and in doing so you may find love for your God. Love the rabbis, whose misguided love for your soul got you into your present predicament. Remind them of vox populi, the power of the people to change Jewish law, as they did by refusing to accept potatoes as kitniyot.

Eat kitniyot, not just for your physical health, but for your psychological and spiritual health. Eat them in a mindful state of holiness, remembering the big picture of the Passover message. Celebrate Passover, a Temple-based holiday, as they did in the times of the Temple, when kitniyot was not even a figment of the rabbinic imagination. Re-learn to love the power of imagination. And by the way, always drink plenty of fluids when you eat matzo."

Nissim was perplexed.

"You clearly aren't Jewish, yet you seem wiser than Solomon. How can I trust that the truth in your words is real?"

Dr. Teyku grinned.

"It is true. I am not Jewish. In fact, I am not even real. All is an illusion, including the illusion that all is an illusion."

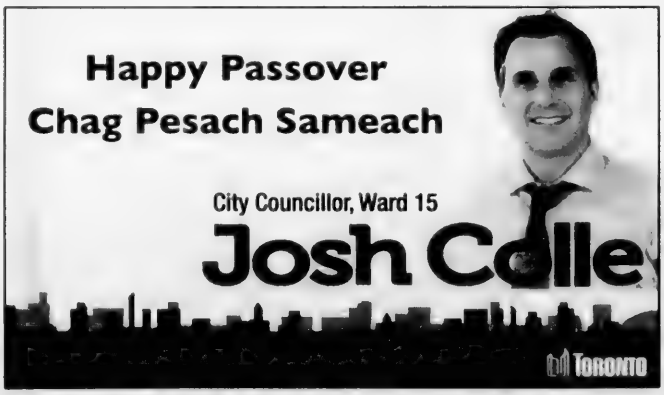
And with that, Dr. Solomon Teyku vanished in a puff of smoke.

And through that smoke emerged the whisper of a still, small voice. It came from a well-dressed man carrying a clipboard.

"Hello, I am Dr. Elijah Gogel-Mogel. I am a psychiatrist. Dr. Komos asked me to speak to you. Is that alright with you?"

"What happened to Dr. Teyku?" asked Nissim.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Fresserman. There is no Dr. Teyku on staff at this hospital. But I am prepared to attempt to handle any conflicts that might be troubling you, including any 'Teyku' issues that you might have. Shall we begin?" ■



JVS
JVS TORONTO

Wishing our clients, employers and community partners a happy and healthy Passover!

Chag Sameach!

At JVS Toronto we believe every individual has opportunities for employment.

Learn more at:

www.jvstoronto.org

Memory

DONNA SEIDMAN

I was only 1 year old when the Second War broke out and spread all over the world.
My mother, my father and brother too they were killed by German Nazis member and I was left with life and memory to remember.
Not far from Krakow I was hidden in a village under beds or in the barn and I did not know why it has to be like that.
I cried only quiet, so no one could hear and I was very happy if I got something to eat.
I survived the war but the more I grew up I miss my mother and father, never got a kiss or a hug.
Never got anyone to help me when I need help and I had to solve my problems and make the best of that.
When I made my son's bar mitzvah or walked them under the chupah I was wishing that I had my parents to share with me these simchahs.
Now I am mother and grandmother and I tell my children the same whatever they have to do something they should be proud of them.
They know that I am a Holocaust survivor and my childhood was hard
But I always had lots of courage to function through my life.

I have not spoken with You

(for Sam)

PER BRASK

I have not spoken with You for so long
I had almost forgotten You
submerged in my inner sea
spinning a vortex of my small desires
until - in a gasp - I remembered
it is Your breath
that sustains the world
Your breath that generates all that is
so none of us is alone
all is connected

despair obliged me to reconnect
or to drown
and for the choice I thank You
and for now knowing that gratitude
can keep me afloat
and close to Your hovering breath

RICHMOND HILL
INCORPORATED 1972

Richmond Hill

Wishing you a Happy Passover

from Richmond Hill Council

Mayor & Members of Council 2014-2018

Standing (left to right): Ward 1 Councillor Greg Beros, Ward 2 Councillor Tom Muench, Ward 3 Councillor Castro Liu, Deputy Mayor/Regional & Local Councillor Vito Spatafora, Mayor Dave Barrow, Regional & Local Councillor Brenda Hogg, Ward 4 Councillor David West, Ward 5 Councillor Karen Cilevitz, Ward 6 Councillor Godwin Chan

RichmondHill.ca

HAPPY PASSOVER
חג פסח כשר ושמח

PETER KENT, MP
THORNHILL

PETER KENT, MP
WWW.PETERKENT.CA

The wish

LEN PHILLIPS

"I lied to you."

His grandmother's desire to be honest with him was not helping her cause. He had hated her all these years, and although she was now in the last few days of her life, lying in a hospital bed, he could not feel any pity for her. His parents had died in the war, in Europe. His father had been killed in battle, and shortly after that his mother had been killed by disease. He was two when they died. No brothers, no sisters. Just him and his grandmother. When the war ended, his grandmother immigrated with him to Canada, and she raised him by herself. He could not remember anything from that time in Europe, but he certainly remembered his early years in Canada. Although he was now 57 years old he continually felt bitterness when he remembered how his grandmother had raised him.

"Daniel, I lied to you. I lied to you about how your mother died. I know it was a horrible thing to do, but I need to tell you why I did it. I need you to know what really happened to your mother. I am not asking for forgiveness. I just need you to know the true story."

The years of growing up in a home where there was never any laughter were very hard on him. He thought when he had moved out on his own as a young adult that his life would change, that he would be happy, and that laughter would finally be an important part of his life. But that just didn't happen. He could not change what he felt inside, and although he wanted to feel what it was like to cry from laughter, it seemed impossible to overcome a mind that was at war with feeling joy.

It was his grandmother's fault, he felt, that after all these years he could not recover from a childhood that had been filled with sadness. She was not kind to him. Although she never hit him, or hurt him with words, she damaged him by her aloofness, by her inability to hug him and tell him how much he was loved. There was a strangeness in their relationship. He had always sensed that something was very wrong. That strangeness had haunted him all the time he was growing up.

His grandmother's voice, though, was very unusual now. This was a tone he had never heard. Her desperation to be honest with him was palpable, and although he decided that he would listen, he still could not feel any attachment towards her. Knowing that there was a lie that she had hidden from him all these years wasn't going to help him feel any warmer towards her.

" What do you want to tell me? What's the lie about my mother that you now have to end?"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The Schwarz Families
of
Cooper's Iron & Metal Inc
130 Commissioners St. / Toronto Canada M5A 1A8
Phone: 416-461-0733 Fax: 416-461-0755
extend their best wishes
to clients and friends for a
Happy and Healthy Passover

Best Wishes
for a Healthy
and Happy Passover
DAVID SHINER
Councillor, City of Toronto
Ward 24 – Willowdale
100 Queen St. West, Suite B39,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Phone: 416-395-6413 Fax: 416-397-9290
councillor_shiner@toronto.ca

KRAFT BERGER LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Kraft Berger LLP
Wishes our clients & friends
Happy and Healthy Passover
David Yabrov
Harry March (1953-2005)
Jerry Dykopf
Bradley P. King
Elias Benaim
Howard Bergman
Jeff Westreich
Alan Silverman
Jay Feingold
Allan Jubenville
3160 Steeles Avenue East, Suite 300, Markham, ON L3R 3Y2
Tel 905 475 2222 Fax 905 475 9360
Toll Free 1 888 563 6868
www.kbllp.ca accountants@kbllp.ca

look
hair studio
Wishes clients
and friends
a Happy
and Healthy
Passover
1818/1820 Bayview Ave.
Mezzanine Lv, Toronto
(2 blocks North of Eglinton) FREE Parking
Open Tuesdays-Sundays 416-322-5665

Wishing all a Happy Passover
Access Control, Cameras, Security Systems,
Monitoring, Executive Alarm Response
and 247 Remote Electronic Building Management.
Your
Property...
Monitored,
Managed and
SECURE
INTO
An Avante Logixx Company
416 445-8274
INTO-ELECTRONICS INC.
25 Scarsdale Rd., Unit 11
Toronto, ON M3B 2R2
www.247into.com

THE PARTNERS OF
SHIMMERMANPENN LLP
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors
wish their Friends, Relatives, Staff and Clients
a Happy and Healthy Passover
חג שמח
Shimmerman Penn LLP
30 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 1000
Toronto, Ontario M4V 3A1
www.spllp.com
Tel: 416-964-7200 Fax: 416-964-2025

"Your mother didn't die from disease. She was murdered."

Daniel's grandmother searched his face for his reaction, expecting to see shock or surprise but all she could see was impassiveness. If this news was hurting him she could see no evidence in his expression.

"What difference does it make?" Daniel replied. "She's dead and it happened a long time ago. It's not going to change my life. It's not going to change how you raised me. I don't know why you couldn't have told me the truth before now. You know what? I'm sorry you're dying but I'm not sorry for what I've felt about you all these years. In fact, I think I have even less respect for you now. You were always so cold to me. And now I find out that you're a liar. You're a disgusting woman."

"Daniel, I told you, I don't want forgiveness. I should have told you what happened to your mother a long time before this, but I didn't, and it's time for me to correct a wrong. So please let me tell you."

Daniel stared at her briefly, feeling contempt and anger and disgust, but a desire to know the truth about the one person who might have truly cared about him made him nod his head to let his grandmother reveal her story.

After a moment of hesitation, of subdued relief, she continued her story.

"Before your father went off to the front, to try and repel the enemy from advancing, he found a small farm, far away from where the fighting was going on, where

he felt we would be safe. It was a secluded place, at the end of a small road that didn't lead anywhere.

"For two years we were able to survive, relying on the meagre resources we had, and we heard that the war was coming to an end. One day, though, we heard the sound that we had always been dreading – the sound of strangers. It was a small group of soldiers, not ours. They had been retreating from the front, and by accident had come upon our isolated farm. They were about five minutes from our house when we heard their voices, and we had to act quickly.

"Your mother wanted to protect you. She knew all three of us could not just run away because you were only two years old, and we would not be able to get very far. The only question was who should go with you and hide in the nearby woods. She decided quickly that she would be the best one to deal with the intruders, and there was no time to argue. I immediately took you in my arms and fled to the nearby grove.

"The soldiers were surprised when they found it was just your mother living there. They knew from what they saw in the house that other people had to be living there, and they wanted to know where those people were. There had to be a good reason, they felt, why she would be hiding the existence of other people."

Daniel sensed where this story was now going, and he wasn't sure if he wanted, or needed, to hear the details of what happened next to his mother. But there must have been a reason why a simpler version of the truth could not have been told to him when he was little, instead of a complete lie about his mother's death. Somewhat reluctantly he asked his grandmother if she was alright with continuing her story.

"Perhaps it was because she was a woman all alone, or perhaps it was because we were a different ethnic group than the enemy, but the soldiers immediately started taunting your mother. First it was with words, and then it was with violence. Sadistic violence. I heard them demanding her to reveal the whereabouts of the others that must have been living with her. I heard them scream at her, and slam her head against the wall, and torture her. But your mother would not reveal a word about where we were.

"I placed my hands tightly around your ears so that you would not hear what was happening. I feared that at any second you might cry out, and that your mother's desperate attempt to keep you hidden would have been wasted... and dangerous.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MACDONALD SAGER MANIS LLP
"Lawyers who speak your language"™

Happy Passover to all our clients and friends

Macdonald Sager Manis LLP
150 York Street, Ste. 800
Toronto, ON. M5H 3S5
www.msmlaw.ca

Chag Sameach

Happy and Healthy Passover to our Customers and Friends

EFFORT TRUST

Our Effort Is For You

Mortgages • GICs • RRSPs • RRIFs

The Effort Trust Company

Toronto
980 Yonge Street, Suite 30
Toronto, ON M4W 3V8
Phone: 416-924-4680
Fax: 416-924-4685

Hamilton
240 Main Street East
Hamilton, ON L8N 1H5
Phone: 905-528-8956
Fax: 905-528-8182

www.effort trust.com

The Partners and Staff of

Rosenberg Smith
& PARTNERS LLP

wish their clients and friends
A HAPPY PASSOVER

Solutions for today –
Strategies for tomorrow

2000 STEELES AVENUE WEST
SUITE 200
CONCORD, ONTARIO L4K 3E8
PHONE: (416) 798-4997
FAX: (905) 660-3064
WEBSITE: www.rsp.ca

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

I moved my hands from your ears to your mouth, and I held on so tightly, squeezing any sound that might have started coming out. The more your mother could be heard screaming and whimpering from the torture that was being applied, the tighter I covered your mouth.

"Just before your mother died I made a small prayer. Tears were welling in my eyes, and one tear had slowly started to slide down my face, about to reach my lips. How strange the human mind can sometimes be. In the midst of this horror, the teardrop that was reaching my lips distracted my concentration on what was unfolding. It briefly reminded me of an old tale that had been passed along in our family for several generations. To comfort us, when we were just little children, and crying, we were told that if we made a wish right after the first teardrop touched our lips, that those words would come true.

"I clasped my hands even tighter around your mouth to prevent you from revealing our hidden location. When I heard your mother – my daughter – crying from what

was being inflicted upon her, a large tear from my eye had just touched the top of my lips. 'Please, God,' I whispered, 'don't let this child cry. Please let him live.'

"Daniel, whether you believe in a God, or not, my prayer – my wish – was granted. You survived the war. But you never did cry. Not once since that horrific day have I ever seen or heard you cry. My wish had become a curse upon you. I raised you by myself, always feeling guilty that it should have been me that stayed behind at the farmhouse that day, and not your mother. A mother should be with her child. I have never been able to forgive myself for your mother's death, and I am so sorry that my guilt affected how I raised you. I have loved you so much. I wish I could have shown you the affection I was always feeling."

Daniel wasn't sure what he wanted to say. The mix of hate and empathy he was experiencing was a burden he just couldn't deal with right now. He had to leave. He had to get out of that hospital room and get some fresh air. He stared at his grandmother for a few seconds, and simply said, "It was hard for you to tell me the truth, but I am thankful you could do it."

As soon as Daniel was outside, the cold winter air hurt as it rubbed against his face and his dry eyes. A teardrop formed and started to run down his cheek. When it hit the top of his lip he whispered, "Please God. Let me cry." ■

Hennick Herman, LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants
Chartered Accountants
Happy Passover
to our Clients and Friends
Darryl Hennick
Hugh Herman
Roomana Anjarwalla
Lawrence Weingarten
Ted Cash
Larry Iskov
Tom Gringler
York Corporate Centre
100 York Blvd, Suite 600
Richmond Hill, ON
L4B 1J8
T 416-494-2608
T 905-707-8616
www.hh-llp.ca

Hairafter
Winners of the combined Hairstyling World Championship
644 Finch Ave. East (East of Bayview) 416-221-6658
The Staff of Hairafter wishes a Happy Passover to all!

To All
Our Family & Friends
Best Wishes For
A Happy Passover
Saul & Toby Feldberg and Family
global totaloffice

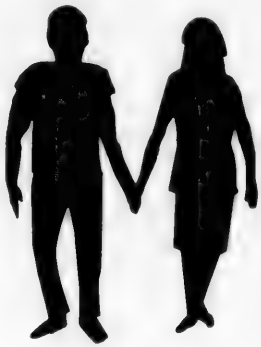
fogler rubinoff
We extend best wishes to our clients & friends for a happy and healthy Passover.
Fogler, Rubinoff LLP
Lawyers
77 King Street West, Suite 3000
TD Centre North Tower, PO Box 95
Toronto, ON M5K 1G8
Tel: 416.864.9700 Fax: 416.941.8852
foglers.com

Since 1940
dominion rug & home
Floor Fashions Without Borders
Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy Passover
We can supply and install anywhere in Canada and the U.S.
52 Samor Road
Tel: 416-485-9488
www.dominionrug.com

HOFFER ADLER LLP
Barristers & Solicitors • Trade-Mark Agents
Happy Passover to our Valued Clients and Friends
Franchising, Litigation, IP and Commercial Law
www.hofferadler.com

Oh, Gaaawd!

SUZANNE REISLER LITWIN



How am I supposed to have faith in you?
When there is so much evil in the world.
Is there a balance or in balance?
I'm waiting for the good to overtake the bad.
But, it's not happening.
Not yet
Not now
When?

Do you hear me?
Are you listening to the pain and suffering?
Do you see and feel the broken hearts and bones?
I'm told that I am 10 years away from non-believing.
I don't want this to happen.
Not yet
Not now
When?

I'm hanging on to your words.
I really want to believe the lessons and psalms.
But, I'm wallowing in my reliance, my sadness
I need some light, some life, some hope
You're on the way?
Not yet
Not now
When?

Oh, Gaaawd!
Lift me onto your back.
Carry me from the depths of this despair.
Deliver me from the ruins of this life.
Take me into your arms and armour.
I avowal you as my truth.
I do... I do...
Now is
It's now
No longer a when.

The last survivors

SAM HOFFE

The eyes that saw the evil
that tormented blameless souls,
will soon be gone.

The ears that heard commands
that chilled the blood,
will soon be gone.

The hearts that ceased to beat
with loved ones lost,
will soon be gone.

The minds that shattered
in fear and disbelief,
will soon be gone.

The certain knowledge
of the cruelty of man,
will soon be gone.

Who will believe us,
orphans of the truth,
when they are gone?

A Happy & Healthy Passover
to all my Clients, Family & Friends
HOMEPRO®
Residential Services
We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs
• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations
Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years
2 year warranty
SPRING SPECIAL 10% OFF*
Seniors Never Pay Tax
*on projects over $1,000 before tax.
Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

BAGEL PLUS
Bakery, Restaurant & Catering
Wish all their customers, family & friends a Very Happy Passover
PASSOVER MACAROONS AND CAKES NOW AVAILABLE!
634 Sheppard Avenue W. • 416-636-9988

HAPPY PASSOVER
FROM THE STAFF & ASSOCIATES OF
iNDEPENDENT
FINANCIAL CONCEPTS GROUP LTD.
Life. Health. Financial. Relax, we have you covered™
• Financial Planning
• Personal Life Insurance
• Mortgage Insurance
• Estate Planning
• Corporate Life Insurance
• Key Person Protection
• Group Employee Benefits
• Disability Insurance
• Critical Illness Insurance
• Segregated Funds
• RRSP's / RRIF's
• Registered Education Savings Plans
Life. Health. Financial. Relax, we have you covered™
Two Locations to serve you better
20 Holly Street, Suite 207, Toronto, Ontario, M4S 3B1
Phone: 416-486-3989
1700 Langstaff Road, Suite 1001, Concord, Ontario, L4K 3S3
Phone: 905-202-8430
www.ifcg.com • www.coveryou.ca

LISS GALLERY
WISHING YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY & PEACEFUL PASSOVER
חג שמח

We wish all our readers a Healthy and Happy Passover.
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

Solly the Baker

MARVIN ZYLBER

My father Solomon Zylber was the original "Solly the Baker,"
He was a great deal breaker,
Loved by all, from the youngsters to the infamous Jewish movers and shakers

He was known as king of the hill,
Selling his food which took a great skill,
Sometimes working long hours - that was the drill,
Driving his truck throughout the Laurentian insuring everyone's appetite was fulfilled

From the country cottages they all came,
Some wearing their bathing suits, housecoats and anything else you can name,
Standing in back of his truck waiting in line only to proclaim,
"Solly I'm so hungry, what can I eat now, is it fresh, what's good to eat and none of the same"

He would drive everywhere in the Laurentians – from Trout Lake, Ste Agathe, Ivry to Ste-Adele,
Working so hard regardless if he was sick or if he was well,
But he knew he had to make a living in order to sell,
Lox, knishes, salamis, stuffed chicken, hot dogs, herrings and the rest of those delicious dells

Rumour has it that even the late Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau was crazy about his knish,
Others hosted grandiose parties serving his gefilte fish,
Kids remembered him for his free doughnuts, bagels and other foods satisfying their every wish,
His hope was that he supplied you with everything you wanted to eat from dish to dish

Few knew he came from Govorrow - Poland, a witness to the Shoah,
The Nazis killed many of the Jews there, burnt down its synagogue and desecrated its Torah,
But he came to Canada, married my mother Selma and had 3 children – kina hora
Helped whoever he could, once saved a child's life and performed other wonderful plethoras

I helped him out in the summer months when I was a young kid,
Carrying up the hills those heavy orders to places where those great big houses often hid,
Hoping along the way the pickle jar would not pop off from its lid,
Often getting licked by the family dog or cat – yes that is what I did

Solly the Baker – sadly his bread jobber business is no more,
But it was a nice summer job with my dad – and sure beats having to have worked in a store.

Applause
Elegant Kosher Cuisine
COR 1103
Wishing all our clients, family & friends a happy & healthy Passover
Under the supervision of COR 1103

Forest Hill
PROSTHODONTISTS
DR. HAROLD A. BERENSTEIN
DR. YOAV FINER
& Staff
SPECIALISTS IN PROSTHODONTICS
Your Smile Solution
www.foresthillprostho.com
CROWN & BRIDGE, VENEERS
IMPLANT & COSMETIC DENTISTRY
We wish all our patients
A HEALTHY & HAPPY PASSOVER
חג פסח שמח

Anna K.
Best wishes for a Happy Passover to our clients and friends
From Anna K. family & staff
1966 AVENUE RD.
416-482-6280

Goodbye

ERIKA RAKOWSKY, AGE 11

When the sun is high, in the sky,
I know it will be time to say goodbye.

And when you come back, if you do,
Just know, I will be waiting for you.

But right now the moon is saying Hi,
So there is no time for a teary goodbye.

Where ever you are going, where ever you end up,
Just know I am here, wishing you good luck.

I won't cry when you leave, not a tear on my cheek,
But when you are gone, the tears are set free.

I am glad you are going, finally set free,
But I'm sad though, you are leaving without me.

Magnify

ARIEL GOLDIE GOTTHEIL, AGE 4

Everyone up and down
And down and up.

Flashes and ashes.
So the people made little licorice babies

Who couldn't get shot.

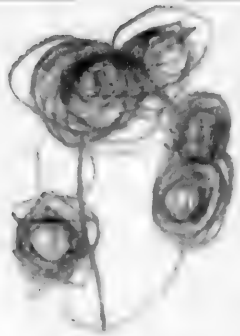
A war girl crowned with a necklace of roses
Returned back to sperm and egg.

Now on with our story…

Hebrew plague mountain
Song of Egypt

Real princess clothes
At last

Whispered in their babies' ears
Happily ever after.



Ariel Goldie Gottheil.
Pictured above her is a necklace of rose.

Nanuk Smoked Salmon

nanuk

U APPROVED
SPECIAL PACKS OF SMOKED COHO SALMON NOW AVAILABLE FOR PASSOVER

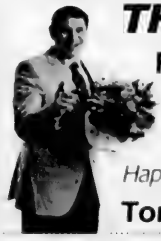
We Wish Our Customers & Friends a Happy and Healthy Passover

On behalf of Walter Roberts Insurance Brokers we extend a warm, and Healthy Passover Greeting to all of our Clients, Friends and the Jewish Community.

WALTER ROBERTS
INSURANCE BROKERS

Serving the community since 1965.

110 West Beaver Creek Road, Suite 22
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J9
www.walterrobertsinsurance.com
info@walterrobertsinsurance.com | 905 764-8061



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED PATRONAGE

Our Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Passover

Tom Mihalik & Staff

Established 1958

Tom's Place

190 Baldwin St., Kensington Market
416-596-0297
www.toms-place.com

MEN'S DESIGNER FASHIONS AT DISCOUNT PRICES

A Passover story

HERB COHEN

Pesach is a happy time,
When families get together.
We gather round the table,
To celebrate the seder.

Grandma makes your favourite dish,
And grandpa tells the story,
How all our people came to see,
This land of hope and glory.

We drink a toast of bright red wine,
We taste a piece of matzah.
Each one of us must take a turn,
To read from the Haggadah.

The youngest asks four questions,
How all this came to be.
He says the ma nishtana,
Please answer them for me.

Then hide the afikomen,
And the children have to look.
To find the hidden treasure,
Like it says here in the book.

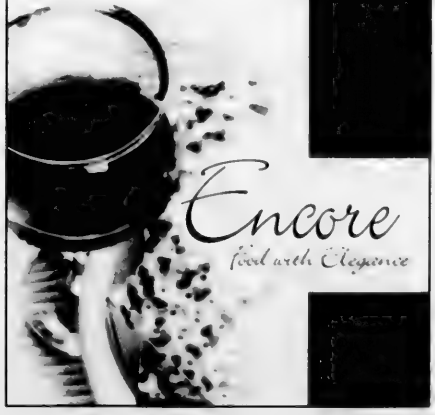
And now the seder's over,
As we all join in to sing,
We're thankful for the happiness,
That Passover can bring.

WISHING OUR CLIENTS AND FRIENDS A

LIPTON
LIPTON POLISUK
245 Fairview Mall Drive, Suite 600 416.496.2900 liptonllp.com

Enrico
HAIR DESIGN
CATHY
and her staff
wish all their clients
A HAPPY PASSOVER
Celebrating 20 Years!
To all our clients,
Thank You for your
continuous support.
468 Eglinton Ave. W. • 416-482-8055

Cary Silber, David Silber, Ryan Silber,
Roshan Wanasingha, Mauricio Pozos
and the rest of the Encore staff
wish all their clients and friends...
A very happy and healthy Passover.



Encore
food with Elegance

Friday night special

JAIME KASTNER

Julianna pushed at her sleeves, trying desperately to make a sweater into a tank top. She could feel red burning through her cheeks. After six days of receiving visitors, it was clear that Bubby didn't know how to adjust the air conditioner. So for this Shabbat, the first Shabbat, sweltering heat was going to have to do.

Julianna moved to the head of the table as her two brothers and two cousins threw kippahs at each other, arguing over who should wear the pink one. Bubby fussed trying to make the candles stand straight but residue from candles-past abated her success. Standing in her place, Julianna dodged inconspicuously, trying in vain to avoid getting an elbow in the rib as Bubby got more frustrated with her failure to make the Shabbat table look just right. Fearing that frenetic disposition was contagious, Julianna longed to join the boys at the other end of the table, to be part of their game of pitch-and-catch-the-kippah. She watched the two fathers stifle giggles as they faked stern expressions under the guise of needing to respect tradition. Trying desperately to detach from the moment, Julianna tuned in to the sound of clanging pots and pans in the kitchen as the mothers added spice and sauce to Bubby's "homemade" cooking. They ignored the torn wrapping from Solly's Deli sticking out from the garbage can.

"OK." Bubby exhaled as she pulled Julianna by the elbow. "OK," she said again, as if the word could somehow become reality if said enough times. The mothers scurried to their seats on either side of the head of the table, book-marking their exasperated mother. Julianna shared centre stage as Bubby began to mumble, waving her hands over the now-lit candles. The narrow space didn't allow for Julianna to reach above the flames so she mirrored the actions on the side. As the third wave was completed, she had just enough time to see one brother motion the other towards a blue cellphone glow streaming from under the white tablecloth before she covered her eyes.

The prayer wasn't long – 14 Hebrew words that theoretically had the power to raise the lighting of the candles to religious tradition instead of house-warming ritual. As Bubby mumbled, Julianna let her mind race through memories of holidays, birthdays, power-outages when the whole family sat by candlelight to complete a 1,000-piece Ninja Turtles puzzle.... With every word, a new candle-memory glowed in her mind as if old flames could be reignited from the ones that now burned. Then, in an instant, an off-key chorus of "Amen" broke through her reverie. The memories blew out and Julianna was released to the other end of the table.

•••

Daniel made his way to Julianna's abandoned spot. He maneuvered his 5'10" frame awkwardly between the seats in the small dining area that was never intended to seat 10. As he neared Bubby, he had to jostle the 11th chair, which now sat by the wall but was careful to return it to its place just outside the dining table's perimeter... close but not quite there.

Daniel reached for the bottle of wine, carefully pouring into the gaudy silver cup sitting before him. A series of crude sculpted out characters were supposed to depict the exodus from Egypt. Eliyahu's seder glass symbolized the sharing of tradition with those not present but who were always welcome. Not entirely convinced that Bubby's mistake was an error, Daniel didn't have the heart to switch to a regular cup.

As the red liquid rose to the rim, he could feel his mother and aunt communicate silently on either side of him. Thoughts literally passed over Bubby's head as she haphazardly flipped through the siddur looking for the Kaddish. She fruitlessly searched in the Shacharit section. She was not the one who was supposed to be in charge of Kaddish. It didn't matter though. Her search was unnecessary. Daniel had committed the passage to memory years ago through the osmosis of Jewish schooling. He could recite the words without thought. And for tonight, that would have to be the case. He wasn't ready for active thought. He gently stole the book from Bubby, allowing her a chance to wipe tears that had slipped out as he flipped to the right section of the siddur. Eight glasses raised in tandem with his as Daniel began the prayer. Only Bubby's glass sat idly on the table as he recited the short paragraphs expressing gratitude for Friday nights and for wine. No one at the table had to be religious to agree with the message.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TRIPLAST
ARCHITECTURAL KITCHENS
Freda
Paula
Alan & Bethany,
Brooke and Andi
Sheldon & Susan,
Samantha and Sydney
Wish all their clients, relatives and friends a Happy Passover

Lampert
LAMPERT GROUP OF COMPANIES
Lampert Plumbing Systems Inc.
Lampert Renovations Ltd.
Lampert Bath Liners Plus Ltd.
wishes our customers & friends a
HAPPY PASSOVER
www.bathliners.ca · www.lampertplumbing.com
www.lampertrenovations.com
119 Miranda Avenue 416-787-5285

We love to make you *smile!*
in Thornhill
Dr. Alvin Sher & Dr. Solly Wainberg
905-764-7977
www.CentreStreetDental.com
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & HEALTHY PASSOVER

LAND ROVER JAGUAR THORNHILL
Call me for all your
LAND ROVER JAGUAR INQUIRIES
905.889.0080 x 16248
Cell: 416.948.4118
Happy & Healthy Passover to all my customers & friends
tali@landroverthornhill.ca
THOMAS (MINUK) ALI

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Daniel chanted the last words and raised the strangely heavy glass to his lips. Out of the corner of his eye, he could see his mother nudge a glass towards Bubby and mouth "sip". He took a swig, careful that all dribbles landed on the white tablecloth instead of his white shirt. Daniel then placed the silver cup beside Bubby's, right where his mother had left it.

•••

Kevin gulped down a full glass of wine as he pushed his phone just far enough out of his pocket to see that the cute girl he had met the day before virtually, laughed out loud at his sardonic description of the pomp and circumstance surrounding the first Shabbat dinner without their grandfather. He wasn't sure why everyone had made such a big deal about getting together that night. Looking around the table, everyone seemed the same as always. They were only making a big deal because they thought they should.

As Bubby motioned for the night to continue, Kevin grabbed the knife in front of him. By design, the kippah balanced precariously on the back of his head. He got surreptitious reassurance knowing it was there. Kevin let the tip of the knife pierce through the crust as he began to spit out words he had been reciting since he was

five years old. He rolled the "r"s in the back of his throat, imitating the distant memory of Hebrew teachers. He spoke effortlessly in the foreign language as he dwindled the loaf into 10 uniform pieces.

•••

Bubby sat quietly, watching her mishpachah. The cousins began the ritual of "take-one-and-pass-it-down". Kevin declined to partake in the ritualistic snack, eyes still glancing towards his phone. Julianna sipped her wine well past the third chorus of "Amens". Daniel awkwardly reversed his path to get back to his seat. The mothers delved further into their idiosyncratic Morse code, communicating in an intricate dance of eyebrows and lip purses. As she watched Shabbat unfold before her, Bubby could feel her husband's steel-blue eyes stare at her from the picture hanging on the wall. Those eyes told her to eat, told her to laugh, told her to smile. But she did not want to eat or laugh or smile. It wasn't right. Nothing was right.

Suddenly she couldn't take it. Her mind raced with a million reasons why she couldn't be there, sitting alone at the head of the table. She imagined her daughters' inevitable arguments about her having to eat with everyone but she didn't care. She just couldn't stay there any longer. Bubby stood up. Entranced in her conviction to prepare her rebuttals, she hardly noticed when hot gravy started rolling down her back. Slowly the crash of plates on the floating floors of her apartment began to echo in her distracted ears. Bubby blinked, allowing her eyes to focus on Julianna and the mothers crawling under the table in an attempt to scoop the now floor-tenderized chicken back into the pot. The boys, young and old, watched from their seats as they teased the clumsy women for the careless traffic. Bubby scratched at a bubbly wet spot on the back of her neck, bringing forward chunks of gravy between her fingers. The slimy feeling made her instinctively shake out her hands, spraying brown gravy over the preserved image of Zaidy's pristine mustache.

She fell back in her chair and laughed. As the girls got rid of the evidence and the boys poured more wine, Bubby laughed. Then she ate a slice of bread. ■

GC SF
Green • Chencinski • Starkman • Eles LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Extends best wishes to our Clients and Friends for a Happy and Healthy Passover
4950 Yonge Street, Suite 1906, Toronto, Ontario M2N 6K1
416-512-6000

The partners of
Starkman, Salsberg & Feldberg
Chartered Accountants
Lorne Cappell Barry Feldberg Martin Togman
Wish all their clients and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy Passover
1600 Steeles Avenue West, Suite 316
Concord, Ontario L4K 4M2
Telephone: 905-669-9900 Fax: 905-669-9901
e-mail: ssf-ca@starkmansalsbergfeldberg.com

Barry Rapps and Howard Ipp
of
UNITED MESSENGERS LTD.
Rush Couriers
Extend their Best Wishes to their clients and friends for a Happy and Healthy Passover
270 Drumlin Circle
Concord, Ontario L4K 3E2 905-738-6447
www.unitedmessengers.com
email: rapps@unitedmessengers.com

Sterling Silver
development corporation
Wishing all of our clients and friends a Happy Passover
STERLING KARAMAR
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
53 The Links Road, Toronto, ON M2P 1T7 • 416-256-4434

Lady York Foods
FRESHNESS, QUALITY, SELECTION.
Wishing our Customers and Friends a Happy Passover
WE HAVE A LARGE SELECTION OF PRODUCTS FOR PASSOVER
2939 DUFFERIN STREET 416.781.8585

SPONSOR CONTENT

Happy Passover From Uber Toronto

Uber

As Jewish families gather together for the Passover holiday, we at Uber would like to tell more about our company that can possibly assist families like yours.

Uber and ridesharing has become a part of everyday life in our city and is being used by people in over 400 cities worldwide, including in over 40 municipalities across Canada. In Toronto, it is changing the way we move around our cities by providing safe, reliable, affordable rides from downtown Toronto to Thornhill Woods.

Our mission is to make transportation as reliable as running water, for everyone, everywhere. That's why we recently launched uberASSIST, a door-to-door service that helps those with disabilities enter and exit the vehicle, and get around town. In fact, you can use it if you're stuck out and about, but your aging parent needs an extra hand getting to an appointment.

Ridesharing is beginning to address the issue of congestion, which is an issue here in the GTA. Uber is doing this with uberPOOL, allowing people to share rides with their fellow residents heading in the same direction at a great discount.

Ridesharing is also leveraging technology to improve safety, too. For example, every trip has live live GPS monitoring, and you can share your ride in real time with your loved ones, meaning you're never alone and. And, because of its reliability, Uber's entry into a community has been shown to reduce DUI rates by offering people a smarter alternative to getting behind the wheel while impaired.

Last, but certainly not least, Uber offers flexible economic opportunities for those that choose to be a ridesharing driver partner, even if for only a few hours a week. This includes: the retiree that is worried about make ends meet on a fixed income and needs a flexible job a few days a week, the single mom who needs to juggle raising her kids with putting food on the table, or the mensch who's simply saving up for an engagement ring for his beloved.

We are proud to be part of a country with such a strong and devoted Jewish communities. We want to wish you all a Pesach filled with happiness. Chag Samayach!

"Ridesharing gives me an accessible ride."

Dawn
uberASSIST rider

Ask Councillors Pasternak and Mihevc. to vote for ridesharing on May 3.

SupportUberTO.com
#TO4Uber

UBER

חג שמח

A Chag Kasher v'Sameach from our family to yours.

For 90 years, we've developed close meaningful relationships with our clients, both as their trusted advisors and as members of our family. It's more than a service; it's about our fundamental values.

RICHTER 90
DEPUIS·SINCE 1926

richter.ca

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

APRIL 28, 2016 • NISSAN 20, 5776

$2.00 • 48 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Finding flaws in Canada's new assisted dying bill

Jewish groups, clergy worry about implications of PAD legislation. **PAGE 12**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GREAT THEATRE

Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company: Celebrating 10 Years
Coming May 5

Passover

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	7:59 p.m.	9:07 p.m.
Montreal	7:41 p.m.	8:50 p.m.
Ottawa	7:49 p.m.	8:59 p.m.
Toronto	8:00 p.m.	9:07 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:26 p.m.	9:42 p.m.
Calgary	8:38 p.m.	9:56 p.m.
Vancouver	8:09 p.m.	9:24 p.m.

The NDP's leap of faith

Tom Mulcair is on the way out, and the New Democrats are considering a more leftward turn. What might that mean when it comes to supporting Israel? **PAGE 8**

Why grandparents should pay tuition

OPINION: As day school fees escalate, families need all the help they can get. **PAGE 10**

One on one with Vivian Bercovici

Q&A: Ottawa's ambassador to Israel says Canada has much to learn from Jewish state. **PAGE 46**

Thinking about next year's seders

You did it wrong this Pesach, but YidLife can help you get it right in 2017. **PAGE 36**

RSC ROALD DAHL Matilda THE MUSICAL
TICKETS NOW ON SALE
BEGINS JULY 5
416.872.1212 mirvish.com

Ex-cook pretends to be a rabbi, and is marijuana kosher for Pesach?

The rabbi who was actually Catholic

A man who claimed to be a rabbi from Israel and served a Polish Jewish community for several years, but turned out to be a Catholic ex-cook, has disappeared. "Jacoob Ben Nistell," a.k.a., Yaakav, claimed he was from Haifa and served the Jews of Poznan, but admitted earlier this month he's not a rabbi. A reporter found out that his name is actually Jacek Niszczota and he's from north-central Poland. The head of Poznan's Jewish community says he never questioned the identity of Niszczota, who sported a beard and payot and said he learned Jewish and Hebrew prayer by listening to Israeli radio. The community started asking questions after seeing Niszczota on TV in ecumenical services with Catholic and Muslim clergy.

Actresses die on same day

Ronit Elkabetz, a three-time winner of Israel's version of the Oscars, died April 18 of cancer at 51. Elkabetz won Ophir Awards for her acting in *Sh'Chur*, *Late Marriage* and *The Band's Visit*. Israeli Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev called her death "a huge loss for the film world and for Israeli culture." Since 2012, she'd served as head of Achoti, a Mizrachi feminist group. Meanwhile, also on April 18, Doris Roberts, the actress of Russian-Jewish descent who won four Emmys as the meddling mother Marie Barone on the hit CBS sitcom *Everybody Loves Raymond*, died in her sleep at age 90.

Ronit Elkabetz

Doris Roberts

High holidays?

A leading haredi rabbi in Israel has ruled that marijuana is kosher for Passover and users can eat or smoke it on the holiday, the *Times of Israel* reported April 19. Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky of Bnei Brak explained that the plant, which is normally considered kitniyot, or a form of legume not permitted on Passover, is halachically OK when used for medical purposes. When presented with several leaves of the plant, the rabbi, a leading halachic authority, was convinced right away – he said the leaves had a "healing smell" and blessed them. He was responding to a request for a halachic ruling from the pro-marijuana group Sian. Another Israeli rabbi, Efraim Zalmanovich, ruled medical marijuana kosher in 2013. ■

Gematria

1st

A Likud ad from Israel's 2015 election that depicted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a surprise babysitter – or "Bibi-sitter" – won a Pollie Award from the American Association of Political Consultants for best political campaign.

4

The number of American studies professors who filed suit last week against the American Studies Association over its 2013 academic boycott of Israel.

Quotable

"

Nobody from our community ever said a word about anti-Semitism in this debate. It was Mr. Searle who introduced this concept.

— Chabad's Rabbi Yisroel Bernath on the charge he's slurring opponents of his shul's plan to buy its Montreal building. See p. 25.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	31	Parshah	43
Perspectives	7	News	12	What's New	40	Q&A	46
Cover Story	8	International	27	Social Scene	42	Backstory	47

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG *Monuments*

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a **no-pressure, non-commissioned** sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein
Certified Financial Planner
416-221-0060
Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Support Jewish radio

The article "Radio Shalom goes off the air," (April 14) quotes Stanley Asher who said, "If [New York], a city with a Jewish population of three million, can't support Jewish radio, it's hard to imagine Montreal could."

The Haitian population of Montreal is approximately 86,000. The Haitians have a 24-hour radio station supported by their community. We have a population of about 89,000. Where is our support?

Chaim Tzvi Tanny
Montreal

In defence of B'Tselem

The serious question that should be raised is the slander against groups like B'Tselem ("Hebron shooting raises serious questions," April 7).

B'Tselem is an organization with huge regard among those for whom human rights provide a nation's moral legitimacy.

While the occupation continues like a Leviathan that keeps dispossessing, growing and crushing the rights of the occupied, does one expect Palestinians to fall to their knees in acquiescence?

Being an occupation army is a dirty business. This does not absolve the occupier from the application of the values that are inherent in both democracy and Judaism. B'Tselem is part of the conscience which may provide Israel with a moral legitimacy that many of its current political and military activities lack.

There is absolutely no case for stating "that while the motivation and reporting of B'Tselem may be questionable" unless one wishes to further diminish Israel's claim to adherence to laws of morality and justice.

The stellar commitment of groups like B'Tselem, the New Israel Fund and Breaking the Silence are the slender threads through which many claim to be Zionists. In the absence of civil and human rights, can a nation be clothed with the cloak of legitimacy?

Brian Rothberg
Perth, Ont.

The courage of Rabbi Cardozo

As a former student of Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo, who took a weekly class with him for a year and who was a guest at his Shabbat table, I can assure you that he is certainly not timid, neither intellectually nor religiously ("A timid hero," April 7).

He may have his differences with the Orthodox establishment, but that does not conflict with his identity as a proud and devout Orthodox Jew. He is strong enough to stand tall without the need to bend to others with whom he has theological disagreements. And he is respected by, and an influence on, many people.

Therefore what you term timidity is in fact, the very opposite. It is the determination to stand by what he believes in. He doesn't need the approval, or fellowship, of the Reform or Conservative establishment.

Tamar Wisemon
Submitted to cjnews.com

Debate can be too wide

Thanks Mira Sucharov for hosting the debate between Peter Larson and myself. While I believe that dialogue is better than the alternative, I want to make sure that everyone understands that I don't endorse the central point of your article, "It's time to widen the debate on Israel and Palestine," (March 24).

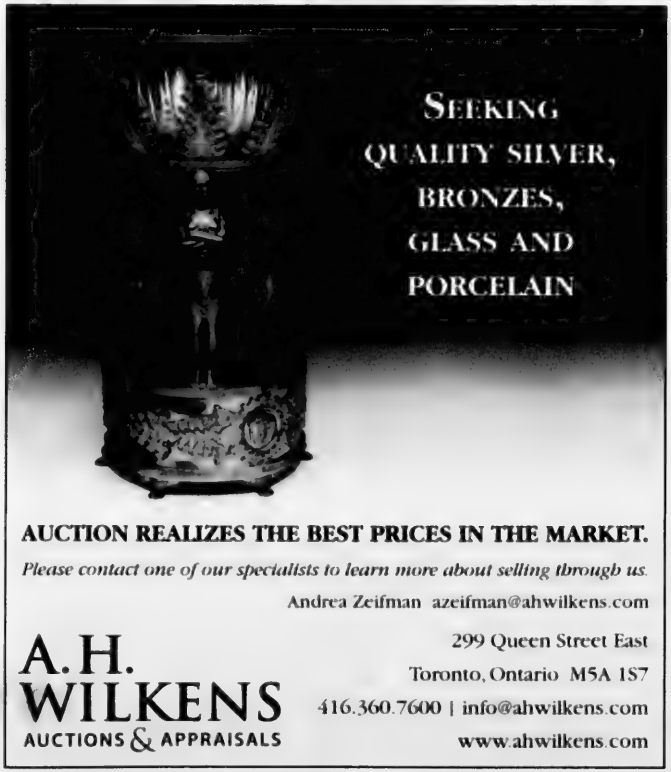
For me, the advocates of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS) must be confronted, as they seem to be gaining traction in the broader non-Jewish community, but I am not persuaded that the Jewish community itself will benefit from such discussions.

The Jewish community needs hasbarah education to ensure that we know how to refute the kind of arguments that are being put out by so-called anti-Zionists. It doesn't need to host debates in which these ideas are treated as respectable.

Comparison of Israeli governance to apartheid is libellous and fundamentally hateful. People who claim Israel is an apartheid state are violating a fundamental tenet of community. They are working actively to harm their fellow Jews, namely the people of Israel and the captured territories. I personally believe that we should hold that line firmly and support the current restrictions on who can appear at events sponsored by federations and by Hillel.

David Roytenberg
Ottawa

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



ISRAEL 2016
SPECIAL
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM $308
(plus taxes $690)
Apr 3 – Sep 27
Valid for specific dates only & subject to availability
COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES
BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com
Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child FREE*
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air
Summer | Winter Break
July 03-14 | Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 – Aug. 04 | March Break
Aug. 07-18 | Mar. 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 – Sep. 01
Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345
ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony
25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency
NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663
tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to keep costs down."

The expense of a funeral wasn't something we had anticipated. So when we needed to plan a service, we went to Hebrew Basic Burial. They took care of everything, giving us a Jewish graveside service that was the lowest cost in the city.*

* as per current costs in the GTA

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI·2·RABBI

Thinking about the Messiah

Was the re-establishment of a Jewish state spiritually audacious, or was it a profoundly religious act by secular visionaries who saw an opportunity and took it?

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Finegold: There is an interesting chassidic custom of celebrating the final meal of Pesach as a *Seudat Mashiach*, a meal dedicated to contemplating and actively working to bring the Messiah. Despite my rationalist, non-chassidic tendencies, I always try and organize one with some friends if I cannot attend a larger gathering. I find that, in the waning hours of a holiday that is rooted in history, focusing on the future helps to actualize all I have been thinking about over the past eight days.

In traditional thought, there are many different opinions as to who the Messiah is and what the messianic era will usher in. These predictions tend to be very specific and speak of someone arriving on a white donkey to bring about world peace and global acknowledgement of the Jewish God. By contrast, Maimonides, the paragon of rationalist thought, speaks of a more generalized era of peace and coexistence. This approach tends to resonate with me.

How do you approach the idea of the Messiah? And do you think that we are in the process of fulfilling the promise of "*Leshanah haba'a b'Yerushalayim*" ("next year in Jerusalem") by promoting the Zionist idea, or is that phrase really just about the final redemption?

Rabbi Scheim: The legendary Israeli comedy trio HaGashash HaHiver imagined an encounter between the newly arrived Mashiach and the chief rabbis of Israel. The rabbis, terrified at the negative impact on their fundraising and political achievements, beg the Messiah to leave, suggesting that he return in 100 years, attempting to convince him that "the end of days" has not yet arrived.

The Gashashim touched upon your profound question. Do we really want, in a literal sense, a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, with animal sacrifice and the like, or do we view the structure of Jewish prayer, modelled on the ancient sacrificial timetable, as a step forward in our people's spiritual development?

As for "next year in Jerusalem," it may have end-of-days implications, but I believe that these words serve a dual purpose: they affirm our connection with the continuum of Jewish yearning for a better tomorrow, while also recognizing the spiritual audacity of our pre-empting the Mashiach's arrival in our re-establishment of a Jewish state.

Rabbi Finegold: I do not think it is audacious or pre-emptive. I think that a better tomorrow begins with a better today.

The *Seudat Mashiach* occurs at the very end of the holiday, in the liminal space between Pesach and a regular day. Most people choose to just wait out the holiday for another hour and then go out and buy a dozen cheese bagels. But the chassid sees the liminal space as one final opportunity to do a mitzvah and change their internal state, to become closer to God. This kind of practice does not just usher in the redemption, it is the redemption itself.

If Passover is just a time to remember and wait for the future, then the potential has been squandered. That is why the establishment of a Jewish state is not audacious. It was the work of those visionaries who saw the opportunity for what it was and established the future in our time. Nevertheless, I still follow your lead and say "Next year in Jerusalem," to remind all those listening that there is still work to do.

Rabbi Scheim: I suspect that there are few in the chassidic or haredi world who would accept your (or my) theological understanding of the establishment of the State of Israel. Yet, it is remarkable that those who made aliyah to pre-state Israel, who were largely secular, would become the inheritors and transmitters of a deeply religious vision of a return to Zion.

Avraham Shlonsky, the renowned Hebrew poet who travelled far from his chassidic roots after he made aliyah, worked in construction and road-paving. In his poem *Amal* (*Toil*), Shlonsky described Israel as a tallit, its newly constructed houses as the *batim*, the boxes of *tfillin*, and the roads that he paved as *retzuot*, the tfillin straps.

The Zionist transformation, even when enacted by secular Jews, was a profoundly religious act. Like the *Seudat Mashiach* that you describe, it joined "next year" and this year into an unbreakable bond. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 17 (2,243)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Postmaster: Please return 29Bs and changes of address to: CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

If you have been injured in a car accident, choosing the right lawyer is one of the most important decisions you will need to make.

2015 16 TOP 10 PERSONAL INJURY BOUTIQUE Canadian Lawyer

At Bogoroch & Associates LLP, we understand what is important to you and your family: obtaining the compensation you deserve in a timely manner. That is what made us one of Ontario's leading personal injury firms.

Ongoing communication is part of who we are. You can be certain that any questions or concerns will be promptly dealt with – within 24 hours or less. Whether meeting you face to face, speaking on the phone, or communicating by email, keeping you **informed** and up-to-date about your case is our **priority.**

By choosing Bogoroch & Associates LLP, you can be certain your case will be handled **efficiently, effectively** and with **compassion**. We would be pleased to arrange a visit at our Toronto office, or to meet with you in your own home. We provide free consultations and we only get paid when we settle your case.

To learn about us and our over 30 years of experience, please visit our website to read and view our testimonials.

We would be honoured to act on your behalf.

For further information please contact: Richard Bogoroch – Managing Partner at 416-341-5600
Heidi Brown – Partner at 416-341-5603
Yoni Silberman – Partner at 416-341-5613

Bogoroch & Associates LLP is honoured to be selected by Canadian Lawyer Magazine as one of the top 10 Personal Injury Law Firms in Canada.

BOGOROCH & ASSOCIATES LLP
LAWYERS

Dedicated to improving the lives of injured victims and their families.

personal injury litigation • medical malpractice litigation • slip and fall litigation • products liability litigation • disability claims litigation

Toll free: **1.866.599.1700** Tel: **416.599.1700** Email: **info@bogoroch.com** Web:**bogoroch.com**

Bogoroch & Associates LLP, Lawyers — Sun Life Financial Tower, 150 King Street W. Suite 1901, Toronto, ON M5H 1J9

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Feinstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Schewe, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Gula's Matzah

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

The opening of the Gula's Matzah Factory in 1948 on Queen Street West in Toronto, just west of Dufferin Street. It was operated by Hershcel Gula, who immigrated from Poland in 1907.

SeeJN | Teens do tzedakah

From left, Yael Meyer, Shira Goodman and Jonny Braun assemble craft kits for children in hospitals around the world. They were among 500 Toronto-area teens who took part April 17 in J-Serve, a worldwide tzedakah initiative involving 12,000 young people in more than 100 communities in North America, Europe and Israel. J-Serve Toronto was hosted by BBYO Ontario and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and held at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's south campus.

From Yoni's Desk

Getting the facts wrong about anti-Semitism in Canada

In an essay for the *Huffington Post* last week, writer/activist Yves Engler had the temerity to suggest that "anti-Semitism may be the most abused term in Canada today."

Engler opens by attempting to explain away pro-Hamas demonstrations at l'Université du Québec à Montréal and anti-Semitism at Concordia University, as well as York University's mural controversy and its student government's divestment campaign. This is, by the way, the same Yves Engler who was dismissed from his role as vice-president of the Concordia student union for his part in the infamous 2002 riot that forced the cancellation of a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu. In what could be a nod to his university days, Engler contends that the term anti-Semitism "is now primarily invoked to uphold Jewish/white privilege."

Then he really goes off the rails.

"Despite widespread discussion of 'anti-Semitism,' there is little discussion of Canadian Jewry's actual place in Canadian society," he continues. "Among elite business, political and professional circles Jewish representation far surpasses their slim 1.3 per cent of the Canadian population. Studies demonstrate that Canadian Jews are more likely than the general population to hold a bachelor's degree, earn above $75,000, or be part of the billionaire class." Is the implication that anti-Semitism must not be a problem since Canadian Jews are rich? If so, he might be interested to learn that poverty is on the rise in the Canadian Jewish community (see page 13).

Engler also notes "while Canadian Jews faced discriminatory property, university and immigration restrictions into the 1950s, even the history of structural anti-Jewish prejudice should be put into proper context. Blacks, Japanese and other people of colour (not to mention indigenous peoples) have been subjected to far worse structural racism and abuse."

There's more. "Prejudice against Arabs and Muslims appears rampant in the Jewish community," he claims, though he cites no statistical evidence to back it up, and the many contributions of the Jewish community toward Syrian refugees contradict his argument. Engler also disapproves of Jewish day schools and Jewish-majority neighbourhoods – "cloistering children by ethnicity/religion," he calls it. (He even takes *The CJN* to task for calling Jews the "Chosen People.")

"Inward looking and affluent," he adds, "the Jewish community is quick to claim victimhood," before ending with an ominous warning: "Without an intervention of some sort, the Jewish community risks having future dictionaries defining 'anti-Semitism' as 'a movement for justice and equality.'"

Inconveniently for Engler, the facts belie his position. Last month, Toronto Police released a report on hate crimes in the city during 2015, and for the 10th year in a row, Jews topped the list of most targeted communities. Meanwhile, in Montreal, there has been a spate of swastika and neo-Nazi graffiti recently. And in Vancouver, a man was found guilty of promoting Jew-hatred online less than six months ago.

Perhaps Engler might have come to a different conclusion had he accurately researched the Jewish community before publishing his essay. At this point, it's probably too late for that, but it would behoove Engler to take a close look at something else – himself, in a mirror. The facts suggest he has seriously misjudged the state of anti-Semitism in Canada today. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

Let's remember Israel's refugees from Sudan and Eritrea

Maya Fennig

This year, I am celebrating my first Passover in Canada, far away from my family and friends in Israel. While observing the holiday away from home will not be easy, it allows me to reflect on the story of Passover and its meaning.

Pesach is, after all, the movement of the Israelites from Galut, exile, to freedom in the land of Israel. This reality transforms the story of Passover from a simple and miraculous tale of the Jewish People's delivery from slavery to a contemporary and universal lesson.

Eight months ago, I was accepted to the prestigious Jeanne Sauvé fellowship and decided it was an opportunity I just couldn't pass up. I left the beaches of sunny Tel Aviv and moved to a house in Montreal, where I currently live and work with 11 other activists from around the world. Every morning, I prepare my French homework with my Bosnian roommate, debate current affairs with a political consultant from Romania, attend public speaking workshops with a communications expert from Yellowknife, and finish the day with a heated debate on interculturalism in Montreal accompanied by a spicy curry dish made by a grassroots Nepali activist. The days are never dull, to say the least.

We have been collaborating on a team project devoted to the timely issue of refugee integration within Montreal. My eyes have been opened to the generosity and goodwill of the Canadian people, particularly the Jewish community. I have learned about several synagogues and their members who have been organizing to help sponsor and support Syrian refugees, and that prominent institutions, such as the Jewish Holocaust Museum, are raising awareness of their plight. The community's genuine concern for people that they have little in common with, apart from a shared humanity, has been truly inspiring.

African migrants protest outside Holot detention centre in the Negev Desert, southern Israel in 2014. FLASH90 PHOTO

However, while the Syrian crisis has captured Canadian public attention, voices speaking out about other refugee situations are muffled. As a social worker and activist working with refugees in Israel for over nine years, I was shocked that only a handful of people I've met have heard about African refugees currently residing in Israel. My friend Adam lost his family when his village in Sudan was burned down by Arab Janjweed militias. In Eritrea, my friend Tesfay was subjected to brutal torture after refusing to comply with the totalitarian regime's policy of lifelong military draft. Both fled to Israel in search of a safe haven, only to find themselves in a country that doesn't want them. These are just two of many, many similar stories.

In Israel, 50,000 refugees from Sudan and Eritrea are currently stuck in a legal limbo – granted protection from deportation but denied the most basic human rights. They can't access health care, social services, or formal work permits, let alone any opportunity to participate meaningfully in Israeli society. And these are the lucky ones.

Thousands of others are detained at a detention centre located in the desert. This is one of the most controversial parts of Israel's management of African asylum seekers. The plan appears to be to make their lives so unbearable, so unimaginably miserable, that they will "voluntarily" return to Africa.

The situation of refugees in Israel is intolerable. "How can I decide between dying slow psychological death in a desert prison or to return home and risk torture and death? I'm not a criminal," my refugee friends ask me. I look into their eyes and I am speechless.

Israel, my country, was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, built by refugees and immigrants searching for a safe haven. It is now failing to protect the people who seek shelter within its borders. Israel was one of the first signatories to the United Nations convention on refugees, which provided international protections to European refugees following World War II. Israel, therefore, is both legally and morally bound to protect refugees.

As I prepare to celebrate Passover with my international group of friends, I am determined not to forget my Jewish heritage as well as the refugees who are close to my heart. After all, the Exodus narrative is not just about the suffering and flight of the Jews – it delivers a universal message about the Jewish commitment to human rights and refugee protection. Indeed, the Torah restates no less than 36 times versions of the commandment to love the stranger as ourselves, for we know the heart of a stranger, as we were once strangers in the land of Egypt.

So this year, as we celebrate Passover with our family and friends, I urge us all to think of our neighbours from Eritrea and Sudan who have survived the perilous journey through the Sinai Desert only to cross the border to Israel and find themselves in a detention centre on the other side. ■

Maya Fennig is a Jeanne Sauve Fellow and PhD candidate at McGill University in Montreal.

Women in Judaism: A Pioneer's Perspective

Sally J. Priesand

America's First Female Rabbi

Scholar in Residence

Reflections on my Life as a Rabbi

Why I am a Reform Jew

Remembering Rabbi Regina Jonas (the world's first female rabbi)

Friday, May 6 & Saturday, May 7

Kol Ami, 36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill

For more information visit kolami.ca or call 905 709 2620.

After Mulcair, what's next for the NDP?

As the New Democrats leap leftward, questions linger about what that might mean when it comes to supporting Israel

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Thomas Mulcair may have been ignominiously rejected as leader of the federal New Democratic Party, but he's being fondly remembered in the Jewish community for his support for Israel and ensuring that the party remained a welcoming place for Jews.

Mulcair, who will remain party leader until a replacement is named, lost a confidence vote at the party's recent convention in Edmonton. Party members were angry that his tack to the centre of the Canadian political spectrum led to the party getting walloped at the polls, and many withdrew their support.

Meanwhile, the left wing of the party stole the spotlight in Edmonton, introducing the Leap Manifesto, aimed at moving the country away from the use of fossil fuels.

Prominent proponents of Leap include the husband-and-wife team of Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein, both vocal critics of Israel, with Klein, a best-selling author, advocating boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) and labelling Israel an apartheid state. Lewis, whose father, Stephen, served as Ontario NDP leader and whose late grandfather, David, was once the party's national leader, has been touted by some as a potential leadership candidate to succeed Mulcair.

Whether the New Democrats go down the road laid out by Klein and Lewis remains to be seen. But last week, observers lauded Mulcair as an important figure in Canadian political history.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the community's primary advocacy organization, recalled Mulcair as "a consistent and unconditional friend to the Jewish community in Canada and their concerns on the advocacy agenda.

"He has maintained and even strengthened the process through which Jack Layton sought to bring the NDP into the consensus on the Middle East and Israel," Fogel said. He was "determined to show that the NDP was a welcome place for the Jewish and pro-Israel community."

Mulcair also lent his support to issues such as Holocaust remembrance and countering terrorism, and he maintained "a full and meaningful relationship" with Jewish community advocates, he added.

Tom Mulcair

> *[Mulcair] was determined to show that the NDP was a welcome place for the Jewish and pro-Israel community*
>
> **Shimon Fogel, CEO of CIJA**

In June 2010, Mulcair refused to agree with critics of Israel's blockade of Gaza or agree with claims of some in the NDP that Israel is an apartheid state.

Around the same time, Mulcair slammed NDP MP Libby Davies for her position on BDS: "To say that you're personally in favour of boycott, divestment and sanctions for the only democracy in the Middle East is, as far as I'm concerned, grossly unacceptable."

However, during the Feb. 22 parliamentary debate on a Conservative motion to reject BDS, Mulcair and the rest of the NDP, citing free speech concerns, voted against it.

Myer Siemiatycki, a professor in the department of politics and public administration at Ryerson University, believes "history is going to be kind to Mr. Mulcair."

Mulcair continued Layton's success in Quebec, demonstrating "it wasn't just a flash in the pan. He helped establish the NDP as a going concern in Quebec."

Of notable impact for Jews was that Mulcair "added to the pantheon of significant political figures who have made a breakthrough for the Jewish community in Canada," Siemiatycki said.

He is the first leader of the Opposition who has Jewish children, Siemiatycki noted, referring to Mulcair's Jewish wife, Catherine Pinhas, and their family.

His family never became an issue in the campaign. "That tells you something about the integration of Jews in the Canadian political system," said Siemiatycki, who holds the Jack Layton Chair at Ryerson, which was established in 2012 in honour of the late NDP leader's contribution to public service.

University of Toronto professor Nelson Wiseman also noted that Mulcair is married to a Jew and pointed out that the party's position on Israel did not vary much from the one adopted under Layton and previous leaders going back to Audrey McLaughlin.

As for concerns that with Mulcair's departure and the high profile assumed by proponents of the Leap Manifesto that the party might swing to a position critical of Israel, Wiseman disagreed. The party continues to support a two-state solution. However, he added, there's been a shift in public opinion in Canada over the years. "There isn't the same resolute support of Israel in the broader public as in the 1960s and 1970s," he said.

Young people in particular now increasingly see Israel as a powerful domineering state, he said.

Nevertheless, Wiseman said, the Middle East did not come up at the recent Edmonton conference and isn't mentioned at all in the Leap Manifesto.

As for suggestions the party might turn to Lewis as a potential leader, Wiseman again disagreed. He pointed to a recent Mainstreet Research poll for Postmedia in which 598 party members named Alberta Premier Rachel Notley, who has defended the oil industry and dismissed the Leap Manifesto "in the most derogatory terms," as having the highest favourability ratings among prominent party figures.

Eleven per cent of the New Democrats polled said they would support Lewis as party leader, even though he has said he has no interest in the job.

Wiseman said he doesn't believe discussions about Leap will amount to anything and that Lewis is not a viable leadership candidate. "Do you think Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein are going to win in Quebec?" he asked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Allan Newman,
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor
Greg Newman,
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
HELPING OUR CLIENTS
PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH
We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca
416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com
The Newman Group
ScotiaMcLeod®
® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod
ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI"). SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

UJA'S

Sunday, May 29

RUN with Israel

yogen früz

runwithisrael.com

$50 REGISTRATION UNTIL MAY 1

Race Kit Includes:

- Technical Run T-shirt
- Personalized race bib
- Timing chip for certified route
- Finisher medal
- Amazing swag
- Post race snacks and refreshments
- Access to family friendly festival after the Run

Visit **runwithisrael.com** and find out more about UJA's 8K Run.

M MIZRAHI DEVELOPMENTS

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

UJA's RUN with ISRAEL

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

Grandparents should help out with day school tuition

Jeffrey Stutz

As a grandparent, I feel I have a stake in the success of Toronto's Jewish day schools.

Grandparents have been helping their children pay day school tuition for years. What has changed is that the burden of tuition fees for middle income families has escalated dramatically in the last 10 years. To find out whether grandparents are doing more now, I spoke to a few, as well as to fundraising staff at Toronto day schools.

While some grandparents give their children money for tuition, others pay directly to the school. Alice (not her real name) pays 90 per cent of the tuition for three grandchildren who attend Jewish day schools in Toronto. Her children have not applied for tuition subsidies, because they think they would not qualify. Despite that, Alice says that they would find it "a considerable hardship" to pay current tuition fees on top of the high cost of housing and child care. "The parents are the generation that can least afford it, so we have to share the burden," Alice says.

Donna, a grandparent of modest means, told me why she contributes toward her grandchildren's tuition. "If I had one grandchild, I could do more," she said. "But I have five, and only three of them go to day schools. I can only give to one what I give to all." Still, she explains, "It's important to give what you can afford, even a symbolic amount. You're sending a message to your grandchildren that Jewish education is important."

How many grandparents contribute to day school tuition? Elysa Greisman, director of advancement at Associated Hebrew Schools, says it's a "sticky question," because Associated only knows about grandparents who pay tuition to the school. It doesn't track money that flows from grandparents to parents. Nevertheless, Greisman estimates that 20 to 25 per cent of students benefit from the support of grandparents.

> *It communicates to children and grandchildren that you value Jewish education*

Rhona Birenbaum, chief financial officer of the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Toronto's Jewish community high school, says that only a small proportion of students – less than five per cent – have tuition paid directly to the school by grandparents. TanenbaumCHAT issues charitable receipts to all parties who pay a portion of tuition. According to Birenbaum, there could be two, three or even four parties paying the tuition of a student.

Over the last three years, TanenbaumCHAT has been reaching out to grandparents. The school hosts an annual Grandparents Day, when grandparents attend a class with their grandchildren. Associated has a program to involve grandparents in the school, too.

Of course, grandparents helping pay for day school tuition is not a new phenomenon, nor will it solve the affordability problem. Even so, we should remember that our tradition regards Jewish education as the responsibility of the whole community. After all, Jews were the founders of free public education, going back 2,000 years.

As Alice says, "I'm able to look after my family, but that doesn't guarantee that the schools and the community in Toronto will continue to be strong. I'd really like to see the leadership of the community put down the money to ensure that future generations will have access to day school education."

In my view, grandparents should contribute what they can afford to day school tuition. At the end of the day, paying something toward day school tuition is more than a financial matter. It communicates to children and grandchildren that you value Jewish education. ■

Jeffrey Stutz is a member of Grassroots for Affordable Jewish Education.

Get out of town! (It might be all you can afford)

Daniel Held

I used to be told that 80 per cent of the Toronto Jewish community lived within five kilometres of Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue. Growing up, I was an outlier – I lived 11 kilometres away.

For decades, the community grew up the Bathurst corridor, with Jewish neighbourhoods moving farther and farther north. The 2001 census pointed to the astounding growth of the Thornhill Jewish community. By 2011, the locus of growth had shifted further north to Thornhill Woods, which grew by 614 per cent in the intervening decade.

Like much of North America's move to the suburbs, Jewish Toronto's northward migration has been driven in large part by real estate: newer houses on larger lots at lower prices. Over the last decade in particular, Toronto's housing market has exploded, with the cost of housing nearly doubling during this period. With household incomes virtually stagnant and a constant increase in the cost of living – especially the cost of Jewish living – the Toronto real estate market has made it more and more difficult to make ends meet.

Over the last few weeks, two initiatives caught my eye. The first was FrumCity, which aims to develop a new Jewish community in Innisfil, Ont. FrumCity's mission is "to offer a sustainable, affordable, growing frum lifestyle within a short commute to the GTA by facilitating Jewish community infrastructure" The organizers' plan is to develop momentum for a sizeable group of families to build a new, religious community together in Innisfil, 45 minutes north of Toronto, where housing is significantly less expensive.

The second was an open house hosted in Toronto by Think Hamilton, an initiative to grow the Jewish community in Hamilton. With a day school, synagogue, kosher food and less expensive housing, Hamilton, according to the group's website, is "built and ready."

Both initiatives urging people to leave Bathurst Street are innovative and address a pressing issue. Both, however, are mainly targeting Orthodox Jews, leaving behind too many in our community who struggle with similar challenges.

The non-Orthodox community is also starting to leave Bathurst Street. The 2011 National Household Survey demonstrates that the rate of Jewish population growth in Ontario cities such as Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Oshawa and Peterborough is far greater than the Toronto Jewish community. Unlike FrumCity and Think Hamilton, however, the growth in these areas is more often the result of happenstance than a planned Jewish community affordability and engagement strategy. The result of these moves, I fear, is also borne out in the demographics that indicate the intermarriage rate is far higher in these outlying communities than in the Bathurst corridor.

If we, as a community, are going to make headway on the issue of the affordability of Jewish life, we must factor in not only the cost of schools, camps, and synagogues, but also tackle the cost of housing in Jewish neighbourhoods.

FrumCity and Think Hamilton are two examples of creative thinking to solve the housing challenge. In many ways, the establishment of the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, which predated much of the housing development south of it in Thornhill Woods, was a similarly bold move to provide Jewish services in an emerging community.

To ensure the vibrancy of Jewish neighbourhoods – which is a key ingredient in Jewish continuity – other such initiatives are necessary. Ideas have been bandied about: seeding new communities along commuter train lines; collaborating with developers to create affordable housing – particularly for families – in Jewish neighbourhoods; or leveraging existing community land to develop appropriate housing stock. It's time for these and other ideas to take root and forge solutions.

For decades, our community has been strengthened by the Jewish character of the Bathurst corridor. Without interventions – for both the Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities – the Jewish community will become geographically dispersed and lose the reinforcing impact of Jewish neighbourhoods. ■

'Don't make me come down there'

Jean M. Gerber

Remember when you were on the way to the store on a hot day with no air conditioning in the car and three squabbling urchins in the back seat? Having reached the end of all that good advice from parenting books?

"Don't make me stop this car and come back there!"

Or "Would you like me to stop this car and have you walk to [hockey practice, Billy's house, Amy's party]?

That is the sense I get about the recent flap over Vancouver's invitation to Achinoam Nini (Noa) to appear at this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut gala. It's kid stuff.

First off: not every Yom Ha'atzmaut act in the past has rung the bell for me. Once we left the event after our eardrums had been assaulted by the latest Israeli band, whose name I mercifully forget. Obviously, they were a big hit with some, but I found their performance execrable.

But never mind. It was Israel Independence Day – for about 2,000 years, it was a day we thought would never come. *That* was the miracle, not the badass band.

Now we have a situation of a different kind. The left-leaning Noa has been called out as, well, an enemy of the people. At least our people. Falsely accused of support for the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, she was vilified not only in the press but also on social media – surely the latest twisted use of that otherwise important tool of modern communication, since neither press account nor social media frenzy was true.

While some leaped on the anti-Noa bandwagon, others came to her rescue. She went on singing and holding views about the dysfunction and flaws of the current Israeli government and various parties of that country. This can surely be no news to anyone inside or outside of Israel: that is, that there is a deep, deep divide in Israel over many issues of national identity and policy.

And why not? Surely the sign of a democracy is the extent to which alternate political views are tolerated.

As if to pile on irony after irony, no sooner had the Jewish National Fund pulled out its support for the Vancouver event than the Israeli Embassy and the Consulate of Israel (Toronto) affirmed their support for the celebration.

Hmmmm.

In this paper, Natan Sharansky, chair of the Jewish Agency, is quoted as writing: "In these turbulent days, when enemies on the outside strive to delegitimize Israel, there must be a place within for a broad range of views…" And he "often had the pleasure of enjoying Noa's outstanding voice and spectacular talent."

Playwright Tony Kushner, too, has raised organizational ire, given his extreme left-wing associations. Of course, I can't agree with everything he says about Israel and his association with an organization that supports the BDS movement.

But!

Kushner will talk about his art, not his politics. Noa is not going to speak, but to sing. Can't we just enjoy her talent and leave the gritting of teeth at home? Can't we acknowledge the vital issues – racism, AIDS – that Kushner raises with his art? Is this a sandbox or a community?

So, as my favourite professor (a.k.a. my husband) says, "What can we learn from this?"

We can learn that our little internal arguments are, after cold reflection, a bit silly. Why do children in a sandbox end up throwing sand at each other? When parted by anxious and apologetic parents, kids usually admit to having no idea how the fight started.

There is a wonderful magnet on our refrigerator. It says: "Don't make me come down there." And it's signed, *God*.

Well, hopefully this time, She or He will not have to intervene. Don't you think the Creator of our universe has better things to do than watch esteemed Jewish organizations snark at each other? I do. ■

Israelis cannot 'end the occupation' on their own

Paul Michaels

For many people earnestly committed, in the case of Israel, to the noble cause of social justice, there is today perhaps no greater misconception than believing that it's up to Israelis to "end the occupation."

Heard repeatedly, and often with heightened emotion, this call betrays a lack of historical awareness about steps Israel has taken in the not-too-distant past to try to achieve peace with the Palestinians, only to have those efforts rejected. It also betrays a profound naiveté about what is required in the first place to reach that goal.

It's essential to understand that "ending occupation" is not something Israel alone can do, nor is it required by what many advocates of Palestinian statehood claim, with reference to the United Nations, is stipulated in "international law." (Israel's 2005 unilateral withdrawal from Gaza does not change this fact.)

To appreciate why this is so, it's necessary to return to basics, which, unfortunately, have been largely forgotten. Following Israel's 1967 war of self-defence, the UN Security Council, in November of that year, passed Resolution 242 outlining a road map for a "just and lasting peace in the Middle East." At its core are two essential principles: Israel was called upon to withdraw its armed forces "from territories occupied in the recent conflict," but that withdrawal (the extent of which was undefined) was not to be unilateral but was premised on Arab states extending to Israel recognition of its "right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats or acts of force."

Moreover, 242 was clear that peace meant the "termination of all claims" – in short, the end of conflict.

Resolution 242 provides significant safeguards for Israel. As Abba Eban, Israel's brilliant and dovish former foreign minister and diplomat (who favoured a two-state solution before this idea gained traction), wrote in the early 1990s in a *New York Times* op-ed, 242 amounted to "legitimizing Israel's presence in the territories pending a peace agreement."

This resolution has been the bedrock of all Arab-Israeli (and, since the inception of the Oslo agreement in 1993, Palestinian-Israeli) peace-making. It's the basis upon which, in the 1979 peace agreement with Egypt, Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula. The same goes for territorial and other adjustments made between Jordan and Israel in their 1994 peace agreement.

During the Oslo process between Israel and the PLO, 242 was the basis for Israel's territorial withdrawal from parts of the West Bank. Further planned withdrawals were stymied when then-PLO chairman Yasser Arafat failed to live up to his part of the agreement to provide peace and security to Israel. Tragically, Arafat never made the transition from "revolutionary" leader to statesman and, following his rejection of the 2000 Camp David process, pursued violence and terrorism instead.

While the Oslo process didn't explicitly call for a two-state solution, that was the direction things were taking. This was the case with the Camp David and Taba talks in 2000 and 2001 and, eight years later, with the Annapolis talks involving Arafat's successor, Mahmoud Abbas, who also rejected a chance for Palestinian statehood. In both instances, the rejection was caused, not by the complicated but resolvable issue of Israeli settlements, but by the persistent Palestinian refusal (since the 1947 UN partition plan for Palestine calling for the creation of "Jewish" and "Arab" states) to recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish People.

In addition, the Palestinian insistence on the (non-existent) "right of return" to Israel of what are now millions of Palestinian refugees, thereby turning it into another Arab-majority state, means the letter and spirit of 242 – the termination of all claims for the sake of genuine peace – are violated.

Unless the Palestinians compromise along with the Israelis to bring about an "end the occupation," peaceful reconciliation will inevitably remain an unfulfilled vision. ■

Paul Michaels is research director at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

News

Jewish critics find flaws in assisted dying bill

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Rabbi Dan Moskovitz

Rabbi Michael Dolgin

The federal government's recent introduction of Bill C-14, designed to permit physician-assisted suicide, prompted widely divergent responses among Canadians, ranging from criticism that it did not go far enough to suggestions it put Canada on the path to government-encouraged dying.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the community's major advocacy organization, found that elements of the bill addressed concerns it had raised over the proposals of a parliamentary committee that studied the issue.

"We are pleased that C-14 conforms with other North American jurisdictions where MAID [medical assistance in dying] is legal, restricting access to adults who are approaching a natural death," said Noah Shack, CIJA's director of policy. "In more permissive European jurisdictions, children and individuals with psychiatric disorders or minor medical conditions can be eligible for a hastened death. We are glad that the government has chosen a more moderate approach.

"We look forward to exploring the possibility of an additional provision to explicitly ensure that physicians who do not wish to provide MAID for reasons of conscience cannot be compelled to do so," Shack said.

As to critics' suggestions that the bill did not go far enough – that it ignored the parliamentary committee's recommendation to permit mature minors, people suffering mental illness and those not suffering a terminal illness to choose to die – Shack said: "We empathize with patients under the age of 18 who are suffering and may wish to avail themselves of MAID. However, there are significant concerns both with minors taking such a grave decision on their own and with parents taking such a decision on behalf of their child. In our view, given the finality of MAID, a cautious approach to criteria for consent is warranted."

Bill C-14, which passed first reading on April 14, was formulated in response to a Supreme Court of Canada decision about one year ago in the Carter case that struck down Criminal Code provisions against assisted suicide. The High Court gave the federal government until June 6 to craft legislation that permitted physician-assisted death.

With a bill on the horizon, CIJA canvassed the Jewish community and found "divergent opinions on whether physician-assisted death (PAD) should be permitted in Canada."

Some in the Jewish community were concerned about where the country is headed.

Janice Halpern, a Toronto psychiatrist, said the proposed legislation "appears to have protected a range of vulnerable patients, which is something we have fought for. At the same time, however, it does not sufficiently protect the conscience rights of health care professionals.

"Should this bill be passed, Canada will have the dubious distinction of being the only country with assisted dying legislation that forces health-care professionals to act against their values, morals or religious beliefs," she stated.

"One very recent and surprising twist is that members of our Senate are considering holding up the passing of this bill in order to make it more extensive – to endanger the vulnerable," Halpern noted.

Rabbi Dan Moskovitz of Temple Sholom in Vancouver has counselled a patient undergoing chemotherapy who was in great pain and wanted to die. On other occasions, family members have sought his advice about patients in the late stages of a terminal illness.

"I advised that we cannot hasten death, but we must do all we can to alleviate pain," he said.

Rabbi Moskovitz, who has written an extensive sermon on the topic, said Jewish law prohibits assisted death, and he would advise against it.

However, he acknowledged his advice is not binding, and ultimately it's the individual's choice.

"I do support the bill," he stated in an email correspondence. "I think people in general should have that option. But as a Jew, it is not one we are empowered to make. There are things the larger society can do that Jews as per our covenant with God cannot.

"I worry about an obligation to die. The societal and socio-economic implications are significant," he stated.

Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai in Toronto, said, "I was reassured that the government bill struck a more responsible tone than the recommendations of the [parliamentary] committee. I was pleased that suggestions from the committee regarding minors and mental illnesses were not included in the government bill. I am hopeful the bill continues in that direction."

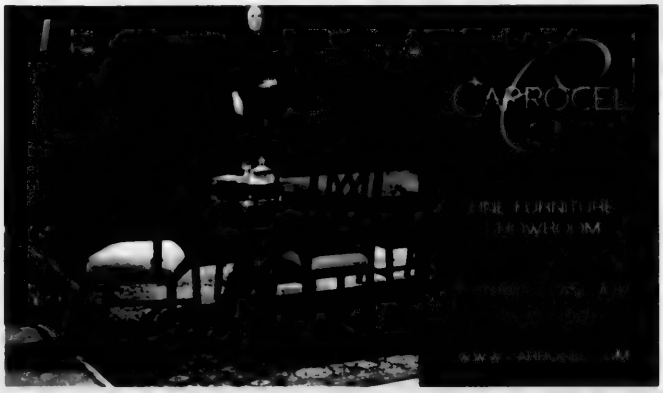
He said PAD should apply only to people diagnosed with an illness that can't be cured and whose suffering cannot be ameliorated. That would apply to only one to two per cent of "late life" cases, he said.

Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, who co-authored a document with Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation against physician-assisted dying, said the Canadian public and health care professionals have "to do what we can within the law to turn it back and scale it back as much as possible."

Although he conceded the bill would likely pass, Rabbi Korobkin said opponents should do all they can to limit its applicability.

He said Jewish law has always believed that life comes from God, and "suicide is tantamount to murder. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. They're not our lives to take."

Rabbi Korobkin, senior rabbi at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, said the document he and Rabbi Strauchler crafted has received wide support among Orthodox rabbis and from spiritual leaders in other streams of Judaism. Now, "we must reach out to other faiths, to create a broader coalition of louder voices to be heard by politicians and health care facilities," he said. ■



Long-term solutions to poverty complex, agencies say

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

The results of a year-long study commissioned to understand the challenges facing Toronto's Jewish poor could leave service providers with "more questions than answers," said Sandi Pelly, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's director of capacity building for the social services.

Following the release of the Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA's 2011 National Household Survey, which highlighted that Canadian Jewish poverty rates are on the rise, a group of Jewish service providers commissioned York University sociologist Randal Schnoor and a team of researchers to conduct a study to better understand how to serve Torontonians in need.

The survey found that more than 24,000 Jews in the GTA, or 13 per cent of the Jewish population, are living under the poverty line.

"There was an increase of more than 5,000 people over a 10-year period," Pelly said. "The numbers are going up, not down. We have over 5,000 seniors and over 3,500 kids under 15 that are poor, and there was also a big increase in the number of poor – because of the increase in the population – in York Region."

Schnoor and his team spent a year on

Sandi Pelly

what he called "one of the biggest studies I've ever conducted," with 15 one-on-one interviews, 33 people in six separate focus groups, and 403 phone or online surveys.

He said some of the respondents were at or below the poverty line ($20,386 a year, after tax), while others were slightly above it.

"What we learned is that poverty cuts across the lifespan. It impacts our youngest and oldest community members and it doesn't matter where they live geographically," Pelly said.

The report highlighted "the vicious cycle of living in poverty and what that means for people… 32 per cent of people in the study are skipping a meal, 54 per cent are borrowing money to pay for their daily needs, 74 per cent of kids don't have new clothes, and 58 per cent don't have new shoes or boots that fit them."

Both Pelly and Schnoor cited the common misconception that people in poverty are uneducated. "The study respondents revealed that education is not a determining factor of poverty. Nearly half have university undergraduate or graduate degrees and 38 per cent that had a university degree are looking for work," Pelly said.

Schnoor said there are circumstances beyond people's control that can determine whether they fall below the poverty line. "Certain life circumstances, which can really happen to anyone… can take your life in a different direction. It can be a physical disability, which came out really strong as a cause for poverty. It could be a mental health problem, which also came out strong, a dysfunctional family… these people can be highly educated and highly intelligent, but these kinds of life circumstances threw them a big curve," he said.

What's unique to the Jewish community is the barrier faced by those who can't afford to take part in communal life because of the high cost of shul, day school and camp fees.

Schnoor said there's a level of isolation experienced by poverty-stricken citizens that goes beyond Jewish community participation. "All your buddies are going for lunch, or to a movie, or to a bar… but because it involves buying a drink, having lunch, it really limits your social life and it is very isolating," Schnoor said.

He added that many people aren't aware of the depth of the problem. "The Jewish community does not understand the extent of the challenge and has an inaccurate notion that all Jews are comfortable. So first thing is that it's important to raise awareness in the community," he said.

Pelly said a number of Toronto-based Jewish agencies convened by UJA Federation, including Jewish Family & Child (JF&CS), JIAS Toronto, JVS Toronto, Bernard Betel Centre and Kehilla Residential Programme, are part of the Collective Impact Steering Committee that is working to break the cycle of poverty.

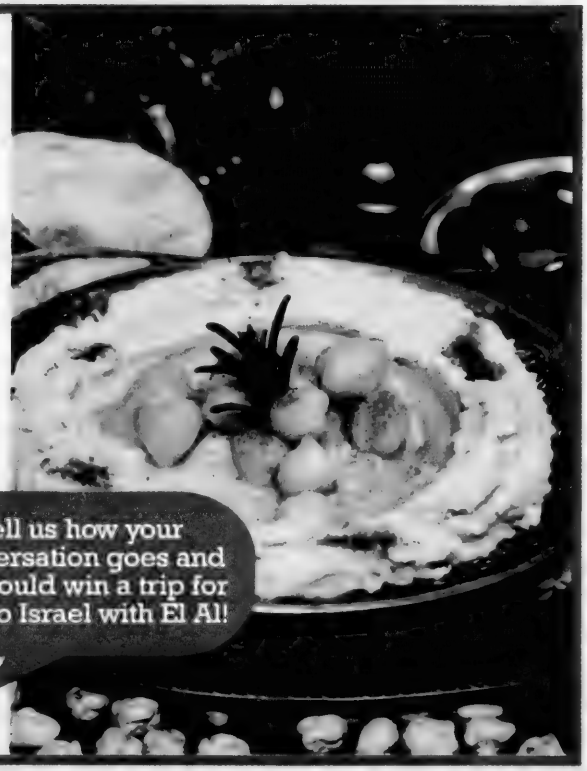
The group aims to do more than come up "with a program or two… Even though we know this is an urgent problem, the methodology doesn't imply that we can do something quickly. It really is a long-term, game-changing, three- to five-year minimum to start to see a needle change," Pelly said.

"We're starting with an initiative to provide impoverished seniors and Holocaust survivors with care and support so their basic needs are met and they can live their final years in dignity… We need to do something now and we don't have time to waste." ■

ISRAEL ON THE TABLE
May 12 - 15, 2016

A brand new way to mark *Yom Ha'atzmaut,* Israel's Independence Day, and connect with Israel.

Pick a day. Arrange a meal. Put Israel On The Table.



Register at IsraelOnTheTable.ca.
Got a question? E-mail us at info@israelonthetable.ca

Passover Food Drive | NCJWC Toronto

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR GENEROUS
SPONSORS, DONORS
& VOLUNTEERS

FOR CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

DONATIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED

416.633.5100 · www.PassoverFoodDrive.com

JYN · United Jewish Appeal · Sobeys · JIAS · metrolandmedia · Brampton Brick · universal · Burnbrae · terraplan · Gerald Schwartz Heather Reisman Foundation · DMS · Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company · Circle of Care · Jewish Family & Child · Barrday · No Frills · No Frills · No Frills · Great Gulf · DC Dov Capital · Y5

Chabad on Bayview breaks ground for new shul

Rabbi Levi Gansburg and his wife Rivky, centre, hold the cornerstone for the new Bayview Centre for Jewish Life. KATAN STUDIOS PHOTO

SUSAN MINUK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

With temperatures soaring, more than 150 people came out April 17 to break ground and lay the cornerstone for Chabad's $9.5-million Bayview Centre for Jewish Life.

"Today is the beginning of something amazing," Rabbi Levi Gansburg, spiritual leader of Chabad on Bayview, told the crowd. "Historically, in Jewish tradition, the ritual has been called *hanachat even hapinah*, which means laying of the cornerstone... Although the ceremonial groundbreaking is a western-world institution, the laying of the cornerstone dates back to the times of the Temple and prior to that as well. Today is another link carrying forward the unbreakable chain of our ancestors' traditions in the 21st century.

"We chose today because Jewish identity is always heightened around Pesach and it is the week adjacent to the late Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneersohn's, of blessed memory, birthday, which is a special time, particularly for Chabad. This building is an extension of him and our work under his auspices. We are motivated by the Rebbe, his legacy and his ideals, and thought this would be a great way to bring the community together in time for Pesach and in time for his birthday week," said Rabbi Gansburg.

The new building, to be located on Bayview Avenue north of Post Road, will house a mikvah, nursery, Hebrew schools and be available for life-cycle events. The sanctuary will have approximately 220 seats and a back wall will open into a social hall that will double the space to accommodate some 500 people on larger events and holidays.

"We are very proud that we will have the very first mikvah on Bayview – a state-of-the-art mikvah – which is something that has always been at the heart of the Jewish home," Rabbi Gansburg said.

Chabad has raised $5.5 million for the project, which is slated to open for Rosh Hashanah 2017. "We are about $3.5 million shy of where we need to be. Through the generosity of so many amazing people, this went from being a dream to slowly evolving into this reality, which we are excited about," said Rabbi Gansburg.

Among the rabbis, rebbetzins, family and friends at the event were politicians such as MPs Rob Oliphant and Michael Levitt, and Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak.

More than eight years ago, Rabbi Gansburg and his wife Rivky erected a sign half a block away, announcing the opening of Chabad on Bayview for the 2007 High Holidays.

"We moved to Toronto from New York City with our daughter, who was just 10 days old. We started with 20 people on the High Holidays, and through word of mouth – one family told another family – we grew. It took us a year and a half to get a minyan, but we persevered and pushed forward," said Rabbi Gansburg. "Today, there are over 300 families coming through and making use of our schools, our shul and our varied programs every year."

Over the years, Chabad has moved to several locations along Bayview with a dream of one day having a permanent home.

"The initial seed was planted by a young rabbi and rebbetzin who saw the potential of this community. Since then, there have been a ton of worker bees behind the scenes in their respective areas of expertise [bringing] Rabbi Levi and Rivky's dream to fruition. The work is not done yet. We are just beginning," said Reid Stekel, a member of the building committee.

"This building is only a means to an end," said Rabbi Gansburg. "The goal is a stronger and more vibrant Jewish community where every person feels welcome and has a place to call home – a home which fosters robust dialogue, celebrations and a growing and strengthening Jewish identity."

He added: "The future of the Jewish People is bright. We are proof that people care about the future. People care that they have a place to belong." ■

FABRICLAND

Check out our
no-sew, ready-to-go
Home Decor!
Over 350 styles and colours of
ready-to-hang Drapery Panels!
We're so much more
than a fabric store!
Ask us about the new Fabricland Sewciety Sewing Club!
Find out how you can save 20-50% off our regular prices
every day, on almost everything in the store!
Memberships now run a full 12 months from month of purchase!
Facebook
@fabriclandlistr

Visit us Downtown at Bathurst & Bloor in Honest Ed's & Uptown at 3240 Dufferin St. (at Orfus)
NOW OPEN! Fabricland in RioCan Marketplace - 2181 Steeles W. (W. of Dufferin, E. of Alness)
OVER 40 PARTICIPATING ONTARIO STORES TO SERVE YOU. www.fabricland.ca

Analyst sets out agenda for tackling Mideast crises

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The "man on the Clapham omnibus" visited Beth Tikvah Synagogue last week and quickly approved a tactical suggestion from guest speaker Gregg Roman that the West must pick a side in various Mideastern conflicts and lend it full support.

Geoffrey Clarfield, who took on the role of the fictional "average man" on the Clapham omnibus, pointed out there were potential allies throughout the turbulent Arab world. In Egypt, supporting Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the country's president, against the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi, was a "no-brainer," he said.

Clarfield, executive director of Mozuud, an organization whose agenda includes freedom of speech and sanctions on Iran, was part of a panel of three who responded to the presentation by Roman, who serves as director and chief operations officer of the Middle East Forum.

Roman surveyed events across the region and presented a "Forecast for Freedom in the Middle East," which was far from rosy.

Earlier that day, terrorists had struck an Egged bus in Jerusalem, injuring 21. It was, he said, an event that should be considered part of the third intifadah, which began some months ago with knife attacks on Israeli civilians.

Gregg Roman

"We have now entered to a new stage of the conflict," moving from lone wolf attacks to more co-ordinated ones, as demonstrated in the bus bombing, he said.

Roman also referred to the news that Israeli security forces had uncovered a terror tunnel that ran from Khan Yunis in Gaza into Israel.

The question is not "if" there will be another Hamas-initiated attack, but when, he said.

Broadening the scope of his discussion, Roman, who served as political adviser to Israel's deputy foreign minister, examined conflicts throughout the region and noted that major wars in the past – whether the U.S. Civil War or World War II – ended only when one side utterly defeated the other. The war in Syria will continue until one side is defeated, he suggested.

At present, "Syria is a mess," he said.

Looking at the wider Middle East, Roman said, "ISIS is ideologically stronger than ever" though its military is on the run, Russia is backing the Assad regime in Syria, Iran is acting as a regional hegemon, and the Obama administration is afraid of picking a side or of committing troops to the region to defeat ISIS.

The United States, Roman said, sided with the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Morsi against its traditional ally in Egypt, and it has ignored Arab and Israeli concerns over a nuclear deal with Iran.

"U.S. credibility is a penny stock right now," he said.

At the same time, ISIS has staged attacks in the heart of Europe, prompting a nationalist backlash that is now playing out.

Until western nations are willing to force the absorption of new immigrants, there will be further problems, Roman predicted.

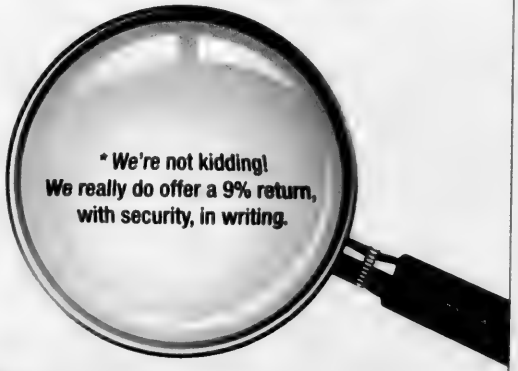
Despite a rather pessimistic appraisal of the region, Roman said not all hope is lost. Western states can adopt a strategy to make things better, starting with support for minority populations facing oppression and genocide at the hands of ISIS, such as the Yazidis, Turkmen and Kurds, and help them carve out semi-autonomous governments in the region.

The West should use "proxies" such as local paramilitary groups in the fight against ISIS, even though these groups might not share western values, he said.

The West should adopt realistic objectives and use force to attain them. He suggested adapting the "Earl Butz rule," named after a former U.S. cabinet minister, to stress that if you don't have military power at play, you have no place at the negotiation table.

Roman's address was sponsored by the Speakers Action Group. Joining Clarfield on the panel were Rabbi Jarrod Grover of Beth Tikvah, and Iranian-Canadian columnist Sara Akrami. Miles Smit served as the event moderator. ■

If an Investment Advisor offers you a 9% Annual Return, it makes sense to read the fine print*



PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning

"Feel good about your investments"

To find out more visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Disclosure: Peter Lantos is a licensed mortgage agent (FSCO Lic #M13000423), not an investment dealer. Tier 1 Mortgage Corporation (FSCO Lic #12314) is the lead mortgage brokerage

Allan Nadler is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Drew University.

FRIDAY, MAY 6 BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Lecture and Dinner

Bad Jewish Boys: Notorious Heretics from the Talmud to Today
We gather for a Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a delicious dinner and engaging presentation. Cost: $36 adults; $18 youth (ages 5-14); $6 children (ages 1-4). Dinner by advance reservation only by **Monday, May 2.**

SHABBAT, MAY 7 – SERVICES AT 8:45 AM

The Rabbis' Invention of the Apikores (or Jewish Heretic)
Rabbi Dr. Allan Nadler gives a pulpit presentation on ***Maimonides: Dogmatist? Heretic? Or Both?*** Following a community kiddush, he speaks on ***Spinoza of Amsterdam–From Heretic to Hero.***

For information or reservations, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or reserve online at www.beth-tzedec.org/login.

Sponsored by The Louis & Minka J. Weisfeld Annual Memorial Lectures

Beth Tzedec Congregation

60 Years – Building for the Future

Camp George celebrates 18th birthday with fundraiser

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

At Camp George, a Jewish overnight camp located near Parry Sound, the infirmary – known as the health and wellness centre or by its Hebrew name the *mirpa'ah* – is much more than a place to treat cuts and bruises, explains camp director Jeff Rose.

"It's a place where campers can go to find support. They're doling out a lot of TLC there as much as they are any medicine," he said.

Camp George, Canada's only Reform Jewish overnight camp, is celebrating its 18th summer this year and is in the process of updating some of its facilities.

To mark its landmark birthday and to raise money to renovate the *mirpa'ah*, Camp George is hosting a dinner and dance event at Temple Sinai Congregation on April 30.

Dubbed Rockin' on the Chai Way, the event will feature music by Slice of Life, a 10-piece cover band in which Camp George's doctor for the past 16 years, David Saslove, plays and his daughter, Alex Saslove, sings.

There will also be musical performances by several Camp George counsellors and alumni, said Cheryl Ackerman, the event's committee chair, who is married to Saslove.

Slice of Life, a band featuring Camp George doctor David Saslove (in the hat) will play April 30 in support of a new health and wellness centre for the camp. DAVID SASLOVE PHOTO

"Our daughter [Alex] has been at camp since she was three. She's now 20. That's not atypical for Camp George, for parents and their kids to have been involved in the camp since its inception," she said.

Ackerman said the event is open not only to those directly affiliated with Camp George but to "anyone who loves to dance and who wants a good dinner and to have a fun evening."

To build the new health and wellness centre, which the camp hopes to do by 2017, the fundraising goal is about $400,000, Rose said. "We've been focused this whole year on "chai" and healthy living as we endeavour to build this centre... It'll be a place where campers can come to relax, get away and meet with a support team [of health professionals]," he said, noting the camp always has a rotating team of one doctor and two nurses on staff.

The 18th birthday is a real milestone for Camp George, Rose said, because the camp has long felt like the new kid in town among the range of more established Jewish summer camps in Ontario.

"We initially started with between 50 and 100 campers, and now we get close to 500 campers annually. So our camp has really become its own entity within a landscape of Jewish camps," Rose said, noting that Camp George's plan is to continue expanding its facilities.

Its identity as a Reform camp is reflected in its values and much of its activities, he said, listing, as examples, programs that teach campers about tikkun olam and "egalitarian Jewish values."

In addition to singing Jewish songs at mealtimes, reciting blessings after meals and having Israeli staff members who give campers insight into what it's like to live in Israel, Rose said the camp has a focus on what he called "social action programming."

"For example, every summer we devote one day when one of the units goes into the community to give back. They'll go to an old age home, to a home for the blind... They've done a car wash to raise money for a local fire department," he said. ■

Tickets for the April 30 event can be purchased at www.campgeorge.org.

YOM HASHOAH V'HAGVURAH 2016
Struggling to Maintain the Human Spirit during the Holocaust

Join Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (SWC) and the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre of UJA Federation for a community wide event to commemorate the victims of the Shoah and to honour our survivors

Featuring an original dramatic production commissioned by SWC
"Reflections of Anne Frank"

With
• Jewish War Veterans Mars Hill Unit
• The Passing of the Torch
• Holocaust Survivor Candle Lighting Ceremony
• Bnai Brith Youth Choir

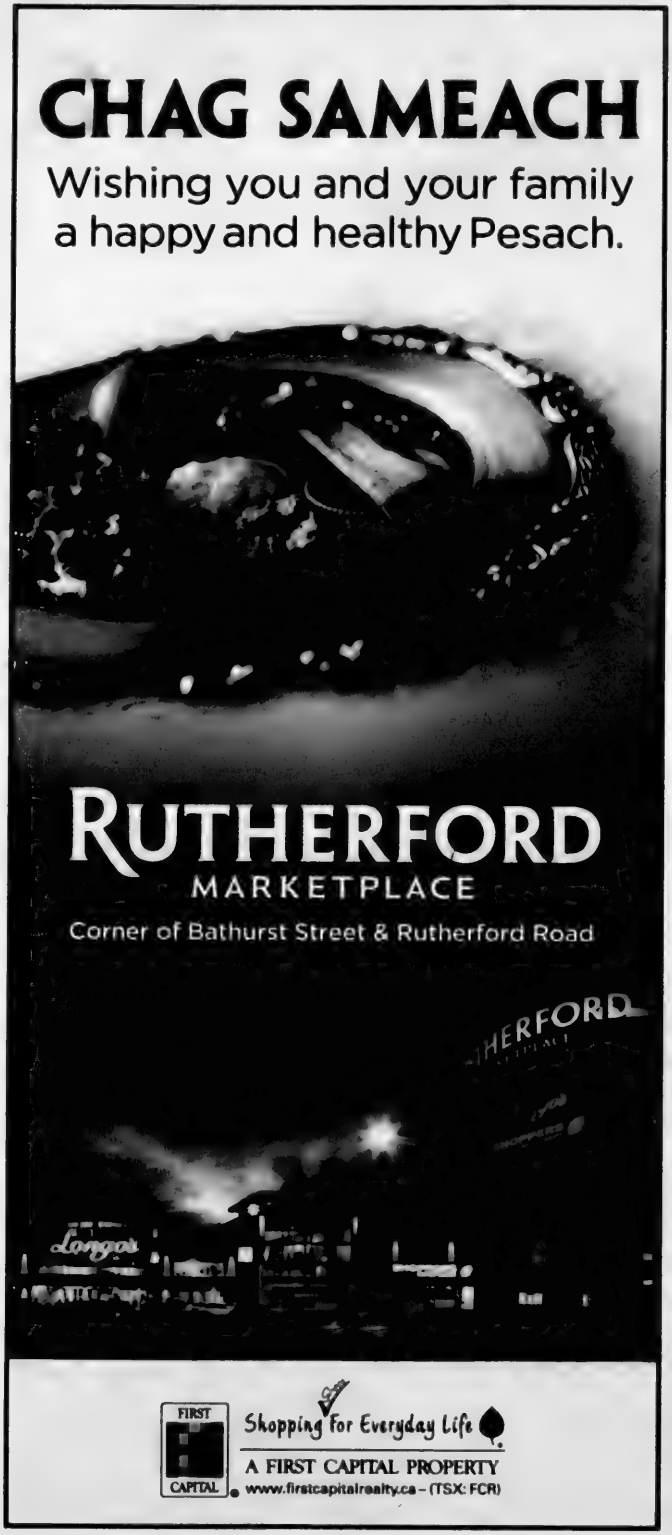
Details:
Date: Wednesday May 4, 2016
Time: 2:00 p.m. (Doors open at 1:30 p.m.)
Venue: Toronto Centre for the Arts (5040 Yonge St.)
Cost: Free of Charge

Registration Required (2 ticket limit per person)

To Register Contact
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
Tracey Steyn 416 864 9733 x 21 • tsteyn@swc.ca

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre
Mary Siklos 416 631 5859 • msiklos@ujafed.org

Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre



Gathering hears premier discuss mission to Israel

From left, Research and Innovation Minister Reza Moridi, Jane Rounthwaite, CIJA Toronto co-chair Joel Reitman, Premier Kathleen Wynne and Allan O'Dette, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. PHOTO COURTESY OF CIJA

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Approximately 100 "thought leaders" gathered at the Munk School of Global Affairs on April 18 to be briefed about potential business opportunities in Israel, about one month before Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne leads a provincial delegation to the Jewish state.

Participants included business leaders, academics and representatives from the Jewish community. The event was highlighted by an address by Wynne and by Israeli consul general DJ Schneeweiss.

University of Toronto professor Janice Stein moderated a panel discussion, that looked at opportunities for business collaboration between the two jurisdictions.

Joining Stein on the panel were Geoff Smith, president and CEO of EllisDon, a construction services company that is incorporating technologies developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems in Ontario power management systems; Henri Rothschild, CEO of the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation, which fosters business relationships between the two sides; and Jocelyn Mackie, vice-president of operations and general counsel for Grand Challenges Canada, a government-supported agency that funds health-related innovations.

The breakfast event was sponsored by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), in co-operation with the Munk School and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Israeli innovation, high-tech and the way the country fosters startups and scales them to become commercially viable entities was at the top of the morning agenda, said Sarah Lefton, CIJA's vice-president for the GTA.

"Thought leaders" heard how the values shared by Canada and Israel extend to the business world, opening the door for collaboration and partnerships in a variety of fields, she said.

Lefton pointed to an outcome beyond the practical business-to-business cooperation that may result from the premier's trip.

"This is about more and better enhanced relationship between the two, about more of a relationship, not less," she said.

"That is the best response we have as a community to fighting BDS [boycott, divestment, sanctions]," Lefton added.

Schneeweiss said "Israel's achievements in the field of innovation can be harnessed and learned from in ways that can serve Ontario.

"Israel has immense capacities and strengths and approaches to some of the issues common to us all, and Ontario can benefit by learning how Israel does things, and carry the innovations forward," he said.

Ontario has access to capital, a large market and its own know-how that Israel can benefit from, he continued.

"We see this very much as a two-way street. Together we can all be better," Schneeweiss said.

Just under a year ago, Wynne announced that she would visit Israel as head of a trade delegation. On April 6, she confirmed the visit would take place May 15 to 20 and that she would be accompanied by the leaders of 20 Canadian companies, with an emphasis on those in the high-tech, life sciences and information technology sectors.

"I look forward to strengthening our political, economic and cultural ties on my first mission to the Middle East," Wynne said April 6. "We share many of the same priorities – including an interest in developing a strong innovation economy that can produce the next generation of technological and life-science breakthroughs." ■

MIZRACHI
CANADA

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO AN EVENING OF
COMMEMORATION & CELEBRATION FOR

YOM HAZIKARON & YOM HA'ATZMAUT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016 AT 6:45 PM
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH OF TORONTO,
613 CLARK AVENUE WEST, THORNHILL

GUEST SPEAKER: **RABBI JEREMY GIMPEL**
Jeremy Gimpel, Deputy Director of World Mizrachi, is an educator, politician and presenter of "Israel Inspired", a podcast that has over 12 million views on YouTube.

Mizrachi champions religious Zionism across the world, promoting the ideology of Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and Torat Yisrael. For more information: **www.mizrachi.ca | 416-630-9266 | /mizrachicanada**

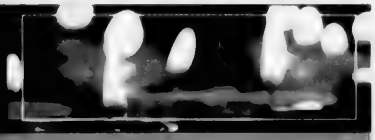
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre present

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
ISRAEL@68

Celebrate the birth of the Jewish State and the strength of its people!

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

Thursday, May 5 | 11 am | Free event | register at srcentre.ca
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821



YOM HAZIKARON MEMORIAL

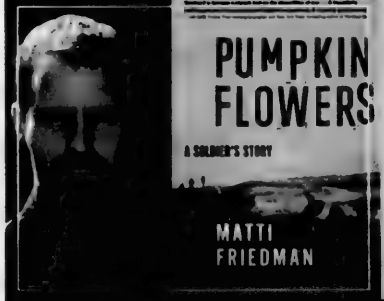
Wednesday, May 11 | 11 am | Free event | register at srcentre.ca
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821

COMMUNITY HAGIGA & SHUK

Sunday, May 15 | 9 am - 1 pm
free event - please register at srcentre.ca

MATTI CASPI IN CONCERT

Sunday, May 15 | 8 pm
Tickets at srcentre.ca | limited space available
Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821



A CONVERSATION WITH MATTI FRIEDMAN

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **DAVID BEZMOZGIS & RAFI YABLONSKY**

Thursday, May 19 | 7.30 pm

Book Launch and Wine & Cheese reception | **tickets at srcentre.ca**

Matti Friedman is a former Associated Press correspondent and a regular contributor to *Tablet Magazine*. Two essays he wrote about media coverage of Israel after the 2014 Gaza war, for *Tablet* and *The Atlantic*, triggered intense discussion and have been shared together on Facebook more than 100,000 times. He was born in Toronto and lives in Jerusalem.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre | 9600 Bathurst St. | 905.303.1821

ISRAELI DANCE CELEBRATION WITH SAGI AZRAN & RONIT WEINREICH

Saturday, May 14 | 8 pm to midnight
Sunday, May 15 | 4 pm to 7 pm

tickets at srcentre.ca

Mizrachi Canada Yom Hazikaron - Yom Ha'atzmaut
Remembrance & Celebration | Wed., May 11 | 7 pm
Guest speaker: Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel
Live music and refreshments to follow the formal program.

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto | 613 Clark Ave. West
For more information: 416.630.9266

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto | The Schwartz/Reisman Centre | Jewish Heritage Month

Azrieli Foundation funds Israeli stem cell breakthrough

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Israeli and American scientists, funded in part by Canada's Azrieli Foundation, have discovered a tool that could help develop cures for a wide variety of genetic disorders and help further other medical advancements.

Last year, the Azrieli Foundation allocated $10 million to fund research at the Azrieli Center for Stem Cells and Genetic Research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, one of the largest repositories of stem cells carrying genetic diseases and chromosomal disorders in the world.

Foundation CEO Naomi Azrieli said she's very excited about the discovery.

"They created a new type of stem cell line, which, more than anything right now, is a tool. It is an important, different, and completely innovative set of tools where they'll be better able to do genetic screening and understand the development of genetic diseases and human development. The result of that is going to be... new therapies in cancer, new therapies in nerve regeneration [and] regenerative medicine, [as well as] diseases that relate to aging and diseases that relate to child development."

An Israeli research team led by the director of the research centre, Prof. Nissim Benvenisty, and Ido Sagi, a PhD student there, published their findings in the March edition of the medical journal *Nature*.

The research paper describes the stem cells as the first human cells that are known to be capable of cell division with just one copy of the parent cell's genome.

Most human cells are known as "diploid" cells because they inherit two sets of chromosomes – 23 from each parent. Egg and sperm cells are the only exceptions. They are known as "haploid" cells, because they contain a single set of 23 chromosomes.

The scientists succeeded in triggering the division of unfertilized human egg cells and isolating the haploid stem cells.

The researchers showed that these cells were able to differentiate into many other cell types, including nerve, heart and pancreatic cells, while retaining a single set of chromosomes.

In diploid cells, it is more difficult to detect the biological effects of a single-copy mutation, because there is another normal copy that serves as a backup. Having a single copy of the gene to target may be a powerful tool for genetic screens and offer the potential to facilitate genetic analysis in biomedical fields such as cancer research, precision and regenerative medicine.

Ido Sagi, left, and Nissim Benvenisty

"They've created the next, most cutting-edge tool in order to look at the way genes develop and what they do, and then actually be able to manipulate them. That is what is very exciting," Azrieli said.

"There are a number of other new technologies that have literally just happened this year, that make it possible, along with this now, to actually edit genes. This tool is like the last element scientists needed in order to do that really easily."

Azrieli said that one of the reasons the foundation chose to donate to the stem cell centre was because of the work it was doing on the developmental disorder Fragile X syndrome.

"It is the No. 1 cause of... of developmental delay in children worldwide. It's the number one genetic-based cause. They're interested in finding treatments, maybe even finding a way to repair the genetic disorder that underlies it," she said, adding she's confident the new discovery will achieve even more than that.

"This can be used to look at genetically based disorders of all kind. It's a very wide-ranging discovery. It is not specific to one disorder, to one disease... I think it will be used worldwide in labs, doing all sorts of research on all sorts of diseases... I expect this will be widely applied in about six months to a year." ■

50 שנה לקרן לירושלים
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Come and meet Prague Benbenisty and Aleeza Chanowitz
winners of The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada's Film Prizes
See why BLESSED and MUSHKIE were the winning entries of a city wide competition
Premiere screening - Toronto Jewish Film Festival

BLESSED
Saturday 7 May 2016 | 9:00 PM
The ROM Eaton Theatre
Monday 9 May 2016 | 8:00 PM
Cineplex Cinemas Empress Walk 6

MUSHKIE
Sunday 8 May 2016 | 8:00 PM
Cineplex Cinemas Empress Walk 6
Tuesday 10 May 2016 | 9:00 PM
The Bloor Hot Docs Cinema

With appreciation to the Sir Jack Lyons Charitable Trust for their steadfast support of emerging young talents in Jerusalem

To purchase tickets online: www.tjff.com or by phone 416-324-9121
For more information: Daniel Stern, dstern@jerusalemfoundation.ca or 416-922-0000

Secular or Cultural Jew?

Seeking a Congregation or Sunday School that feels right?

Find out more: **Sunday, May 1 at 10:00 am**

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

JK-Gr. 7 · Bnai Mitzvah · Tots (2-4 yrs) · Jewish Festivals · Family Ed. · Est. 1969

Acclaimed curriculum focuses on Jewish values, culture & history

and running concurrently

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

Who We Are ~ What We Believe ~ How We Celebrate

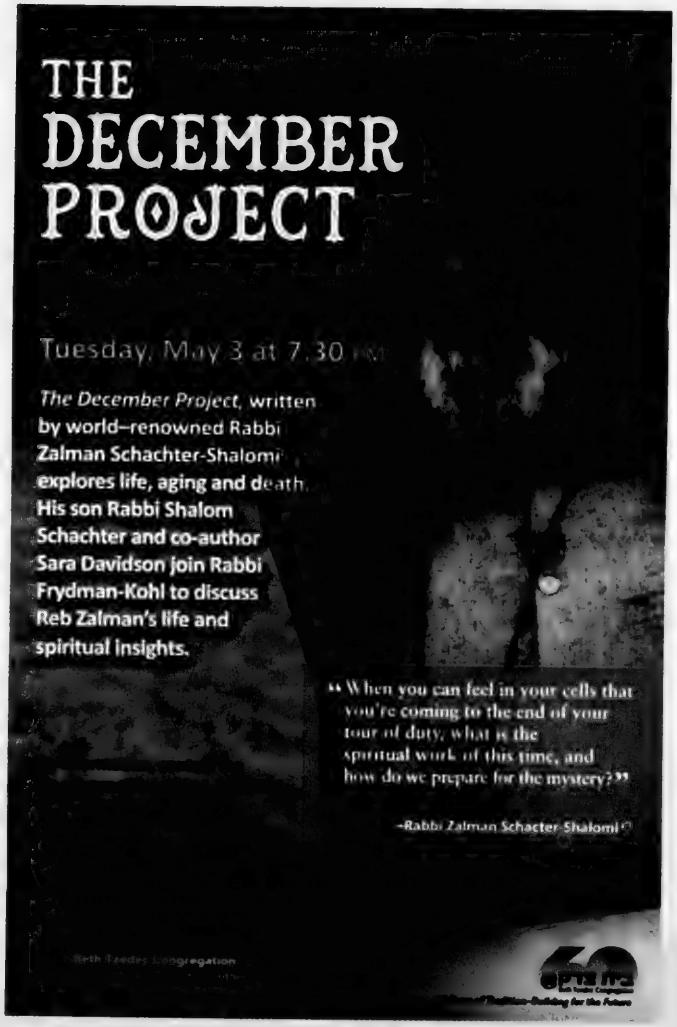
St. Andrew's Jr. High School, 131 Fenn Ave (Bayview/401)

Kindly RSVP | Intermarried & LGBTQ Jews welcome

Oraynu
CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

416-385-3910 | info@oraynu.org
oraynu.org

School funded with support from Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education


THE
DECEMBER
PROJECT
Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.
The December Project, written by world-renowned Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi explores life, aging and death. His son Rabbi Shalom Schachter and co-author Sara Davidson join Rabbi Frydman-Kohl to discuss Reb Zalman's life and spiritual insights.
"When you can feel in your cells that you're coming to the end of your tour of duty, what is the spiritual work of this time, and how do we prepare for the mystery?"
–Rabbi Zalman Schacter-Shalomi
Beth Tzedec Congregation

Jewish candidates fall to blue wave in Manitoba

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Michael Lazar

In reality, none of them had a chance.

Four Jewish candidates ran in last week's Manitoba provincial election, but even if the Liberals and NDP had been more competitive, it likely wouldn't have made a difference.

On April 19, the Progressive Conservatives, led by Brian Pallister, won in 40 of the 57 province's ridings in an election that was about change more than anything else. The blue wave swept away the NDP government that had been in office for 17 years, leaving just 14 NDP MLAs.

And even though the Liberal vote actually increased by 50 per cent – to 14 per cent of the total – and the party picked up two additional seats – they have elected only their leader in the past four elections – it was of no benefit to Michael Lazar, the party's flag-bearer in Tuxedo.

Lazar, a local lawyer who is active in the Jewish community, had unsuccessfully run for provincial office twice before. This time, he had three strikes against him even before voting began.

First, he was running against a longtime incumbent in one of the wealthiest ridings in the province, and one of the three Winnipeg ridings with large Jewish populations. Tuxedo has been a PC stronghold for decades.

Then there was the collapse of the Liberal brand during the campaign. The party went into the election with a new leader, Rana Bokhari, and polling neck and neck with the unpopular NDP. Bokhari, however, came across poorly during the campaign, with a resulting decline in support.

Finally, Lazar joined the race relatively late. "I did as well as could be expected, considering that I was nominated rather late in the day and we were going against a Conservative tide," he said. "I had a small and dedicated group of people working for me, but we did lack resources and manpower."

On election night, Lazar finished third with 1,254 votes, 35 votes behind one of the other Jewish candidates, 23-year-old university student Zach Fleisher, who was representing the NDP in the riding.

Fleisher is the former chair of the Manitoba branch of the Canadian Federation of Students. He was most recently press secretary to the provincial NDP cabinet. He's still working toward a degree in political science at the University of Winnipeg.

Fleisher said his goal as a candidate was to protect the legacy of the NDP. He praised the former government's efforts in health care, education and job creation for young Manitobans like himself.

"I am afraid the PC cutbacks will derail the progress we have made since 1999," he said.

The other two Jewish candidates were running for fringe parties. Jitendradas Loves-Life (formerly known as Jordan Bellan) is a yoga teacher who ran for the Green Party in the inner city riding of Logan. He didn't do any campaigning, though.

"I was asked by friends to stand for the Green Party," he said. "I support everything the Green Party stands for."

The fourth Jewish candidate, Matthew Ostrove, ran for the new Manitoba Party, which was founded by disgruntled Liberals who were unhappy with Bokhari. She lost in Fort Rouge, the riding she chose to run in for her first election. Ostrove ran for the Liberals in the 2011 provincial election.

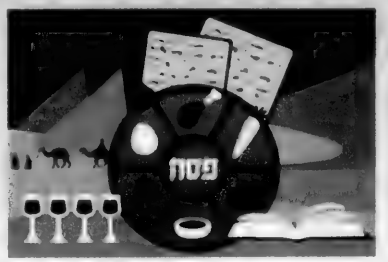
The campaign was free of any controversy where the Jewish community and Israel were concerned.

Speaking for the community, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg CEO Elaine Goldstein said it remains non-partisan.

The former NDP government enjoyed good relations with the community and Israel, and was involved in several joint programs with Israeli organizations and institutions, as was the PC government of Gary Filmon in the 1990s

Of note was the defeat of former NDP cabinet minister Christine Melnick who, although not Jewish, over the years proved to be a good friend of both the community and of Israel, which she has visited several times. ■

Advertising Feature



PASSOVER

Deeper than the Matzah-Ball Soup

Dr. Michael Laitman
Professor of Ontology

With the "Jewish Rite of Spring" we call Passover being just around the corner, there are plenty of things to take care of, and plenty of things to decide: Where will we have this year's Seder, the festive Passover meal? How will we go through the cleaning? What should we get for our in-laws? How will the kids endure the Seder, and other 'weighty' matters.

No Rest for the Righteous

Without a doubt, Passover takes the crown for "Most Stressful Jewish Festival," and the *Seder* is by far the most demanding culinary event on the Hebrew calendar. Our ancestors had a miracle: they were saved from the Egyptians. We, their contemporary descendants, have two miracles each year, if we are lucky. The first is that at the end of Passover we are still one family. The second is that we manage to lose the extra pounds we gained during the days of wine and matzo, but the latter is only for the truly, truly lucky ones, the "chosen people."

But there is more to Passover than matzah brei and gefilte fish. From the perspective of the wisdom Kabbalah, it represents a profound transformation that each of us experiences at some point in our spiritual development. So this year, let's look a little deeper than the matzah ball soup and point out some things about Passover that we usually tend to pass over. Let us take a look at some of our traditions and see what lies behind them.

Why Is This Night Different?

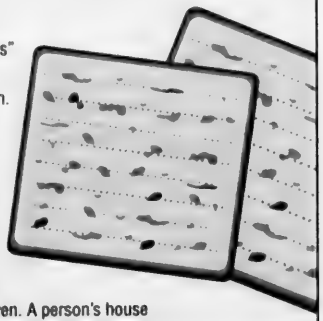
The *Seder* night, for instance, stands for more than a miraculous escape from a ruthless tyrant, though this is certainly a remarkable feat in its own right. Beyond that, the *Seder* [order] represents a sequence of internal steps we must take in order to exit from enslavement to the ego!

Freedom from the Ego

In one of his letters, Maimonides wrote, "We should know that Pharaoh is indeed the evil inclination." This inclination is our ill-will toward each other. Running from Pharaoh means escaping from this ill-will. *Yam Suf* [the Red Sea] represents the *Sof* [end] of our enslavement and beginning of our freedom from the ego. From here on we can begin to cultivate brotherhood and love of others until we unite "as one man with one heart" at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

The Passover Symbols

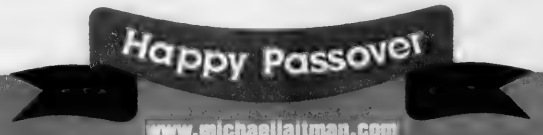
The special Passover dishes and traditions represent stages, or forces that help us on our exit from our egos toward love of others.



- We drink four cups of wine because wine represents wisdom, the force that develops us. Our ego develops in four phases, so we need four "doses" of wisdom to correct it.
- The Passover *Seder* plate contains various symbols of situations we must experience as we struggle with the ego, whose moniker is Pharaoh.
- The *Afikoman* is a matzah that is broken in half during the early stages of the *Seder*. One half is eaten and the other is put aside. This symbol represents the great force by which we run from Egypt. The second must be eaten before midnight—the darkest time of night—when a person feels that life in the ego, namely Egypt, has nothing to offer but darkness and gloom.
- This brings us to the matzah. Its name comes from two words, *matzah* and *merivah*, which roughly mean strife. The matzah represents the inner quarrel between Pharaoh, the ill-will, and the Creator, which is The Good Who Does Good, the benevolent power of giving. The matzah is also called "bread of poverty," since it represents a person's choice not to enjoy anything that has to do with the ego. We resume eating bread after Passover to show our triumph in the battle, that now we delight in giving rather than receiving.
- Speaking of struggles, we must not forget the Passover cleaning. In general, leaven symbolizes egoism. This is why the matzah dough cannot contain leaven, and why the matzah is also referred to as "unleavened bread." But there is more to cleaning than clearing out leaven. A person's house represents the sum of one's desires, one's entity. Cleaning it means searching for filth (egoism) and clearing it out. When we declare that the house is kosher for Passover, we are actually declaring that we have cleansed our souls from egoism and are fit to transition into brotherhood and love of others.

Rekindle the Unity

This year, as we sit together with our families around the *Seder* table, let us remember that Passover is about love and brotherhood. Especially in these days of growing social tensions, it is a good idea to remember the roots of our nation are unity, mutual responsibility, and love that covers all other feelings. Let us rekindle them among us and pass over to the next level—of freedom from Pharaoh and brotherhood and care.



www.michaellaitman.com

Conservative shuls merge to create new congregation

DIANE KOVEN
OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

Following last June's official vote to amalgamate and a number of months of gradual consolidation, Ottawa's two largest Conservative congregations will soon be known by the new name of Kehillat Beth Israel.

The name of the combined congregation was chosen to reflect and incorporate the past of both groups while also being "new" and representing the cohesive congregation that has emerged.

Congregation Agudath Israel and Congregation Beth Shalom will each have a part of its original name, joined by the word "Kehillat," meaning "community of." A committee tasked with naming the "new" synagogue canvassed all members by survey and received 420 responses, of which 77 per cent preferred Beth Israel.

Kehillat Beth Israel, located in the synagogue formerly known as Congregation Agudath Israel, is fully egalitarian and affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The combined membership, allowing for some overlap in terms of people who may have been members of one congregation and associate members of the other, is expected to be approximately 800 families, which will make it one of North America's larger Conservative congregations.

Kehillat Beth Israel boasts a new, more accessible low-rise bimah.

The physical requirements, as well as the spiritual needs, of the congregation are also being addressed.

"As we got closer to amalgamation, the discussion shifted to addressing the needs of physically challenged and our older congregants who were having trouble navigating the bimah in order to have an aliyah," said Stuart McCarthy, co-president of Kehillat Beth Israel, along with Lorne Goldstein.

"By creating a low-rise bimah, more central to the congregation and turning the front several rows of seats inward to face the sides of the bimah, and adding a ramp, we accomplished all goals and inaugurated it during Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month in February," he added.

"This was done on a very tight budget, with a crew of about a half-dozen congregants volunteering their time, the services of a carpenter and the donation of some of the materials," he said. "We are very proud to have the first fully accessible bimah in Ottawa."

Clergy for the new congregation will also employ the concept of "yours, mine and ours."

Cantor Daniel Benlolo from Congregation Beth Shalom and Rabbi Deborah Zuker of Congregation Agudath Israel – whose position deals with outreach to young families – will soon be joined by Rabbi Eytan Kenter, who was recently chosen to become senior rabbi of the newly amalgamated congregation and who will arrive in Ottawa at the beginning of July along with his wife, Staci Zemlak-Kenter, and their young son, Boaz.

Rabbi Kenter, a graduate of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Davidson School of Jewish Education, grew up in Westchester, N.Y., and has been associate rabbi and chief learning officer of Congregation B'nai Torah in Atlanta for the past seven years. ■

YOUR KIDS WILL FALL IN WITH JUDAISM!

Now accepting registration for 2016!

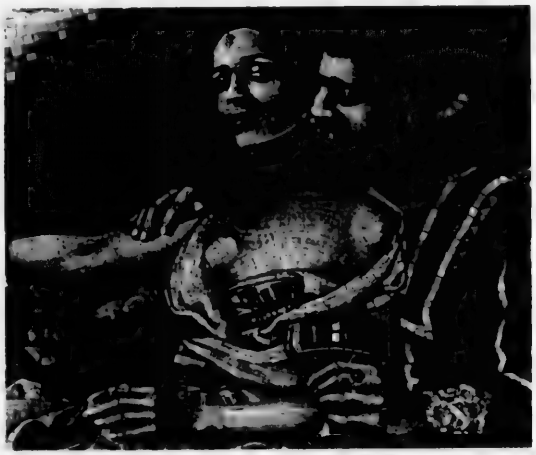
AHAVAT YISRAEL
בית ספר אהבת ישראל

Sunday or Weeknight Classes
JK - Bar/Bat Mitzvah

COME FOR THE LEARNING STAY FOR THE FUN

416-781-8088
ahavatyisrael@sympatico.ca
ahavatyisraelhebrewschool.com

Julia & Henry Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education



Detail: *Judith Seducing Holofernes*. Diptych 73 x 96" (185.5 x 244cm)

LILIAN BROCA
Heroine of a Thousand Pieces:
The Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca
May 5 – July 4, 2016
Artist will be in attendance at the opening.
Thursday, May 5, 2016. 6:30pm – 9:30pm

carrier villa gallery
901 Lawrence Avenue West,
Toronto ON M6A 1C3
(416) 789-7011

NDG Chabad wants to buy former church hall

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Rohr Chabad of NDG has launched a public fundraising campaign to buy the former church hall it occupies from the real estate developers that own it. Chabad says it must be in a position to make an acceptable offer by the end of May.

Director Rabbi Yisroel Bernath told *The CJN* April 19 that "ideally" he'd like to raise $1 million, but "realistically" he needs at least $800,000 for a down payment.

With that, and the $500,000 it has in hand, Rabbi Bernath believes Chabad is in a position to support a mortgage and maintain the building, which is about 100 years old.

However, by that date, Chabad was still in negotiations with the developers, led by Robert Blatt, over the price.

Chabad has been in the property on Hingston Avenue since September 2013 as a rent-free tenant. It finds itself "in limbo" since the Côte des Neiges-Notre Dame de Grâce borough council earlier this month withdrew its approval of the developers' planned housing project on the site, following strong opposition from nearby residents.

The developers have not made public their intentions, but Rabbi Bernath said he knows they've received offers for the property. Chabad has been given "the first right of refusal," which means that Chabad has first dibs, if it can match other offers, said Rabbi Bernath, underlining that he considers the developers "friends."

Chabad of NDG, founded by Rabbi Bernath in 2008, had previously been located in three different rented storefronts. It was looking for a permanent home when it entered into an agreement with the developers in 2013 that allowed it to occupy the hall with the understanding Chabad would buy it from the developers within 18 months, or by about March 2015. That did not happen.

The hall is adjacent to the former St. Columba Church, which was sold by the Anglican diocese to the developers in 2012 and has remained empty ever since.

In the April 18 announcement of the online campaign, Chabad appealed to "the local, national and international community" to help "a synagogue under attack from [a] local elected city councillor."

That refers to the tirade at the April 4 borough council meeting by Jeremy Searle, an opponent of the housing project. He charged that Chabad was resorting to "the overused Jewish guilt argument" and insinuations of anti-Semitism to deter the opposition.

In March, 224 residents signed a borough registry opposing the project, well above the minimum that, by law, would have forced a referendum, unless the council retreated.

Rabbi Yisroel Bernath

The developers' plan was to demolish the main church building and construct seven townhouses, while preserving the hall and allowing Chabad to remain there – although under what terms was not made known.

The project faced opposition for various reasons – the loss of a heritage site and the style of the proposed housing, among them – but neighbours have also complained about Chabad's presence from the outset, as well as about noise and other nuisances.

Chabad uses the hall for Shabbat services and holds classes and activities during the week. An unaffiliated daycare centre, there for more than 30 years, remains upstairs, and Chabad makes the premises available to community groups for a small fee.

Rabbi Bernath said if Chabad is unable to buy the hall, its options are limited. He assumes a new owner wouldn't let Chabad stay, whatever their plans for the property. He's looked at other places in NDG, but hasn't found a suitable place to buy or rent.

Chabad of NDG, which also serves Concordia University's Loyola campus, has seen a steady growth in participants, most of them not Lubavitchers, which is why it's moved so often. He said the centre needs at least 3,000 square feet for large gatherings, plus a kitchen and another smaller room. The hall, which is 3,800 square feet, is ideal and the location is good. He believes Chabad is meeting a need in the area, noting that, according to Federation CJA, there are more than 6,000 Jews living in NDG, and it has 1,400 addresses on its mailing list.

Rabbi Bernath, a Chicago native, deplores that a district known for "peaceful coexistence across cultural and religious lines" has been riven by what he sees as the hostility of some residents and inflammatory accusations by Searle. "For an elected official to accuse people of such a thing as [instilling] 'Jewish guilt' is just horrible to me," he said.

"Nobody from our community ever said a word about anti-Semitism in this debate. It was Mr. Searle who introduced this concept." He said many people were upset by Searle's remarks and his lack of apology or clarification, and he expects he'll be questioned at the May 2 borough meeting.■

JOIN CANTOR BENY AND HOPE MAISSNER
FOR THE SEPHARDONIC SOUNDS & SITES OF
JEWISH SPAIN
FEATURING CONCERTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS CREATED BY THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY
July 3 ~ 14, 2016

On our adventure together we will...
- Celebrate Sephardic culture and song, with special CA Concerts and Events throughout
- Tour the world famous Prado Museum & stroll through beautiful Retiro Park in Madrid
- Visit the Grand Toledo Cathedral and the Transito Synagogue in the Imperial City of Toledo
- Enjoy a special Ladino program at Casa De Sefarad in Cordoba
- Visit the Moorish Alcazar Palace where the expulsion decree was signed in 1492 in Granada
- Discover the works of Gaudi, including the massive Segrada Familia and Guell Park
- Walk in the steps of the ancient synagogue in Barcelona
- Visit the former Jewish center of Gerona
- Enjoy a visit to the lovely medieval towns of Banyoles and Besalu

For more information, please contact Cantor Benjamin Maissner at bmaissner@holyblossom.org 416 789 3291 ext. 224

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 28, 2016

Places named for alleged Nazi sympathizer to go: mayor

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Mayor Denis Coderre promised that public places in Montreal named for a French Nobel laureate, who was an alleged Nazi sympathizer, will be changed soon.

He was referring to a street and park in the Rivière des Prairies district, near the eastern tip of the island, honouring Alexis Carrel, a physician who won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1912.

Coderre, in consultation with Rivière des Prairies-Pointe aux Trembles borough mayor Chantal Rouleau, announced the decision of his executive committee on April 20, a day after D'Arcy McGee MNA David Birnbaum called on all municipalities in Quebec to remove Carrel's name from public places.

Birnbaum has also contacted the mayors of Châteauguay and Boisbriand, where there are also streets named for Carrel, a pioneer in vascular surgery, who died in 1944.

Birnbaum says Carrel was "a proponent of eugenics and a supporter of the collaborationist Vichy regime in wartime France."

The MNA cited the German edition of his book *L'Homme, cet Inconnu*, in which Carrel praised the Nazi regime, writing: "The German government has taken energetic measures against the propagation of the defective, the mentally diseased, and the criminal. The ideal solution would be the suppression of each of these individuals as soon as he has proven himself to be dangerous."

In the same book, Carrel endorsed destroying humanity's "inferior stock" through the use of gas chambers.

At time of writing, Birnbaum had received no response from Mayor Nathalie Simon of Châteauguay or Mayor Marlene Cordato of Boisbriand to his demand.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) commended Coderre for his swift action.

CIJA termed Carrel "an enthusiastic supporter of the Nazi regime's sterilization of minorities, homosexuals, criminals and people with disabilities in order to create a so-called master race."

The organization called on Châteauguay and Boisbriand to follow the example of Montreal and Gatineau, which last year got rid of a street named for Carrel. That only happened following a two-year campaign led by a resident to get the city council to do so, and representations by CIJA.

"It seems to me that each of the mayors

Alexis Carrel

would want to move swiftly to remove this painful and public honouring of an individual who propagated views shared by Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime," Birnbaum stated.

"Quebec was one of the first jurisdictions in the world to adopt a law commemorating the Holocaust each year. That day is approaching in May, and it would be a sign of respect to Holocaust survivors among us, as well as to all residents of the municipalities, to honour the opportunity remove this dishonoured name from their public face."

He pointed out that municipalities can quite easily vote to propose such name changes to the provincial Commission de toponymie du Québec for approval.

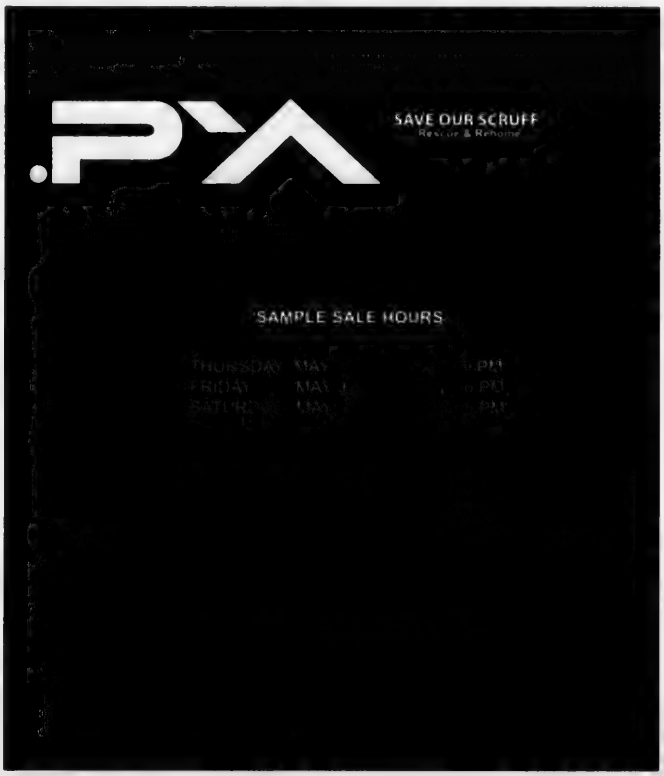
CIJA stated: "While it is clear that these municipalities did not knowingly pay tribute to a man whose views were so contemptuous of humanity, there is no place to honour a proponent of such inhumane ideas in an advanced democracy such as Quebec."

Gatineau also renamed a street last year honouring another Nobel laureate with clear Nazi sympathies, the German physicist Philipp Lenard (1862-1947), who was an active proponent of Nazism and supporter of Hitler.

Alexis Carrel became Albert Einstein Street and Philipp Lenard was renamed Marie Curie Street, after two other Nobel winners.

Quebec City also once had an Alex Carrel street, which became Maurice Bellemare Street.

The Nobel Prize organization makes no mention of Carrel's alleged association with Nazism. The online biography states that Carrel, a close friend of Charles Lindbergh, returned to France from the United States when World War II broke out and worked for the Ministry of Health. The following year he became director of the Carrel Foundation for the Study of Human Problems, set up by the Vichy government, until his death. Due to this support, Carrel was accused of collaboration. ■



'Many Jews on the left are strong supporters of Israel'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

JSpaceCanada, a left-leaning Zionist pro-Israel organization that supports a two-state resolution to the Mideast conflict, disputed the contention that the left of the political spectrum is somehow synonymous with anti-Israel sentiment.

"There is nothing whatsoever about Israel in the Leap Manifesto. The signers of the manifesto include a lot of respected names, some of them not even particularly associated with the left, [such as] Roy McMurtry, Robert Bateman, Leonard Cohen.

"Many Jews on the left are strong supporters of Israel and Zionism. The fact that some are not does not equate with a worldview that only those to the right of the political spectrum support Israel and that those on the left can be presumed to be anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist and anti-Israel. To tar the entire NDP with the same pro-BDS brush wielded by some on the left is to do a disservice to those in the party that have spoken out strongly against the vilification of Israel and the delegitimization of the Jewish State," JSpace stated in an email.

"As far as we are aware, the issue of Tom Mulcair's strong and unwavering support of Israel was not even mentioned at the leadership review," JSpace added.

Meanwhile, in an email to its supporters earlier this month, the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center pointed out that delegates attending the NDP convention in Edmonton "quashed a motion to support the anti-Israel BDS campaign in closed-door committee session. Since the committee proceedings were private, no numbers on the vote were released, but there appears to have been little support for the motion, as it failed to reach the convention floor." ■

Correction

In the cover story "The State of Jewish-Muslim dialogue in Canada" (April 14), the name Shari Golberg was incorrectly spelled a number of times. We apologize for the error.

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

Despite tunnel fever, it's business as usual on Gaza border

Judah Ari Gross
JERUSALEM

Soldiers on the southern Gaza border have not changed their mission or their outlook following the discovery of a Hamas attack tunnel penetrating deep into Israeli territory from the coastal enclave, an officer said.

Despite a renewed public focus on the Gaza Strip in light of the tunnel – found earlier this month – the facts on the ground have not changed, nor have there been any marked changes in the day-to-day security routine along the separation fence.

Notably, still-classified tunnel detection technology – which some in the government have touted as the only answer to the threat of subterranean attacks – has not affected the operational methods of the infantry troops on the ground.

Gaza duty today is more or less the same as Gaza duty in 2014 and 2012 and 2010, according to the officer, who serves there today and has been stationed there numerous times throughout the years.

The new, mysterious technology has not necessarily shifted the overall balance along the border, some experts have said. And practically no one believes that the threat from Hamas in Gaza has been neutralized.

Though there have not been any radical escalations recently, it would be wrong to conclude that the region is calm. "On the Gaza border, you don't sleep so well at night," the officer said. "The next round is just a matter of time," said the officer, who asked not to be named for security reasons.

In the days preceding and immediately following the announcement of the tunnel's discovery, the army moved to reassure the public that it had everything under control, using attention-grabbing press briefings and speeches.

The prime minister, defence minister and other officials credited the discovery of the tunnel to a new, "unique" technology, trumpeting it as a dramatic shift in the power dynamic on the border. Last Wednesday, April 20, Likud MK Miki Zohar declared during a conference on the threat of the tunnels in Sderot that this new technology was "the only reason" the tunnel had been found.

In response, Col. (res.) Yossi Langotzky, who previously served as adviser to the IDF chief of staff on the threat of tunnels, called Zohar "an idiot."

Israeli soldiers during a patrol at the Anzac Memorial just outside the central Gaza strip on April 13 in southern Israel. CORINNA KERN/FLASH90 PHOTO

"There is no physical barrier that cannot be overcome," Langotzky said during the conference.

"If you build a system that can detect a tunnel up to 40 metres deep, [Hamas] will build a tunnel below 40 metres," he told the *Times of Israel*.

For years, Langotzky has been warning the relevant bodies about the tunnel threat, but unheeded at every turn. To this day, he said, he remains persona non grata at the Defence Ministry.

The tall, imposing Langotzky said that without an independent, dedicated government body responsible for the tunnel threats emanating from both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel will remain at risk of attack.

Although the secret technology is said to have discovered an attack tunnel in Israel, Langotzky brushed it off as an ultimately ineffectual stopgap measure. "If I were a Gaza border resident, I wouldn't sleep well at night," he said at the conference, which was attended by Israelis who live in that area.

For its part, the army has downplayed the new technology, insisting the tunnel was located using a combination of means, including intelligence and "boots on the ground."

A few days before the tunnel was revealed to the public, a senior military official disclosed Israel's current security assessments of Hamas in Gaza. Yes, Hamas is rebuilding its arsenal, the official told reporters. But no, it's not yet prepared nor interested at this point in an imminent conflict.

However, the official stressed, Israel is prepared, with a thorough battle strategy and detailed intelligence. "We have a plan to overwhelm the military branch of Hamas," he said.

During the conference in Sderot, the head of the Southern Command, Maj.-Gen. Eyal Zamir, made some waves in the Hebrew media when he discussed the existence of plans to evacuate communities on the Gaza border in the event of a war.

To the officer on the border, those reports were something of a shock: not because he was unaware of those battle and evacuation plans – far from it – but because others were surprised that Israel does have them.

"You always have a plan that says what to do if there's a war here, what to do if there's a war there," he said.

Being prepared for anything is the hallmark of a good warrior, the officer said, looking in the direction of Gaza. "Even as we're speaking, I'm thinking to myself, 'What happens if someone comes from over there? What happens if a mortar falls?'"

For the past six months, soldiers from the infantry Golani Brigade have been stationed along the southern section of the Gaza border.

The soldiers, the "boots on the ground," are still actively searching for tunnels. "That's not even a secret; the other side comes and takes pictures," the officer said.

In addition, violent protests near the fence – which can include "800 to 1,000 people," occasional sniper fire on army troops and vehicles, and attempts by individuals to breach the fence and infiltrate Israel – are what occupy the troops on a regular basis.

The terror attacks and unrest emanating from the West Bank seem to have had a greater impact on the local population than the discovery of the tunnel this month, the officer said.

The Gaza border was once Israel's most volatile, but it has cooled since Operation Protective Edge in 2014. Last year was the calmest of the decade there, in terms of rocket fire and incidents along the fence.

Calm, however, can be deceiving, and the soldiers stationed there must be constantly prepared for any eventuality.

"Our motto is: Be like a coiled spring," the officer said. "And if we ever have to hit back, we'll hit back with force."

For soldiers, serving on the Gaza border is "entirely different" from serving in the West Bank, in terms of both tactics and psychology, he said.

"In the West Bank, everything is mixed together. Everything has a lot of meaning, even just one guy at a bus stop. Here, there's a fence," he said. On one side is Israel, on the other Gaza.

There is a certain "simplicity" to that dynamic, which makes it an easier place to serve, he said.

It does, however, come with its own challenges. The powder keg nature of Gaza places enormous responsibility on the shoulders of 18- and 19-year-old soldiers, who must handle incidents along the border with restraint and maturity – two things for which teenagers are not particularly renowned.

If the IDF responded with a heavy hand to every minor incident along the border, Israel would rapidly find itself in yet another conflict with Hamas in Gaza. But at the same time, attacks on Israeli sovereignty cannot simply be ignored.

It is a difficult balance to strike. There is a need for soldiers on the border who are ready to react when a demonstration turns violent, but not overreact and potentially spark a more significant incident. To mitigate that issue, "we have very clear rules of engagement," the officer said. ■

The Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Far-right makes political gains in Austria

JTA
VIENNA

A politician from Austria's far-right party won 36 per cent of the votes in the first round of presidential elections, beating all rivals and clinching the movement's best electoral showing to date.

Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party, or FPO, led by a 16-per cent margin over an independent, left-leaning candidate who he will face in the final vote on May 22 for the post, which is largely a ceremonial one.

Hofer's campaign focused on opposition to the arrival to Austria of migrants from Syria and Iraq, including many refugees. Hundreds of thousands of them have passed through Austria in recent months. In the second round, Hofer will run against the independent candidate Alexander van der Bellen, who is an environmentalist with a pro-refugee agenda.

Popular opposition to the arrival of refugees to Austria offers only a partial explanation to the FPO's successes, according to Karl Pfeifer, a veteran journalist and anti-fascist activist who formerly edited the official publication of Vienna's Jewish community of 8,000 people.

> *I fear for what this victory means.*
>
> **Karl Pfeifer, Austrian Journalist**

The Jewish Community of Vienna has shunned FPO, which it regards as having problematic ties to neo-Nazis. FPO chairman Heinz-Christian Strache has denied these allegations and recently visited Israel, where he met with Likud officials. In 2012, Strache apologized for posting on Facebook a caricature depicting an obese, hook-nosed banker wearing star-shaped cufflinks.

"The success of the FPO reflects the political centre's failure to provide an alternative," Pfeifer told *JTA* last Monday. "Instead of confronting the FPO, the political establishment either ignored it or shifted rightward to steal would-be FPO voters, but the voters went to the source and cut out the middleman," he said.

Another independent candidate, the right-of-centre former judge Irmgard Griss, clinched 19 per cent of the vote. She has not yet endorsed any of the remaining candidates in the final round. In France, mainstream rival parties put aside their differences and endorsed one another to keep the far-right National Front from winning. "But this sort of behaviour does not occur in Austria," Pfeifer said.

If Hofer wins, Pfeifer said, "it is my opinion that the Jewish community will have no choice but to co-operate with him, as it is bound to work with Austria's elected leadership. I fear for what this victory means...because it signals a slide into a restrictive democracy of the kind that exists in Hungary." ■

Netanyahu and Rivlin call for unity in annual Passover greeting

> *I send my greetings to all the 'house of Israel'*
>
> **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin came together on Friday to issue a joint Passover greeting to the Israeli people.

The two leaders met at the president's official residence in Jerusalem to discuss Netanyahu's visit to Russia this week, and recorded a joint holiday video message.

"This is an opportunity to wish all the Israeli people a joyous festival, a holiday during which all the people are united. May we stand united against the challenges we face and overcome them," Rivlin said.

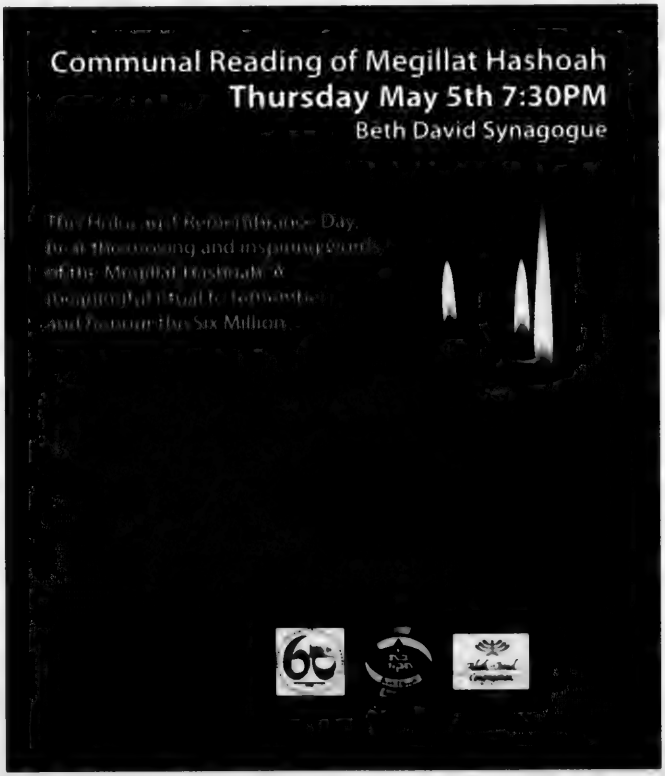
Netanyahu, who spoke after the president, singled out Israel's security forces, praising them for tireless protection of the country.

"Mr. President, together with you I send my greetings to all the 'house of Israel', and in particular to the Israeli servicemen and women, our soldiers, policemen and women, those serving in the border guards, who watch over us all year round," Netanyahu said.

IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, meanwhile, was attending a seder for lone soldiers at a resort owned by the Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers, *Ynet* reported. Almost 500 soldiers from 35 countries, who do not have family in Israel, were joining him.

Israel's soldiers will not go short of matzah over Passover, with the Defence Ministry sending some 95 tons of the unleavened bread to army bases across the country. The ministry also distributed 15,000 cases of the traditional dish of haroset and 27 tons of kosher for Passover pastries. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com



Jerusalem bus bombing was a suicide attack

JTA
JERUSALEM

Israel closed off the West Bank for the start of Passover amid fears of further terrorist attacks after a bus bombing in Jerusalem that wounded 20 on April 18.

The closure began Thursday night and lasted through Saturday night.

Israel had "warnings, although not concrete" about terrorist attacks planned for the Passover weekend, Israel's Channel 10 reported, according to the *Times of Israel*. Israel is concerned about increased visits by Jews to the Temple Mount site during the eight-day Passover holiday, which began last Friday.

Six Israelis wounded in Monday's attack remain hospitalized, including a teenage girl in serious condition.

The victims of the bus bombing had burns on their upper bodies, as well as wounds from nails and ball bearings packed into the explosive device. The wounds, according to Avi Rivkind, head of Hadassah's trauma unit, were similar to those from previous Jerusalem terror attacks.

The bus bombing was a suicide terror attack planned by Hamas, and several members of the cell responsible were arrested.

Firefighters and rescue personnel at the scene of the bus bombing, in Jerusalem on April 18.
NATI SHOHAT/FLASH 90 PHOTO

The bomber was identified by the Shin Bet security service as Abed al-Hamid Abu Srour, a 19-year-old Palestinian from near Bethlehem in the West Bank. He was among the people injured in the attack on the No. 12 bus.

Abu Srour, who lost both of his legs in the explosion and underwent several surgeries, died at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. Afterward, Hamas claimed in a statement that the teenager was a member of its military wing.

Several Hamas members from Bethlehem have been arrested on suspicion of helping Abu Srour carry out the attack, according to the Shin Bet. Their names remain under gag order.

Abu Srour's father denied that his son was a terrorist.

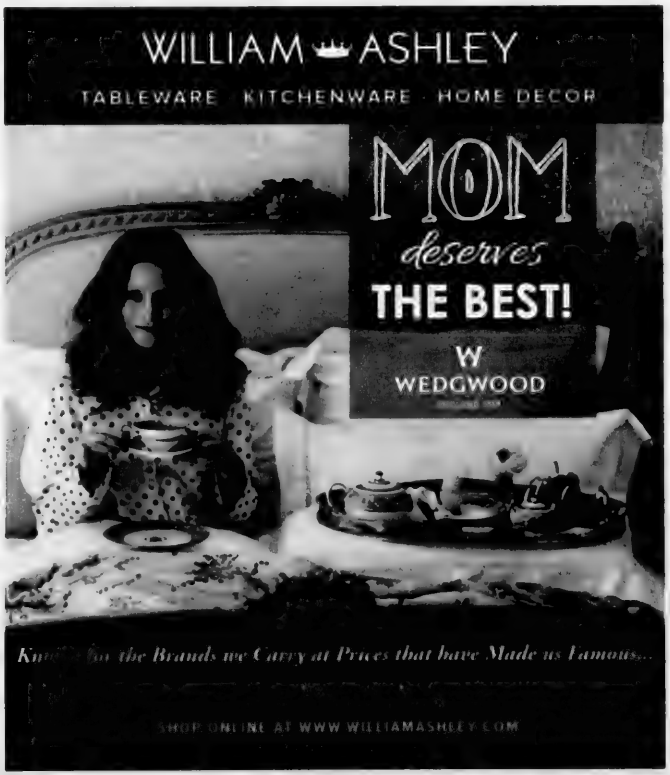
"I was not expecting that my son would do such act. My son did not make me feel even for one per cent, that he has feelings or thoughts like that. Never. I know that my son failed in one subject in his secondary schools exam and was preparing to take the exam again and pass it and focus on his future. This is the deal that we had together, me and him," Mohammad Abu Srour said, according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

The family discovered a will written by Abu Srour, according to the French news agency, *AFP*, which cited the Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Information Centre website. The Arabic website reported that Abu Srour's father had been asked to identify his son's body.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health later announced the body had been identified, according to the Palestinian *Maan* news agency.

The attack was the first bus bombing in Israel in several years. Such attacks terrorized Israelis during the second intifadah, a violent Palestinian uprising from 2000-2005.

The attack followed a six-month wave of Palestinian stabbings and shooting attacks in Jerusalem, the West Bank and across Israel. The rate of the attacks had slowed to normal levels, though Israeli officials remained concerned about a flare-up in violence surrounding upcoming religious holidays, including Passover. ■



Let us do the cooking.
Food nurtures the body and soul, especially when it's made fresh by an Amica chef. That's something residents of Amica retirement communities enjoy every day. Selection, service with a smile, and no clean up afterward. Bon appetit!
Call or visit us online to find out how to get a taste of the lifestyle for yourself!
First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca
Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.288.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400
AMICA

At Ethiopian seder, 3,000 people long for Israel

MELANIE LIDMAN
GONDAR, ETHIOPIA

Members of the Falash Mura Jewish Ethiopian community prepare food for the Passover seder meal, in the synagogue in Gondar, Ethiopia.
MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90 PHOTO

It was the Bnei Akiva kids who started the dancing, of course, at the end of the Passover seder when we say "L'Shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim – Next Year in Jerusalem." These children, who have been waiting for years to make aliyah to Israel, sang the words with passion, dancing in wild circles, jumping with their hands on each other's backs and hoisting the smaller kids onto their shoulders. One enterprising five-year-old stage-dived off the bimah (platform) into the crowd of dancers and was raised aloft.

The words "Next Year in Jerusalem" are bittersweet for Gondar's Jewish community. They capture moments of hope, but also decades of longing, countless frustrations, bureaucratic hurdles, the pain of family separation, and thousands of years of tradition. The Passover seder, which retells the story of the exodus from Egypt to Israel, from slavery to freedom, brings their struggle to become Israelis into sharp focus.

Some of the members of Gondar's 6,000-strong Jewish community have been waiting for upwards of 25 years to move to Israel, stuck in limbo as they watch the political wrangling in Israel from afar.

About 135,000 Jews of Ethiopian descent are living in Israel. Tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel during Operation Moses in 1984 and Operation Solomon in 1992. Since that time, 50,000 additional Ethiopian Jews have made aliyah to Israel, at a rate of about 200 per month.

But there are still approximately 9,000 Jews left in Ethiopia, according to the community. The Jews still left in Ethiopia are called "Falash Mura," descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity generations ago, often under duress.

In November, Jews in Ethiopia celebrated the government's decision to approve the aliyah of 9,000 Ethiopian Jews. The approval faltered three months later when the Prime Minister's Office refused to implement the program because the $1 billion (US) needed to fund the absorption was not part of the budget. Funding was found and the aliyah was again approved on April 7.

The aliyah of the "last" 9,000 Jews is expected to begin in June and continue for approximately five years.

So the Passover seder last Friday for approximately 3,000 people in Gondar had a celebratory air, because many in the community believe that maybe this time, finally, they will be celebrating future Passover seders in Israel.

"You are not alone, people all over the world are thinking of you as they say the same words tonight," said Rabbi Menachem Waldman at the start of the seder. Waldman, a Haifa rabbi who has acted as the rabbi of the Jewish community in Ethiopia for the past 35 years, now works for the Jewish Agency. He mentioned the names of MKs who visit or support the community, including Likud MKs David Amsalem and Avraham Neguise, who refused to vote with the coalition for two months until the Knesset approved the plan to bring the 9,000 to Israel.

Waldman reminded the community that the Jewish Agency was again sponsoring the seder meal for the first time since it announced the "end" of Ethiopian aliyah in August 2013. And he told them that thousands of Jews around the world were advocating for the resumption of aliyah, the reunification of families stretched between Ethiopia and Israel.

A seder for 3,000 is chaotic, loud, boisterous, exciting. It required two weeks of preparation to hand-bake 50,000 matzot over the fire. Thursday was spent sweeping the dirt-floor synagogue from top to bottom, and Friday was for food preparation: boiling 2,000 eggs and 400kg of potatoes, crushing the peanut-date-banana mixture for haroset by hand with two large wooden mallets.

By early Friday afternoon, as the sun turned golden and the Ethiopian and Israeli flags fluttered in the breeze, the frantic preparations were at last completed.

People began arriving two hours in advance, women dressed in beautiful white shrouds and the children scrubbed clean and excited. Dozens of synagogue leaders worked all day on Friday to make "seder goody bags" for every participant, with a boiled potato, egg, piece of lettuce, and matzah. Perhaps the biggest miracle was that the bags were passed out more than three hours before the seder began, and almost no one, not even the smallest children, opened the bag for a pre-seder snack.

The evening began with Kabalat Shabbat services, since Passover began on Friday evening. As the crowd began to sing the traditional local Friday night song "Sambuse, Sambuse," the women broke out in ululations and the crowd went crazy, dancing and throwing their arms in the air.

It took community leaders a while to get everyone seated so Waldman could begin the seder.

As he ran through an abbreviated text – this is the bread of affliction, this is the bitter herb, this is the first cup of wine – people held the items aloft, a sea of boiled eggs raised throughout the synagogue. Around 50 children sang the Four Questions at the top of their lungs as the rest of the community clapped along.

The sweet homemade wine, made of 40 kilograms of raisins fermented in two large trash barrels for a week, was the biggest hit of the seder, with children clambering to get a cup.

A seder for 3,000 doesn't leave much room for deep discussions or reflections on the themes of Passover. But perhaps it's less about the words, and more about the reality of yearning for Israel, and hoping that this is the year their own exoduses will come to an end.

When the night ended with a singing of *Hatikvah*, Israel's national anthem, the mournful melody was transformed. It was a rousing chant shouted with resolution and strength. It was a promise, not a plea. And when they sang it, I couldn't help but tear up.

Because I live in Israel, I know that it is not the perfect place of their dreams, or of anyone's dreams. "Don't you know how difficult it will be for you when you arrive?" part of me wanted to tell them. "Don't you know that Israeli society can sometimes feature a bottled-up but commonplace racism that may try to erase your culture, change your name, deny you educational opportunities just because of the color of you skin? Don't you know about the racism, violence, and senseless terrorism that Israel faces from its enemies?"

And yet. No matter how difficult Israel can be, there are also moments of beauty that take your breath away. "I will miss Ethiopia, but even more, my soul now misses the Holy Land," one of the cantors in Ethiopia told me as he oversaw the preparation of matzah. And I understood.

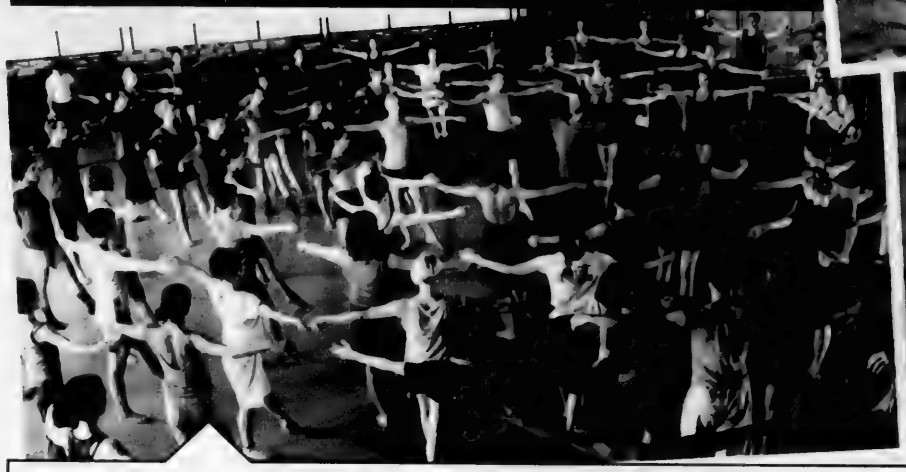
At some point on Friday, almost every Jew in the world turned their thoughts towards a single place, Jerusalem, as they retold the story of the exodus from Egypt.

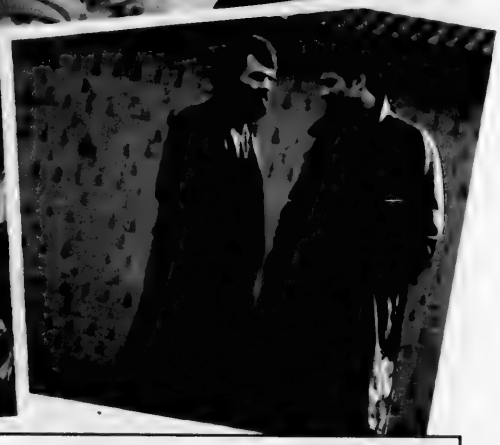
For the Jews of Ethiopia, these words are not a traditional story. They are a reality, a hope, a plea, a promise. This year we are slaves, next year let us be free. Now we are in our Egypt, but we have hope: Next Year in Jerusalem! ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life

FILM | THEATRE | BOOKS | WHAT'S





This year's **Hot Docs** is the largest ever

JORDAN ADLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

A revolutionary choreographer from Israel, a folk music family dynasty from Tajikistan and a gang of murderous neo-Nazis from Russia are among the subjects of the films at this year's Hot Docs festival in Toronto.

This is the biggest year in the documentary festival's history, with 232 titles set to premiere. Among them are non-fiction stories that should cater to Jewish interests in Toronto, including an insightful look at late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin In His Own Words, which won a prize at the Haifa film festival, looks back at the life of the revered Israeli leader. Erez Laufer's film features rare interviews, recordings, home movies and family records with the late statesman – many of which have never been seen by the public. *Rabin* will also be screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival later in May.

"I learned a lot from that documentary," says Shane Smith, Hot Docs' new director of programming. "It's always great to have this perspective on people or issues or moments coming 20 years later."

Smith also highly recommends *Credit for Murder*, a dark, true crime thriller from Israeli filmmaker Vladi Antonevicz. In the doc, the director goes undercover as a white supremacist to investigate a brutal hate crime and find the Russian neo-Nazis responsible.

"The resolution is quite shocking, so I don't want to say too much about it," Smith says of the documentary. "But it's quite the ride."

Antonevicz's film could stir up discussion, as could Ferne Pearlstein's documentary *The Last Laugh*, unveiled as one of the festival's Special Presentations. The film delves into a provocative subject related to the Holocaust: is it ever a good idea to make jokes about the tragedy?

Pearlstein's film, which features appearances by Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Sarah Silverman and several Holocaust survivors, may deal with a sensitive topic, but little of it is in bad taste, Smith says. Pearlstein will be present to talk about the film after it premieres on May 1.

Other special guests to Hot Docs include the subjects at the heart of the poignant *Aida's Secrets*. In this doc, which will have its world premiere at the festival, Izak Sagi, who was born in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp, unites with brother Shep Shell for the first time at the age of 68. The film looks at family secrets and issues related to identity.

> *There are no films screening that tackle the contemporary Israeli-Palestinian conflict.*

Meanwhile, the fascinating Alaev family – featured in world premiere *The Wonderful Kingdom of Papa Alaev* – will also appear in Toronto. The doc is about a celebrated family of folk musicians who immigrate to Israel from Tajikistan. Although the father, Allo "Papa" Alaev, leads the band and rules the household, he gets pushback from his only daughter, Ada.

"It's kind of like a family business story when the younger generation grows up and wants to change things," Smith says, "and the older generation isn't ready to let go."

Another big arts-related premiere is *Mr. Gaga*, a striking look at uncompromising Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin. Filmmaker Tomer Heymann spent eight years researching and following Naharin before beginning work on the doc, which explores life behind the scenes of Tel Aviv's Batsheva Dance Company.

Despite the numerous titles with a Jewish interest, there are no films screening at Hot Docs this year that tackle the contemporary Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Smith says that could be a reflection on the slate of films that was submitted to the festival. Fewer than 10 per cent of the films entered for submission will actually screen at Hot Docs.

"It all depends on the year," Smith says. "I think, in particular with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it's easy for everybody to feel fatigued or to feel like they've seen this topic or subject before." ■

The Hot Docs festival runs in Toronto from April 28 through May 8.

Pictured above, from left, *Mr. Gaga*, *The Wonderful Kingdom of Papa Alaev* and *Credit for Murder*

Natasha :

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

In one particularly affecting scene from David Bezmozgis' *Natasha*, the film the Canadian author and filmmaker adapted from the title short story of his acclaimed first collection, the teenaged protagonist Mark is reading aloud excerpts from Nietzsche to his 14-year-old step-cousin Natasha, newly arrived from Moscow.

After listening contemplatively to several passages, Natasha observes, "So he writes things that everyone already knows."

"Kind of," Mark replies. "But you only know them when you read them."

The statement encapsulates the poignancy at the heart of the film, which Bezmozgis wrote and directed, and which opens this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival on May 5.

The universe of 16-year-old Mark (played by Alex Ozerov)'s placid Toronto suburb is rattled when the troubled daughter of his uncle's new wife is temporarily placed under his charge.

But it's only when he's forced to face certain irrevocable truths about Natasha (played by Sasha K. Gordon), his family and himself that it seems they were there to be understood all along.

Mark, like Bezmozgis, was born in Latvia to Jewish parents and raised in Toronto, where his family settled when he was a young child.

The cultural rift between Mark and his parents, as well as the extended Russian family members of their generation, is starkly highlighted. Mark responds in English when they speak to him in Russian and challenges their notion that he should spend the summer working, as they're anxious that their children "have it too easy" in Canada.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Alex Ozerov plays Mark and Sasha K. Gordon plays Natasha in David Bezmozgis' adaptation of his own story.

a poignant coming-of-age story

Rather than toil at the call-centre job his uncle has arranged for him, Mark forges ahead with his comfortable routine of riding his bike, delivering pot for his older neighbour – it pays more or less the same as a thankless summer job would, he reasons – reading philosophy in his basement-turned bedroom and watching porn.

In addition to underscoring the particular strains of the Russian-Jewish immigrant experience and the understated pleasures of a lazy suburban summer, Bezmozgis deftly exposes some of the universal ironies of the parent-child dynamic.

The various parents in the film berate their adolescent children for being selfish, idle and difficult, but their claims are juxtaposed by revelations of their own foibles and in some cases, corruption.

Mark's mother's almost childlike innocence, with her refusal to see the drama unfolding before her, throws into sharp relief Mark's rather dramatic coming of age. Meanwhile, Natasha's mother, the new wife of Mark's uncle, is crafty and duplicitous, while the husband she dupes is perhaps less a victim than he initially seems to be.

Natasha, whose own innocence it seems has long ago been lost, uses the grim lessons she's learned from growing up in a dysfunctional home in Russia – a country about which she says blandly, "It's s--t, but people enjoy themselves" – to survive in the only way she knows how.

The cynical reality of her situation as a child who comes to understand that sexuality is her most valued currency is

balanced by the surprising sweetness of the romance she and Mark enter into. Indeed, it is in portraying the budding relationship between them that Bezmozgis triumphs.

The adult characters in the film are decidedly weaker than their adolescent counterparts, with their dialogue sometimes veering toward being heavy-handed. Bezmozgis is perhaps reaching here by using them to give viewers background narrative that's woven so gracefully into the book.

The teenage characters in the film, however, are beautifully rendered, at once capturing the shy watchfulness of those on the brink of adulthood and the joyous freedom of newfound independence.

Both Ozerov and Gordon are excellent as Mark and Natasha, playing their roles with an effortless intensity that makes the film a pleasure to watch. ■

Natasha opens the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which runs May 5 to 15. Visit tjff.com for a full schedule and ticket information.

> *Bezmozgis deftly exposes some of the universal ironies of the parent-child dynamic.*

Correction

The name of the author of the poem *The last survivors* in our Literary Supplement (page B41) was incorrectly spelled. It should be Sam Hoffer. *The CJN* apologizes for the error.

ADVERTISEMENT

Caregiver Burnout and the Passover Lesson

In over forty years experience in the field of Senior's Healthcare, family and friends have often consulted me as a resource and have asked me, "When our parent/loved one needs more care, what should we do?" For the same forty years, my answer has been, "If you can afford it, the best solution is to keep them in the home environment with around-the-clock help" – that is, until now. Recently during intake and assessments at One Kenton Place, I have encountered families suffering from caregiver "burnout". Notwithstanding that they already have help 24/7, the parent/loved one's condition and quality of life continues to deteriorate. A dilemma that needs some thought.

With Passover thoughts in mind, it seemed to me the demands and challenges of being the primary caregiver/decision-maker for someone with complex needs is a burden that can be likened to bondage. The Passover story deals with the freedom from bondage and hopefully there is a lesson to be learned from the Pesach experience. The Passover meal is so different from other holiday meals spent with family and to quote "Why is this night different than any other night?" The answer is "SEDER" or ORDER. Following a routine of prescribed steps ensures the delivery of the proper Passover experience for participants of all ages.

So too, for the primary caregiver, ORDER or disciplined and monitored routines need to be in place in order to orchestrate, augment and enrich what the hands-on caregivers do for your loved one. That includes balanced and planned meals, exercise, music (either listening and/or singing) mental games, conversation and storytelling, shopping, looking at family photos, hobbies, current events, even some TV shows, and really anything that engages and stimulates the individual being cared for. Some families are even hiring outside professionals to assist them with specialized services like these and safety proofing the home. The ORDER within the daily programming can lessen the burden and stem some of the depressive side effects of isolation. What results is not necessarily freedom from bondage but rewards from a labour of love.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the one
onekentonplace.ca

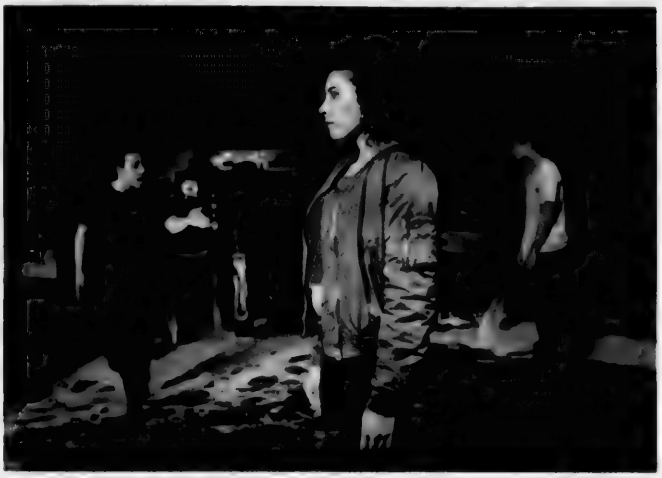
MANNY SIMON
ELDERCARE

Manny Simon, President of Eldercare Equities Inc., has been involved in the industry as an owner and operator since 1975. Over the course of his career, Manny has been involved in various capacities with approximately 25 retirement and long-term care homes, several of which have planned or incorporated specialized care programs for Alzheimer's disease and dementia. His firm is now responsible for the management of One Kenton Place.

A tale of two cities

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Evan Placey



Alejandra Simmons in *Scarberia*. CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN PHOTO

Scarborough, U.K., is nothing like Scarborough, Ont. Unlike the urban area in the east end of Toronto, Scarborough – in Yorkshire County – is an idyllic seaside town that's a popular summertime tourist destination. And Canadian-British playwright Evan Placey is familiar with both places.

His partner's parents are from the Scarborough across the pond and he's from the GTA. That's why he set his latest play *Scarberia* – on now at Toronto's Young People's Theatre (YPT) - in these twin cities of sorts.

"I became really fascinated right from the first time we went to visit his parents, like 10 years ago," says Placey, who grew up in Thornhill, Ont., and moved to the U.K. in 2006.

"I was like this is nothing like Scarborough in Toronto near where I grew up. And I became sort of fascinated with the link between these two places," he continues.

Scarberia, directed by Nina Lee Aquino, follows two sets of boys – played by the same two actors (Shelly Antony and Mishka Thébaud) – after a girl goes missing in Toronto and the body of a woman washes ashore in the U.K. Placey describes the play as a thriller.

As the show switches between the two Scarboroughs, it explores why some young people get into violence as well as larger themes such as identity, loyalty, love and friendship. Placey calls it a coming-of-age story.

He also works with ideas related to quantum physics, including the notion of multiple dimensions. "The form of the play plays with this idea around astral twins, and are the two boys in Scarborough just versions of the same two boys in the U.K.?" Placey says.

As Placey wrote in the *Guardian* last November, it's important for him to create engaging plays that challenge young people. The characters in *Scarberia*, he notes, live in a messy world that's filled with gangs and violence. And along with that provocative content, Placey notes its form is demanding as well.

"Let's make the audience work a bit to really sort of explore for them what theatre can be," Placey says.

The sole female character (Alejandra Simmons), for instance, speaks only in verse. Placey's also introducing young, Canadian audiences to a side of British life they don't usually see. "When we did the workshop here, one of the young people in the audience said, 'Oh, I never realized that not all the people in England were like rich and posh,'" he recalls.

> *Let's make the audience work a bit to really sort of explore for them what theatre can be.*

He started working on the play in the U.K. and once YPT got involved, he developed it at the Banff Playwrights Colony.

As part of his research process, he set up a pen pal program between high schools in Toronto – Earl Haig in North York and Scarborough's R.H. King Academy – and two schools in Yorkshire.

Scarberia is also a way for him to explore his multifaceted identity – he's both Canadian and British. "It's not like some of my other plays, it doesn't have a strong Jewish theme," he says.

Yet his Judaism still plays into this piece. "I think it always goes back to the idea of, for me, being an outsider and what does it mean to be an outsider."

Both sets of boys in *Scarberia* feel isolated in their respective hometowns and that's a feeling Placey's familiar with. "In the U.K. and in Europe, it's hard to be a Jew," he says, "especially at the moment."■

Scarberia *is recommended for ages 14 and up. It runs until May 1 at the Young People's Theatre.*
For tickets call 416-862-2222 or visit youngpeoplestheatre.ca.

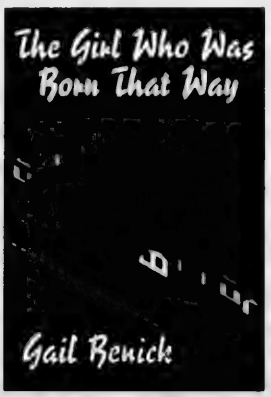
Toronto City Councillor James Pasternak
Wishes everyone in the community a Happy Pesach!
חג כשר ושמח

World War II
V-E Day Ceremony
Monday, May 9th at 12:30pm
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel Flag Raising
Thursday, May 12th at 10am
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.

James PASTERNAK
Toronto City Councillor, Ward 10, York Centre
416-392-1371 councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca
Visit us online: www.jamespasternak.ca

THE COLE FAMILY & CLUB DAYAN NA'AMAT CANADA TORONTO
INVITE YOU TO THE SHARON COLE MEMORIAL LECTURE



Author Gail Benick will discuss her novel *The Girl Who Was Borth That Way*. It is the story of the Berk family, not exactly an ordinary Jewish family, trying to bury its Holocaust past while starting over in post-war USA

Monday, May 9, 2016 at 8:00 pm
Temple Sinai – 210 Wilson Avenue

PUBLIC INVITED
FREE ADMISSION
REFRESHMENTS
Books will be available for purchase

Na'amat Canada Toronto
www.naamat.com/toronto

Windsor film festival offers variety of themes

RON STANG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The 14th annual edition of the Windsor Jewish Film Festival runs May 2 to 5 this year.

It will show 10 films, opening with Canadian director Atom Egoyan's *Remember*, starring multiple Oscar-winner Christopher Plummer. It closes with *Labyrinth of Lies*, a German film that explores how that country's first domestic war crimes trial came about, a decade after the Nuremberg trials.

Jewish film festivals may be commonplace in larger cities, but Windsor, with a population of 200,000 and a Jewish community of 1,200, was one of the early rare examples of a small community running its own public film event.

Festival spokesman and retired University of Windsor professor Stuart Selby said than when the festival started, "we may have been second only to Toronto," though now there are several Jewish film festivals in cities across Canada.

The Windsor festival originally was part of the Detroit Jewish film festival, a "fourth location," if you will, across the border, Selby said. But, because of copyright issues, films shown in Canada had to be sourced from Canadian distributors.

"So at that point we said let's just do it ourselves – with trepidation – but it worked out."

All festival films are screened at the Cineplex Devonshire Mall, rented at a reduced rate. Last year, the event attracted more than 2,000, a testament to its growing popularity among the Windsor community at large.

Selby said a lot of the growth has been through word of mouth. "It's when people tell their friends, 'Hey, we saw a great film, let's go together this year.'"

To put on the festival, a scheduling committee chooses from about 30 mostly recently released films, often screened at other festivals or listed in film distributors' current catalogues.

"The whole process of previewing films has become a lot simpler because the distributors will either send screener DVDs or they'll send it digitally," Selby said.

But choosing films can be a bit tricky.

While organizers seek a mix of topics, it's a fact of life that the preponderance of Jewish films are Holocaust-themed.

Co-chairs Helen Arbour, left, and Nancy Barat

And while many of those are, of course, screened at the festival, films with other themes, be it the immigrant experience or contemporary Jewish life, are also sought.

"We're always looking for light-hearted films and they're rare," Selby says.

But this year's selection demonstrates that even films about the Holocaust can be nuanced and don't necessarily have to take place during World War II.

"While several touch on the Holocaust, all avoid images of the horror of that time, confronting instead the lingering psychological effects on people's lives," the festival says in a release.

In *Remember*, nominated for three Canadian Screen Awards this year, an aged nursing home resident with dementia overcomes his disability to avenge the murder of his friend's family in Auschwitz. And in *Magic Men*, a child survivor of the Greek Holocaust returns 60 years later with his estranged son to find his rescuer.

Other films in the lineup show considerable diversity.

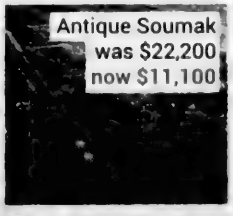
Dough is about the last kosher baker in East London, who takes on a Muslim Darfur refugee as an apprentice, leading to some humorous cultural clashes. *The Dove Flyer* is set in the 1950s Jewish community in Iraq. *A Tale of Love and Darkness* starring Natalie Portman is based on the Amos Oz memoir about growing up in Jerusalem from the British Mandate period to independence. *Deli Man* is a delightful, bittersweet chronicle of the once ubiquitous but increasingly scarce Jewish delicatessen. ■

CLOSING SALE

17 days left

After twenty-five years, Reznick Carpets is closing.

As we say goodbye to this Design District institution, take advantage of *once in a lifetime* liquidation prices on rugs and broadloom.

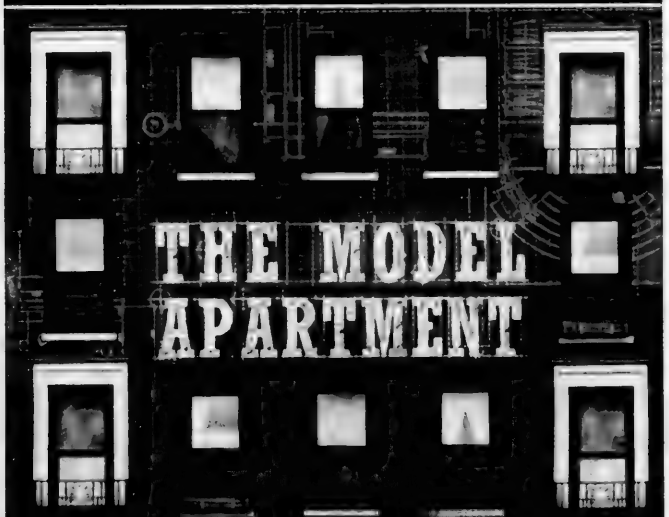


Thousands of rugs available for now: modern traditional tribal & broadloom

Shop early for best selection.

REZNICK CARPETS
81 Ronald Av, Toronto. 416-787-7676
www.reznickcarpets.com

"AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX AND DARING HOLOCAUST PLAYS I'VE SEEN"



Written by RONALD MARGULIES Directed by TANJA JACOBS
Starring CLARE COULTER, LISA NORTON, TONY OFORI and ERIC PETERSON

MAY 7 – 29, 2016 · THE CHARNIN THEATRE · TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL 1.855.935.2787 OR VISIT HGJEWISHTHEATRE.COM

Feel free to use these tips at next year's seders

Chaimie and Leizer

With Passover behind us, we realize many of you did your seders wrong this year. Here's how to get it right next year.

Passover's crown jewel is the seder. We of course have two, so if you futz it up one night, you can get it right the next (take it easy on the Mani, will ya?). Now, this one is going to be particularly hard for us Canadians, since there are no Canadian teams to watch in the NHL playoffs this year – during Maggid on an extended trip to the toilet. As good people though, we've learned from Passover that it's important to let our people go, and thus we've agreed to let the majority of Canadian players on U.S. teams wear playoff Omer beards (a shandeh, but nu, what can you do?).

Anyway, if you're like us, you recognize that in modern times, Passover can very much be a figurative exploration of freedom and tolerance, so doing the Haggadah by the book, as it were, now becomes open to some 21st-century interpretation.

This leads to the proverbial YidLife Crisis: which rituals and elements are worth keeping and which are worth "passing over"? Fear not! We want to give you highlights from our very own YidLife Crisis Haggadah.

Kadesh: Feel free to silently praise that for which you are most grateful in whatever language you choose. Our personal choice: Bill Murray, in Aramaic. To each their own.

Urchatz: In our seder, hand sanitizer is perfectly acceptable, as long as you make sure to sanitize your hands before delivering the hand sanitizer. Be careful about talking during this time – anything you say while cleaning your hands can and will be used against you.

Carpas: Fun fact: Why bother with celery? Go for a pickle. Don't hold back. We were once in a pickle in Egypt. Now, let the pickle be within us.

Yachatz: We see this as being about breaking up in general, and you can achieve this by breaking up with your spouse. In lieu of hiding the afikoman, hide your holdings in Panama. After all, doesn't Mossack Fonseca sound like a cherished historical imprint of a Sephardi Haggadah?

Maggid: This is the meat and potatoes, figuratively speaking, before you get the payoff – the literal meat and potatoes. So it's important to enter this stage of the marathon with oomph and build appetite for the meal. We not only encourage four questions from the youngest in the room, but also additional questions from the second- and third-youngest, like, "What makes her so special?" and "Was I also an accident, mom and dad?"

During Maggid, feel free to come up with your own proprietary contractions for the plagues, e.g., rabbis Leizer and Chaimie were known to have contracted the plagues into the following nonsensical acronyms: Machash, Gevosh, Dachitz, Khardash. (They were also known to have contracted some of the plagues. Prognosis negative.)

Rachtzah: Sanitizer is once again fine for cleaning, but, symbolically, voluntary disclosure with tax agencies is also accepted at this point in the seder. (Fun fact: they have 24-hour hotlines.)

Motzi Matzah: Eat the matzah, but this time, try to taste it. Still nothing, eh? Stands the test of time.

Maror: If you find it hard to eat bitter foods, full-season recaps of the 2015-16 Habs' or Leafs' seasons are perfectly acceptable alternatives this year.

Korech: We don't know why anyone hasn't tried lean smoked meat between two pieces of matzah, but God willing, you will next year.

Shulchan Orech: Ya made it buddy! Open up your belt, catch up on those wine glasses and celebrate your improbable success. While the weak lie passed out around you, you've earned your bounty!

Tzafun: The notion of matzah-as-dessert could make one so bitter that in our seder, you're allowed to skip maror the following night.

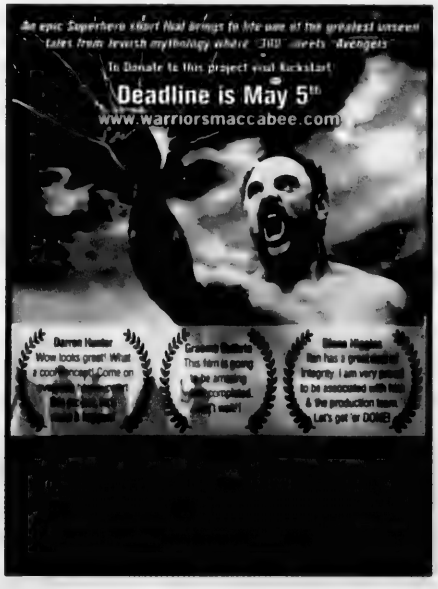
Barech: Here you can say grace and give praise for this splendiferous meal. Or you can go to the bathroom and thoroughly barech.

Hallel: Fill Elijah's cup. Valuable cost-saving tip: Don't wait for him to say "when."

Nirtzah: Congratulations! The bondage is over and you can return to your usual life of trivial work and mindless obsession with people's responses to your social media posts.

To paraphrase the Haggadah, remember that in each generation, we must see ourselves as the guys who compiled the first Haggadah and figure out how to do it ourselves, optimizing the ratio of freedom and comfort to guilt, obligation, and family. Amen v'amen! ■

Check out Chaimie and Leizer in their latest YidLife Crisis Pesach episode at: yidlifecrisis.com.
Chaimie and Leizer are Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the world's first online Yiddish sitcom YidLife Crisis.


An epic Superhero short that brings to life one of the greatest unseen tales from Jewish mythology where "Jill" meets "Avengers"
To Donate to this project visit Kickstarter
Deadline is May 5th
www.warriorsmaccabee.com

ICRF Israel Cancer Research
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute cards through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation presents its Seventh Annual
SPRING LECTURE SERIES with Rabbi Michael Skobac

MAY 4	**JUDAISM AND REINCARNATION**	Do We Get a Second Chance at Life?
MAY 11	**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TALMUD**	Repository of the Oral Torah
MAY 18	**THE HAPPINESS PROJECT**	A Jewish Approach to Living Contentedly
MAY 25	**IS LIFE FAIR?**	Grappling with the Problem of Suffering in the World
JUNE 1	**THREE ≠ ONE**	Why Judaism Rejects the Doctrine of the Trinity
JUNE 8	**YOUR UNIQUE SELF**	Individuality in Judaism

SIX CONSECUTIVE WEDNESDAYS • 8:00 PM • ADMISSION FREE
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, 3600 Bathurst St.
For Info: **(416) 789-0020** or **toronto@jewsforjudaism.ca**
UJA Federation | jewsforjudaism.ca KEEPING JEWS JEWISH | Shaarei Tefillah

Monstrous explores mixed race identities

KATHRYN KATES
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Jewish/Afro-Caribbean artist, performer and playwright Sarah Waisvisz, 34, will be presenting her one-woman show, *Monstrous*, which explores the often ignored mixed race identity based on her own personal experiences, and her work on her PhD thesis research about Francophone/Anglophone literature specifically by Afro/Caribbean women.

Monstrous made its world premiere in February in Waisvisz's hometown of Ottawa during the Undercurrent Festival. It will make its Toronto premiere on May 5, 8 p.m. at Toronto's Artscape Wychwood Barns as part of the 14th Annual rock.paper.sistahz – a black, indigenous and multicultural festival featuring new works based on social issues examined in new and unusual ways. The festival runs from May 3-5.

The 65-minute play, directed by Eleanor Crowder, encompasses, dance, song and projections. "The story is about my own experiences of being of mixed race and cultural background. The play is a quest, it is me trying to figure out who I am and who my family is. There's some secrets, there's some weird stories and some unbelievable facts.

"The play comes from the premise that I know a lot more about my Jewish and European ancestry, but not a lot of my Afro-Caribbean ancestry," says Waisvisz, whose maternal grandmother is French Swiss with roots in Hungary. She was secretly Jewish.

Sarah Waisvisz in her one-woman show *Monstrous* CHRISTOPHER SHOW PHOTO

Waisvisz's maternal grandfather was a non-Jew from Martinique with roots from the west coast of Africa. Her father's family is from Holland with both Sephardi and Ashkenazi lines, in addition to a link to Dutch Indonesia. Add to the mix, the playwright was born in Germany while her father was working abroad for the Canadian government.

She says the play is an autobiography that allows her to figure out who she is. At the same time, she uncovers certain issues on multiculturalism in Canada and overtly questions herself in the play, about if she has a right to tell the story of the Afro-Caribbean side of her family, since by now, she says it is really diluted.

"One of the other key questions is a response to questions I get all the time as to where I'm from: why do you look strange, what it your background, define yourself?" says Waisvisz. "It is about trying to figure out who we are and also realizing that perception changes depending on who is looking at us."

Waisvisz says this is a play about Jews of colour, about the non-white, non-Ashkenazi Jewish experience which is already in our community and in our culture. "So often in North America in our diaspora we tend to equate Jewishness with white European but that is not the whole story," she explains. "There are people like me who have ancestry from a complex collection of backgrounds, or Jews of colour who have been adopted into families, or Mizrahi Jews who read as Arab, Indian Jews, Chinese Jews and Jews in the Caribbean.

"I would like Jewish audiences to see in the story, a reflection of their own questions of diaspora, exile and immigration. Many of the Jewish people who have seen the play have resonated at the core with some of my messages and the questions I bring up about belonging from a Jewish perspective."

In addition to being an academic, playwright, director, and multi-disciplinary performer, she has training in dance and physical theatre including classical ballet, puppetry, acrobatics, and stilts. Recent performance credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *My Name is Asher Lev*, and *This Is a Very Old Story*, to name a few. This is not her first foray into playwriting. Her first, co-written and performed by Bronwyn Steinberg, is called *Occupy Me*, an interactive play about a yoga teacher's quest for either activism or spirituality inflected with Jewish questions, while she leads the audience on a yoga class and a journey. She is currently working on *Heartlines*, based on a true story about two French women during World War II, surrealist artists who were lovers, and worked for the resistance.

There are hopes to tour the show. *Monstrous* will be performed again in Ottawa on Aug. 3 at the Ottawa Jewish Community Centre.

Waisvisz is an active member of the Ottawa Reconstructionist congregation Or Haneshamah, and has a regular column for the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* called *Dispatches from the Diaspora*. ■

For more info visit: bcurrent.ca

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN
Cancer?
We've "been there".
We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can "be there" for you during your cancer journey.
We provide **confidential peer support** to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.
Hotline: (416) 630-0203
A project of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613-247-3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— *or* —
TRADE UP
If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 28, 2016

Passover installation in Makom's new space asks thought-provoking questions

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

From an artist's perspective, Passover can be source of inspiration, says Toronto curator and artist Evelyn Tauben.

"It's a holiday that intersects with very tactile, performative activities, and these really lend themselves to art-making," she explained, referring to the items that traditionally comprise the Passover seder plate, and the various meanings behind them.

"We don't just tell a story, we do it with these props that we eat, touch and smell," added Tauben, who several years ago left a position as head of programs and exhibitions at the Koffler Centre of the Arts to work as an independent curator and producer, primarily with Jewish artists. (She also writes a monthly arts and culture column in these pages).

Tauben recently teamed up with local architect and artist Joanne Frisch to create a Passover-themed installation in the window of the storefront space serving as the new home of Makom, the grassroots, downtown and progressive Jewish community of which both are active members.

The installation features a collection of cardboard boxes, several of which are affixed with colourful papers spelling the Hebrew names of the seder plate components, and six that bear, in neon pink lettering, questions that Tauben said she and Frisch came up with, inspired by the items on the plate.

Architect/artist Joanne Frisch, left, and curator/artist Evelyn Tauben in front of the Passover-themed installation they created for Makom's new College Street space.

> *We thought of the installation as a kind of deconstructed seder plate.*

"We thought of the installation as a kind of deconstructed seder plate," she explained. "The questions range from philosophical to thought-provoking to playful and provide a different way of thinking about the seder plate foods."

For instance, the question inspired by the egg, which is said to symbolize rebirth is, "Why were you born?" while the shankbone, which represents the Pesach sacrifice to God, inspired the broader question, "What's your sacrifice?"

While seder plate symbols are intended to prompt conversation, Tauben said the process can become rote when repeated in the same way each year.

"With the Zroah [shank bone] for example... it's not that easy to connect to the idea of a sacrifice today. So on a more philosophical level we can ask, 'What is *your* sacrifice?' and turn it into a more personal, introspective conversation."

Prior to moving into the new building last month, Makom – whose mission is to offer inclusive and diverse opportunities for Jewish learning, ritual, arts and culture – has been largely nomadic, with its weekly Friday night services and other programs held at various community and private venues.

The space, which is located on College Street just east of Bathurst Street, previously served as the private studio of artist and Makom member Rochelle Rubinstein, who frequently used the front window to exhibit the work of other artists. Rubinstein now rents the space to Makom.

Inside, it's an open concept esthetic, a large room where Makom's founding director and leader Rabbi Aaron Levy and the new director of education and family programming Rabbi Julia Appel have desks and where there's an assortment of found furniture and bookshelves lined with Judaica.

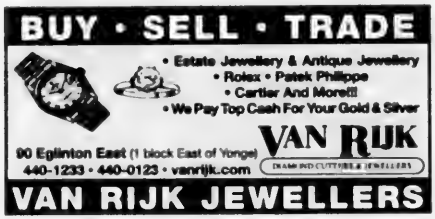
Rabbi Levy said the space gives the organization a greater sense of stability, and has already been used for four weeks of Friday night services, as well as for a bar mitzvah.

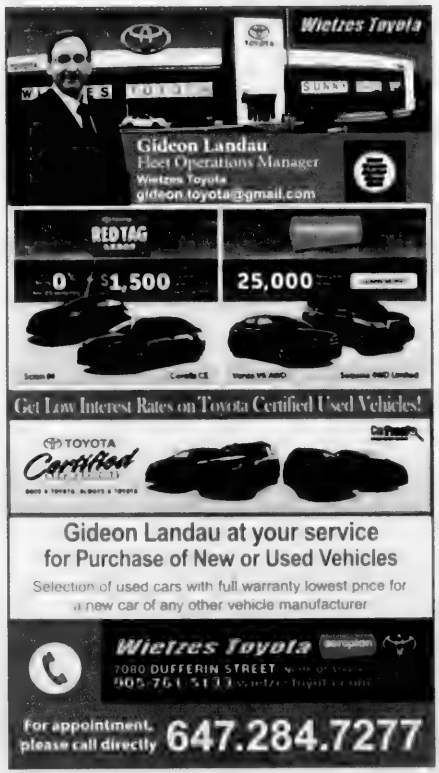
In addition, there's a basement refurbished as a kid's playroom, a kosher, vegetarian kitchen and a garden where Rabbi Levy said he hopes people will be able to daven, eat or hold programs in good weather.

"Having our own storefront gives us the opportunity to do more programming, because we'll no longer have to look for a place to hold each program. But it also gives Makom greater visibility," Rabbi Levy said. "In the short time we've been here, we've already had lots of people poking their head in and going, 'What is this place?'"

To continue Rubinstein's practice of using the front window for installations, Tauben will be taking the lead on seeking funding to enable different artists to showcase their work there.

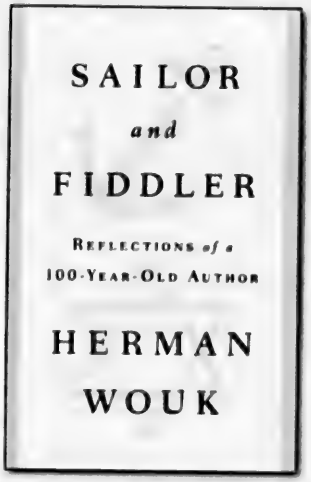
"I like the idea of giving a platform to local Jewish artists but also of collaborating with all kinds of artists, and giving them some kind of prompt as a point of connection to Jewish values or ideas," she said. ■


BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS



Wouk 'non-autobiography' a cap to accomplished career

BILL GLADSTONE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-old Author
by Herman Wouk
Simon & Schuster

This slim volume, which the author describes as a "non-autobiography," will be of special interest to people interested in literature, for it focuses primarily on Herman Wouk's writing life and how he came to create such popular works as *The Caine Mutiny, Marjorie Morningstar, Youngblood Hawke, The Winds of War,* and *War and Remembrance,* among a stream of other novels, non-fiction books and plays.

For a writer known for pounding out words profusely from a typewriter, Wouk is remarkably restrained here, and he uses mental shorthand and telegraphic allusions to compress his remarks even further. Yet despite the terseness and overall inadequacy of these pages to stand in as an autobiography, they are filled with revelations – not the least of which is that the 100-year-old literary progenitor is still on this side of the turf.

Unlike the proverbial old soldier, Wouk evidently prefers not to fade away into that good night. In actual fact he was never a soldier. He sidestepped a WWII US Army draft notice and joined the navy instead – hence the "sailor" of the title. It was the comedian Fred Allen, for whom Wouk had been ghostwriting for five years, who typed a funny letter recommending him as a naval officer that led to this momentous turn of fate. During his time in the South Pacific, he wrote a first novel, *Aurora Dawn,* and ultimately poured the experience into the highly successful *The Caine Mutiny.*

Readers who appreciate writerly insights will enjoy such spare passages as the following: "I [wrote] *The Caine Mutiny* in a year, which I can now scarcely believe. As John Steinbeck said of his quickly written early work, 'I was hungry then.' I read the book to my wife chapter by chapter as I wrote it. At one point she remarked, 'If they don't like this one, you had better try another line of business.'" The book came out in 1951, won the Pulitzer Prize, and dominated the best-seller lists for nearly two years.

Marjorie Morningstar was "an indigestible monster of overwriting," according to one editor, but another pre-publication opinion averred that Wouk should not remove a word of it. Book reviewers were equally of two minds, but that didn't stop *Time* magazine from putting Wouk on the cover in 1955. That's when Allen told him, "Just remember this. For every step you take up the ladder of success, you will get a prick from the porcupine of grief." *Marjorie Morningstar* was said to be the first major novel about American Jewry.

Wouk was in the middle of writing *Youngblood Hawke* – "The pages had piled up, I had a book-length script in hand, yet I felt the story was just getting started" – when his wife-mentor-agent informed him he would be writing about Europe instead. Deeply impressed and moved by Raul Hilberg's "masterpiece" *The Destruction of the European Jews,* Wouk met Hilberg at the University of Vermont; Hilberg convinced him he had to go to Germany– a place Wouk had resolved never to set foot in – to begin research on what would become his "main task."

Wouk had set his sights on a big war novel with the Holocaust at its centre; the project ultimately became the two monumental books, *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance.* "The main task I had set for myself was to bring the Holocaust to life in a frame of global war," he writes. The two books became bestsellers and were the basis for two huge television mini-series.

In the "fiddler" section of *Sailor and Fiddler,* Wouk offers background to his various books set in Israel and on Jewish and humorous themes and topics. ("Fiddler" is a shorthand reference to the legendary Sholem Aleichem.) His books *The Hope* and *The Glory,* for instance, deal with Israel and the Arab wars; in the latter, the American David Goodkind visits his ailing mother in Israel and returns with a vital diplomatic message from Golda Meir to president Richard Nixon at the height of the Watergate crisis. Wouk is also the author of *This Is My God,* a popular summary of key aspects of Judaism that came out in 1959.

Wouk had read of an Israeli colonel who rushed home early from his honeymoon in Nepal, arrived back in Israel on the war's second day, and rushed to a battle front in the Golan Heights. Wouk made official requests to find this colonel but was stymied and stonewalled at every turn. Then he asked a retired military friend, who laughed and said, "Why didn't you ask me first? He's my cousin." He met the heroic colonel and wrote about him in his non-fiction book, *The Will to Live On.*

Because of his illustrious career, Wouk encountered a spectrum of prominent personalities from actors and directors to presidents. The British philosopher Isaiah Berlin once encouraged him to write an autobiography because "you've traveled, you've known many people, you have interesting ideas, it would do a lot of good." For whatever reason, perhaps because he left it too late, Wouk has left dozens of his unedited journals for his sons to pore over and publish in their own good time. In the meantime, we get *Sailor and Fiddler,* which, for all its richness, is really a poor substitute.

Perhaps as befits a man of 100 with only precious time at his disposal, Wouk gives us fleeting, telling glances of a few VIPs, such as then president Lyndon Johnson when Wouk served for a spell as White House speechwriter. "One memory of this odd swift passage will be with me until I die," he writes, and describes encountering Johnson with two advisers in an anteroom reading a long dispatch, supposedly from Vietnam, and bad. "Lyndon Johnson happened once to glance up and meet my look. The cold veiled eyes of a master politician scared me."

The book also features a tiny cameo of Charles Laughton and a few other celebrities. We are also given the spare but lovely outline of Wouk's wife and guiding light through nearly seven decades of marriage. But these reflections are mostly professional, not personal, in nature. Wouk informs us in a sentence of the shocking drowning death of a young son, then peremptorily moves on.

Reading between the lines, readers will discern certain inescapable facts. First, Wouk must have been a smart and voracious reader, for he seems to know literature inside out, a prerequisite for many a good writer. Second, he worked hard and long, since he seems to have written industriously and copiously, moving from one project to the next with hardly an idle moment in between. He enjoyed an envious success that included bestselling books, a big Broadway drama, and huge television miniseries. In all, *Sailor and Fiddler* is a small but fitting cap to a long and accomplished career. ■

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE* with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox* home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
94 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgrouphc.com

OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.

MARRIED WITH KIDS

We owe it to our kids to expose sexual predators

Lauren Kramer

Growing up in Cape Town, South Africa, rabbis came and left my synagogue over the years. Eventually, a lay leader who had previously led the choir adopted the role of cantor and slipped into leading services.

A tall, moustachioed man, the cantor had a beautiful voice, and I loved hearing his deep baritone soar through the pews. He had a special smile for me, and after services on Saturday mornings, he'd come over to wish me and my parents a "Gut Shabbos." Sometimes he'd shower me with compliments, and being an awkward teen on the verge of womanhood, I admit I enjoyed the attention.

"Look at that peaches-and-cream complexion," he'd declare exuberantly to my parents. "She's gorgeous, your daughter! But why is she drinking *Diet* Coke, may I ask? With a figure like that, there's no need for the diet version!"

Which parent doesn't enjoy hearing their kid praised, particularly by a person who occupies a high rank in the community? We thought nothing of it at the time.

But a couple of years later, after my mother had undergone minor surgery, the cantor paid a house visit and found time to sit down with me for a cup of tea. I remember wondering why he wanted to sit with *me*, of all people. The answer became quickly apparent.

"Do you believe a young woman like yourself could fall in love with someone much older?" he asked.

The question came out of left field. At 15, I'd never considered the possibility, and it seemed utterly preposterous.

"Never," I declared, my stomach turning at the thought of his 40-something whiskers grazing my skin. What could I ever want with an older, married man like him?

Young and naive, I figured the subject was closed. I needed a ride down the road that day, and the cantor was glad to oblige. But on the way, as I sat next to him in the passenger's seat, the cantor placed his large, hairy hand on my thigh. It landed close to the panty line, far too close to be imagined as anything other than a direct advance. For a second, I was stunned into silence. This, I realized, was where the smiles from the bimah, the compliments to my figure and skin tone had been leading. I fled the car and raced home.

> *I remember wondering why he wanted to sit with me, of all people.*

When I told my parents, my mom's face creased into worried concern, but my father's response shocked and disappointed me. "I saw you smile at him. You asked for it," he said in a threatening voice. Deep down I knew I'd never asked for anything, and luckily for me, nothing had actually happened. Or had it?

I've wondered about that over the quarter century that's passed. Who should we have told about the inappropriate questions, that transgressing hand on my thigh? Was I the only teen he made a pass at, or were there others who didn't reject his advances? Did we have a responsibility to come forward, or were we right to bury this in the family and never mention it again?

I don't know whom we might have told or whether they'd have believed us enough to ensure there were repercussions. But stories about "holy" Jewish men who tarnished their titles with sexually deviant, morally unethical behaviour are coming out of the woodwork these days. By making these stories heard, perhaps we can raise a generation of kids who won't trust blindly in religious titles, long beards and black garb, and who won't think prayerful worship is a firm guarantee of appropriate behaviour.

Are there grown women in the community today who bear scars inflicted by so-called "holy men" who abused their trust, took advantage of their innocence? I suspect there are, and it's high time we heard their stories. Exposure is the best – perhaps the only – form of protection. We owe it to our kids. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-8457

Welcome Logan Ryder Takefman. Parents are Jackie (Gordon) & Rob. Grandparents and great-grandparents, Judi & Don, Mona-Lee & Earl, Vera Selmeci and Judy Friend.

Warm mazel tov to Talli Koren & Noah Kronberg (and Saba and Safta Eduard and Nella Koren) on the birth of their beautiful twins! Good luck!

Mazel tov to Laura & Daniel on their engagement! Lots of love from your parents Gena & Elliot Katz, Marsha & Shawn Klarer, and your siblings.

Jason Caron & Judy Kramer are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Gabriel Matthew Caron, born in Montreal on Feb. 23.

Shirley Barel is 80 years young and is busier than ever! Mazel tov to Shirley on this milestone from Arthu, Dan, Dominique, Leora and Ross.

Email your digital photos along with a description of 25 words or less to cbiclassmag@thecjn.ca or go online to www.CJNews.com and click on "Family Moments"

Mazel Tov!

מזל טוב!

Cyril Epton was presented the "Knight of the French Legion of Honour" insignia from the Republic of France. His family and friends are very proud of him.

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Jack Diamond, Dara Solomon and Steve Diamond

David Matlow introducing the event

Melissa Caza, Faye Blum, Donna Bernardo-Ceriz and Dara Solomon

Daniel Rotsztain and the map he created for the exhibition

Alice Waldman Lewis and Nathan Waldman

Celebrating Benjamin Brown

A first-ever exhibition featuring Benjamin Brown (1890 – 1974), one of Toronto's most significant architects of the early 20th century, was presented by The Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre. Brown's lasting impact on Toronto's architectural heritage include the Balfour and Tower Buildings, the Hermant Building, the Primrose Club and Beth Jacob Synagogue. Renowned architect Jack Diamond spoke eloquently on the significance of Brown's buildings to Toronto's heritage. Guests were treated to a comprehensive exhibit of Brown's work including a short film on how Brown's buildings stand as testaments to the past even as they are re-purposed for today. ■ – *The Socialite*

Steven Petroff, Sara Levine Petroff, Mark Levine, Jim Levine, Jay Levine, Mindy Levine and Avi Petroff

Marsha Slavens, Eric Slavens, Larry and Maria Blankenstein

Deena Weinberg Sussman, Barry Weinberg and Joy Cherry

Edwin Goldstein and Brooky Robins

Marta O'Brien, Martin Edralin, Daniel Rotsztain and Alex Bozikovic

MICHAEL RAIZMAN PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining CoR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto *In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville*
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

WINDSOR ARMS

Weddings • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs • Kosher Caterers • Suites • Spa • Tea Room • Off-Premise Catering • Dinner Reservations Required

What's New

APRIL 28 - MAY 5

by Lila Sarick

Saturday, April 30

POST-PASSOVER PANCAKE PARTY
PJ Library and Holy Blossom Temple hold a post-Passover pancake party, 5:30 p.m., for families with children aged 2-5. Register at www.postpassoverparty.eventbrite.ca

YOM HASHOAH
Musician **Lenka Lichtenberg** and **Prof. Doris Bergen** present a Yom Hashoah program, 1:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam.

Sunday, May 1

ORAYNU OPEN HOUSE
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism holds an open house for the children's Sunday school, and **Rabbi Karen Levy** discusses "Introduction to Humanistic Judaism," 10 a.m., St. Andrew's Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP 416-385-3910.

MAY DAY SECULAR SEDER
The United Jewish People's Order and the Morris Winchevsky School host a secular seder "Honouring our labour roots," with music by **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner,** 4 p.m. at Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Ave. For tickets, $30-$48, call 416-789-5502 or email info@winchevskycentre.org

YOM MANUAL LABOUR
Join Shoresh in getting the Kavanah Garden ready for the growing season, today and May 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Lebovic Campus Dr., west of Ilan Ramon Blvd. Email, sabrina@shoresh.ca

RUN WITH YACHAD
Join Toronto Yachad in the Goodlife Fitness half marathon or 5K walk/run. Register at toronto.teamyachad.com

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of May 12 is May 2. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Drumming for good health

Rufus Glassco recently led members of the L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women in an energizing evening of therapeutic drumming. Pictured, back row from left, are Pearl Lenga, Rufus Glassco, Eva Oilgeisser and Michele Bieler, and front from left, Marsha Urowitz and Lillian Sweet. L'Chaim is a project of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section.

YOM HASHOAH
Temple Sinai marks Yom HaShoah with a commemorative concert featuring the work of playwright **Evan Malach,** 2 p.m.

Monday, May 2

TEMPLE EMANU-EL SERIES
Ian Roberge discusses "The global financial crisis and its aftermath in Canada," in Temple Emanu-El's spring lecture series, 2 p.m. $15. 416-449-3880.

Tuesday, May 3

LUNCH AND LEARN
John Thompson discusses "Is terrorism a worse threat than the Nazis?" noon, Beth Sholom Synagogue. $18. RSVP 416-783-6103.

CHUG HA-TANACH
Prof. Carl Ehrlich discusses Isaiah, Chapter 8 at 8 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

LUNCH AND LEARN II
Captain Gabrial Granatstein, Canadian Armed Forces, discusses "My experiences as a soldier in Bosnia," 12:10 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

DANIEL LIBESKIND
Architect **Daniel Libeskind** speaks at 7:30 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $15/$20.

THE DECEMBER PROJECT
Rabbi Shalom Schacter and **Sara Davidson** discuss life, death and **Rav Zalman's** spiritual insights, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Wednesday, May 4

JEWISH HISTORY
Hana Werner discusses "Adam and Eve: the architecture of the world," 1:30 p.m., dessert. Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10. RSVP 416-781-3511.

CURRENT EVENTS
Murray Armel leads discussions on current events, Wednesdays, May 4-June 8, 10 a.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

BUSINESS ETHICS FROM BOOKS
Lunch and learn series on "Business ethics from the bookshelf." Today, **Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** discusses *The Gift of the Magi,* 12:30 p.m., Zeifmans LLP, 201 Bridgeland Ave. RSVP 416-256-4002, ext. 398.

Thursday, May 5

RETHINKING ISRAEL & PALESTINE
Yossi Alpher, former Mossad analyst, discusses "No end of conflict: rethinking Israel and Palestine," 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam. Co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

YOM HASHOAH
Temple Har Zion holds a Yom Hashoah service, 7 p.m.

YIDDISH VINKL
Shirley Kumove discusses "Growing up in two languages: a memoir," noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20, includes lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

BOOK LAUNCH
Nora Gold launches her new novel, *The Dead Man,* 6-8:30 p.m., Women's Art Association of Canada, 23 Prince Arthur Ave.

Et cetera

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS
Circle of Care, in partnership with Jewish Family and Child, is looking for volunteers to join the hospice program team. Volunteers receive a 30-hour training program, which starts May 16. Call **Arnold,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or email afoss@circleofcare.com

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. All classes at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St., unless noted. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Mind Body Connection for Women: A multi-session group for women to learn mindfulness and meditation. Starts May 2 at 1 p.m., or May 4 at 7 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre; May 4 at 2 p.m. at 35 Madison Ave.; May 5, at 7:30 p.m., Lebovic Community Campus, 9600 Bathurst St.
- Life skills for today's women: a 6-session wellness group for women. Starts May 2 at 7 p.m. at Lebovic campus; May 11 at 1 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre.
- Beyond the chupah, becoming a couple: A 5-session marriage preparation group, starts May 3 at 7 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation.
- Looking ahead: A 6-session group for newly separated or divorced individuals. Starts May 4, 7:30 p.m., Lebovic Campus.
- The challenge of anger for women: A 6-session group for women to learn to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way. Starts May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre; May 12, 7 p.m. at 35 Madison Ave.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

- **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, May 3-June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; Yom Hashoah commemoration, May 5, 1:30 p.m.; Yom Ha'atzmaut concert with **Yitzhak Argaman,** May 12, 1:30 p.m.
- **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
- **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. May 3, **Rachel Levin** discusses "The art of survivors," 10 a.m.; May 4, men's discussion group, 4 p.m.; Thursdays, May 5- June 30, **David Lipovitch** teaches a course "The Ancient Near East: a survey of 8,000 years of history," 1 p.m.
- **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama May 11; Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; barber/hairdresser May 12, 10 a.m.
- **Jukebox Jammers,** formerly the Entertainers of the Wagman Centre, are a group of seniors who love to entertain other seniors. For bookings, call **Judith Ross,** 416-733-0580 or rossjudith@rogers.com.
- **WEL Group (Women Enjoying Life)** meets monthly at Earl Bales Community Centre. Next event, June 8 is a day trip in Toronto. **Shirley** 416-661-4471 or **Lorraine** 416-638-6828.
- **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
- **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi,** 416-785-0941.
- **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
- **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838. Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
- **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
- **Beth Tzedec Synagogue.** Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m.
- **Beth Sholom Synagogue.** Creative exercise, lunch and cards, Wednesdays at noon. 416-783-6103.
- **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. **Amy,** 416-633-6224, ext. 134. Call **Maureen,** 416-781-3514.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

- Children's outdoor art classes start June 22.
- Intermediate mah-jong starts May 25, 10:30 a.m.
- Examining contemporary Jewish stand-up comedy with **Rosalin Krieger,** June 4-28, 1 p.m.
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Degas and his dancers," May 3, 10 at 1 p.m.
- Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott,** "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.
- Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," May 4-25, 1 p.m.
- Drop-in Yiddish conversation, Mondays at 1 p.m.
- Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

- *The InterLove Project*, photos by **Colin Boyd Shafter** are on display May 1-24. Reception May 11, 6-9 p.m.
- Illusionist **Vitaly Beckman** performs May 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m., May 8 at 2 p.m., Al Green Theatre. For tickets, www.eveningofwonders.com
- Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Against the odds: celebrating female artists," May 9 and 16, 1:30 p.m.
- Comic adaptations of Jewish stories, a panel discussion with **Steven Bergson, Liat Shalom, Ellis Rosen, David G. Klein** May 15, 7 p.m.
- Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Klezmer ensemble conducted by **Eric Stein,** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
- Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
- Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

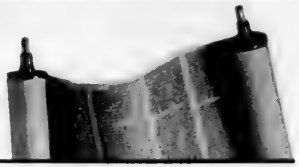
Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

- Join the newly formed York Region Jewish Choir, conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky,** Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.
- Red Cross babysitting course for ages 11 and up, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Make baby hand and footprint keepsakes, May 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Yom Hashoah commemoration May 5, 11 a.m.; Yom Hazikaron commemoration, May 11, 11 a.m.
- Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 26, 1 p.m.
- Outdoor soccer with Jay- parent and tot and drop-off classes start May 24.
- Workshop to paint and draw on clay, May 19 and 26, 1 p.m.
- Intermediate mah-jong starts May 26, 7-9 p.m.
- Drop-in duplicate bridge, Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m. ■

Always First Quality • Always Brand Names • Always Warehouse Prices
CONSUMER
2016
Infiniti Pro 3Q
Professional, Lightweight
40% Quieter, Commercial
Fast Drying Hair Dryer
Brushless Motor will last 10 Times Longer than an A/C Motor. Provides 70% More Pressure for Faster Drying, equivalent to a 2000 Watt Professional Dryer.
You'll be Amazed how much Time You'll Save!
Lowest Price In Ontario
79.99
Compare at 129.99
Save 38%
Cayne's
The SUPER HOUSEWARE Store
www.cayneshousewares.com
112 DONCASTER, Thornhill, Ont.
905-764-1188
Mon-Fri 9-9
Sat+Sun 10-6
BRIDAL REGISTRY

Parshah

Pesach | Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17; Numbers 28:19-25



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier ask whether all the work preparing for Passover is really worth it
Rabbi Denise Handlarski analyzes *Shir Hashirim* and the connection between Pesach and fertility
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen explains the unique significance and customs tied to the final days of the holiday

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

We have reached the point of Passover when there is nothing left to complain about. The pre-Passover stress, domestic duties and money spent are but a distant memory. Is all that work preparing for Pesach really worth it?

In past years, one of our guests likened the late-night seder experience at our home to a marathon. He shared that the lengthy discussion, meal and singing – mostly unfamiliar to him from his past Passover experiences – was quite gruelling, but he embraced the experience for the sense of accomplishment he felt at the end.

Perhaps this feeling of accomplishment is what inspires us during these waning days of Passover.

The Talmud (Berachot 5a) teaches that God gave the Jewish People three good gifts – the Torah, the Land of Israel and the world to come. These gifts, though, according to the Talmud, were given only with *yisurin*, or suffering.

What kind of gift is one that is only given with pain? Is that even considered a gift at all?

No doubt the work for Passover reminds us of the Israelites as they prepared and ate their Passover sacrifice – their meal of redemption. The dedication they gave this mitzvah was a sign of their commitment to God and to the Jewish People.

We live in a time when we expect instant results and answers. Passover reminds us that education – knowing, feeling and teaching our Jewish story – is not immediate. While we might have more creative, inclusive and exciting ways to learn, the process of learning still requires the serious investment of time and energy.

The Passover domestic upheaval of changing the dishes and food is a physical act that can achieve lofty spiritual goals. Each year, we learn anew our capacity to change, our desire for accomplishment and that the best gifts are the ones for which we work hard. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

At Pesach we read the *Shir Hashirim* (*Song of Songs*), which is a piece of beautiful poetry that has been included in our biblical literature. The *Shir Hashirim* is one of my favourite parts of Tanach for its richness in language and theme.

It is surprising to some that it made it into our canon at all, for it is, in essence, erotic poetry. There are numerous examples of natural imagery in the poem, many of which are tied to the love the speakers have for one another. For example: "Come my beloved,/ Let us go into the open;/ Let us lodge among the henna shrubs./ Let us go early to the vineyards;/ Let us see if the vine has flowered,/ If its blossoms have opened,/ If the pomegranates are in bloom./ There I will give my love to you."

While some in the rabbinic tradition have argued that the lovers are metaphorical: for God and Israel (the people, or sometimes, the land), I believe it can stand as a piece of poetry depicting human love. If our Tanach, our biblical literature, can serve as a guide to humanity, it makes sense that it would contain human themes such as love and sexuality. While these themes have made some readers uncomfortable, others have advocated for their necessity. Rabbi Akiva is said to have called the *Shir Hashirim* the "Holy of Holies" of texts.

To me, its worth is precisely in its location in human relationships and the natural world. The beautiful language reflects the beauty of the world and the love we may each experience in our own lives. It is a call to what is most special and precious about earth and humanity. At Pesach, we think of renewal, of fertility and of springtime. What better text to ground us in the fecundity and beauty of life? ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

The seventh day of Pesach commemorates the splitting of the Red Sea and the Exodus from Egypt. Our sages consider these two events to be so fundamental that they require us to recall them every day. This obligation indicates that they reflect two constant and relevant stages of our service to God.

The word "Mitzrayim" (Hebrew for Egypt) means "limitation," so to "leave Egypt," means to transcend our limitations that prevent us from using our full God-given potential. A Jew can be truly free when he fulfils Torah and mitzvot. When a Jew is not influenced by the material world and fulfils mitzvot, he is free from "slavery."

Moses led the men in song and Miriam led the women in more songs of thanks, with tambourines and drums. The women had more faith than the men.

From the Haftorah for the last days of Pesach, which deals with redemption, we see that these two days are connected with Mashiach. The Haftorah describes how the wolf will live with the lamb, among other things.

This is why the 17th-century rabbi, the Baal Shem Tov had a third meal on the last day of Pesach – because on this day the radiance of the Mashiach is revealed within every Jew.

The fifth Lubavitcher Rebbe asked that on the last day Pesach, we also drink four cups of wine and eat matzah, because this strengthens our faith as we plunge back into the world. The tasteless matzah symbolizes selfless humility. Wine, by contrast, is pleasurable. We drink, and thus internalize our faith.

There is another beautiful custom among Sephardi Jews who, at the end of Pesach, celebrate the "Mimouna," from the word "emuna," faith. May God help every Jew to overcome all difficulties and have true freedom, through Torah and mitzvot!

Chag Samayach! ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto. yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village	416-488-2875	• Central	416-785-1500
Bayview	416-226-1987	• Yorkville	416-975-5588
Signature	416-929-4343	• Downtown	416-363-3473
Yonge St.	905-709-1800	• Vaughan	905-695-6195

Muskoka 1-855-665-1200

RENTAL PROPERTIES

34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD! Seldom Available! Your Choice of Several Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,375-$1,450 plus parking+utilities! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE! The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Just Completed! Sensational Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! 1 Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,870! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

368 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS! Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated or Reno'd 1Br Bth Units From $1,325-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2106-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD! $1,740/Mo! Incredible 1+1Br 1Bth LEASED Facing Suite W/Panoramic Views! Outstanding Complex Features To All Amenities! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1108-368 EGLINTON AVE E! ROYALE APARTMENTS! $1,350/Mo! Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Spectacular Updated 1Br 1Bth North Facing Stu LEASED Balcony! Move In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!
Elli Davis — ROYAL LEPAGE
416 921 1112 www.ellidavis.com
800 622 9536 mail@ellidavis.com
Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli

SELLING YOUR HOUSE?
33 Jackes Avenue $2,250,000
Grand suite of approx. 3,000 sq ft! Steps to Yonge/St. Clair/Summerhill shops and amenities. Direct elevator access, 2 bedrooms + den, reno'd kitchen 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Stellar service, valet parking, indoor pool, sauna, exercise room & party room

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Specious 4 bdrm/2 full bathrooms,, laundry rm., 1800 sq.ft., A/C, winterized 100' x 200' lakefront cottage in Belle Ewart/Lefroy on Lake Simcoe. Sprawling 60' deck, cement breakwall w/sandy bottom, private paved driveway w/extra parking, private dock, overlooking Lefroy Harbour Resort w/amenities including security gate, play grounds, swimming pool, marina & restaurant. $839,900 call 647 406 5792.

150 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Jerusalem Apartments for Sale!!! New, boutique bld. w/3 lrge. apts. on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Jerusalem. Includes garden apt., 2-level, massive penthouse with private roof & 360 stunning view. High ceilings, ultra-luxe specs and finishes. For Sale By Owner, No Agents. +972.523.477.428 andrewNY613@gmail.com

220 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

WANTED! Apt. building or plaza (3 - 50 apts.) private buyer, no commission. Carlos@416-990-4412

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Live-in caregiver for elderly exper. w/ refer. salary negotiable. 416-460-2854/416-656-8863

Caregiver w/long track record & excellent refer. available to care for elderly senior, includ. house keeping duties. (647) 383-8367

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

Looking for Tivor Kleinman & Alex Frank. Pls. call: Arlene @ 216-544-7926.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militana. 416-890-9644

55 CONDOMINIUMS FOR RENT

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

3636 BATHURST ST.

LARGE 1 & 2 Bedroom Suites. Large rooms, eat in kitchen, some with 2 bathrooms, lots of closet space, large balcony, central air conditioning, freshly painted and refinished floors. Ceramic tiles. Parking available.

Call: 416-931-2206 or 416-663-8662 for appoint.
Email: rentals@pinedaleprop.com
Web: pinedaleprop.com

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

360 CARPETS

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

370 CATERING

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
CSR
Happy Passover
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416-782-3302
www.bistrogrande.com

375 CLEANING/ SUPPLIES

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

A-1 Handyman. Specializes in kitchen repairs & refacing & new kits., fin. bsmts., & elec. & plumbing, etc. Call 647-533-2735

385 ELECTRICAL

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

445 MOVING

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

404 FLOORING

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9094**

405 FURNITURE

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Regluing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT.** 416-459-1383.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
APRIL 28, 2016

Ambassador Vivian Bercovici on Canada's ties with Israel

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

In January 2014, then-foreign affairs minister John Baird surprised many when he named Vivian Bercovici as Canada's ambassador to Israel. A Toronto lawyer with no diplomatic background or foreign service experience, Bercovici had expressed strong support for Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and was critical of Palestinian leadership and the United Nations – positions she expressed in her monthly *Toronto Star* columns on the Middle East.

The appointment was viewed in some circles as squaring with the Conservative government's well-established support for Israel.

Bercovici was in Toronto last month to help lay the groundwork for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's forthcoming economic mission to Israel. The ambassador also addressed members of the Empire Club on Canada's need to catch up with other countries in cashing in on Israel's high-tech revolution.

The CJN interviewed Bercovici by telephone. As requested by her and her staff, most of the questions were submitted in advance.

Canadian Ambassador to Israel Vivian Bercovici

Is the job what you expected it to be? Any bumps along the road?

Because of the nature of the way in which I was appointed, it wasn't a clear path. I didn't really have a lot of time to consider expectations, although when I was appointed, I had some. But no huge surprises. I'm accustomed to operating and functioning at a pretty high-stress environment where things change a lot and you really have to think on your feet. I've been a litigator. I've been a corporate lawyer, and you are always responding to changing circumstances and have to react fast. And that's what this job is all about. It's about using social skills, negotiating skills, assessing situations. You need to be a reasonably quick study and it's a highly complex environment. But it's the kind of environment I thrive on. There are always little things that surprise you, but nothing terribly shocking.

After your appointment, there were some who took you to task for being a little pro-Likud.

I'm not partisan. Never have been. People choose to read into things I've said or written. There has been a lot of absolute fiction attributed to me, and I have no idea where that comes from. I'm not pro-Likud. I'm there as a public servant to represent the government of Canada. In terms of any views I may have held prior to my appointment, I think people project onto me what they feel I should be or what they need me to be. Many of the things said about me bear no resemblance to reality.

> *The Trudeau government continues to express very strong support for Israel, on a bilateral basis and in international forums.*

If anyone reads the actual *Toronto Star* columns, they would be hard-pressed to find a consistent partisan view. Since that time, people have chosen to attribute certain views to me that I absolutely never expressed. I very consciously steered away from certain topics.

Given the previous government's popularity in Israel, its staunch support for Israel, has Canada's change in government registered in Israel, and if so, how?

Absolutely the change has registered. Canada is such an important country for Israel because of the long-standing support, so the election was watched very closely, as was the campaign. The government in Israel was very pleased with the previous government. They're very pleased with the current government. The Trudeau government continues to express very strong support for Israel, on a bilateral basis and in international forums.

Canada has been perceived in Israel stereotypically as a cold, empty place. Has that changed, and what does Israel expect of Canada?

There's much more awareness and knowledge in Israel of America than Canada. That's just the way it is, because there's such strong ties between America and Israel. As much as the Jewish community of Canada feels close to Israel, I think Israel feels a kinship with the community in Canada. But when it comes to Canada as a whole, they always ask questions about it: "It's big, it has beautiful nature… a big country with a lot of different times zones and climate regions." And too often Israelis are under the impression that most people in Canada speak French. But there's also not as much general knowledge, frankly, among Canadians about Israel.

Canada was involved in multilateral peace talks arising from the 1991 Madrid process. Is there an expectation in Israel that Canada should become involved again?

That would be utter speculation for me, and I'm not going to do it. The environment is very, very fluid right now, and I think Israeli leaders are focused on the November elections in America. Whether there's any formulated expectations with respect to a Canadian role would be absolutely conjecture on my part.

You mentioned in your address to the Empire Club that Canada is lagging in high-tech investments in and partnerships with Israel, and that "most other countries are way ahead of us." Why do you think this has happened and how can Canada fix it?

In Toronto and Ottawa, I talked to all kinds of people about how we need a bit of a boost, a kick-start to tech innovation and capabilities in Canada, particularly Ontario. Those are significant issues to be made by others. So I wouldn't want to jump ahead of them and be presumptuous. We're a big country and have tremendous assets and strengths that can be deployed for this sort of issue.

Do you have any advice for Premier Wynne in advance of her mission to Israel?

I would never presume to give advice to the premier, but what I would suggest is that she come, as I know she will, full of energy, an open mind and be prepared to be dazzled by the creativity, innovation in Israel, and to be inspired by it… and to be mindful of how we can adapt it to be successful in our environment.

Any thoughts on the recent appointment of Canadian law professor Michael Lynk as the UN's Special Rapporteur on human rights in Palestine?

I have nothing to add to what the minister of foreign affairs said.

There has been speculation (in *Embassy* magazine and *iPolitics*) that you will soon be replaced. Any comment?

I go and I do my job with gusto and every ounce of energy I have every day. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Mimouna and Jewish-Arab cultural symbiosis

Backstory

JIMMY BITTON

The history of Mimouna, the festival that traditionally marks the end of Passover for the Jews of Morocco, is unknown. It appears to have no clear basis in classic Jewish sources.

According to one theory, Mimouna marks the anniversary of the death of Maimon ben Joseph, the father of the pre-eminent medieval Sephardi philosopher, Torah scholar and physician, Moshe ben Maimon, otherwise knows as the Rambam. Others contest that Mimouna can be traced etymologically to "*ma'amoun*," the Arabic word for wealth and fortune. Some connect Mimouna to the Hebrew word "*emuna*," (faith in God). Meanwhile, the Rambam offered the explanation that the word Mimouna is an adaptation of the Hebrew declaration "*ani ma'amin*," a traditional expression of faith that God will send the Messiah to redeem us. According to this interpretation, the Arabic pronoun, in this case "*ana*" instead of "*ani*," follows the verb "*ma'amin*," to form the word Mimouna (or "*ma'amin ana*").

But regardless of the elusive origins of Mimouna, one thing which remains certain is that there is a dialectic which connects the Jews of Morocco to their Arab neighbours. Mimouna offers a window into a distant yet re-emerging cultural symbioses that once existed between Jews and Arabs in Morocco.

To be clear, at no point in history was Morocco an "interfaith utopia." The Jewish community of Morocco had a dizzying variety of contradictory experiences over time, ranging from violent persecution to full equality. Even so, the extent of Jewish integration into Moroccan society is an impressive achievement that speaks to the fact that Morocco historically viewed its Jews as an influential part of Moroccan identity and that its Jews have viewed their identity as very much Moroccan.

"There are no Jews in Morocco. There are only Moroccan subjects." This legendary statement, attributed to Mohammed V, king of Morocco from 1957 to 1961, became a synonym for coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Indeed, contemporary discourse concerning Jewish-Moroccan identity usually does not deviate from this rosy narrative. In a region plagued by intolerance and instability, Morocco was relatively more open and tolerant toward, Jews and Jews were openly proud to be part of Moroccan society.

In Morocco, Mimouna presented a time and space for both Jews and Arabs to celebrate the cultural links that united them. For a period extending over 700 years, the Iberian Peninsula saw fascinating intercultural contacts where Jews and Arabs interacted and interfused with each other to eventually mould a unique Judeo-Arabic culture.

By the end of the Reconquista (718-1492), Islamic rule over the peninsula came to an end and Jews (and Muslims) were eventually confronted by less hospitable Catholic rulers who sought religious uniformity. The infamous Alhambra Decree, issued on March 31, 1492, marked the beginning of the end of over 2,000 years of Jewish history in the peninsula. Jewish history, however, is much older in Morocco, where Jews constitute an ancient community who first arrived as early as 70 CE.

In Morocco, one of the destinations Jews fled to from Spain, this unique Judeo-Arabic culture was maintained, as was the use of the Spanish language. Moreover, Jews embraced the culture of their Moroccan hosts, developing a distinct Jewish Spanish-Moroccan culture. Arabic secular imagery, some of it pre-Islamic, found its way into Jewish liturgy, and, like most Jewish dishes formed in post-rabbinic times, Jewish-Moroccan cuisine reflects the intense cultural contact between Jews and the non-Jewish majority of Morocco.

At the annual Mimouna celebration, Jews opened their homes to both Jew and Arab alike, to socialize in an atmosphere of friendship and coexistence. Through food, costume, music and liturgy the two religions communities celebrated the cultural symbioses they had developed. This year, as we mark the end of Passover, let us all celebrate the rich and deeply synthesized tradition of Mimouna, and its message of coexistence and mutual respect. ■

Jimmy Bitton is head of the Jewish history department at the Anne & Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Kimel Family Education Centre and committee member of Communauté Juive Marocaine de Toronto.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Hirchberg, Jack	April 13, 2016	485 Patricia Ave
Goldstein, Ida	April 13, 2016	328 Vaughan Rd
Weinstock, Layah	April 14, 2016	283 Somerset St W
Organ, Barbara	April 14, 2016	12 Rean Dr
Zemlinsky, Vladimir	April 14, 2016	Private
Altman, Eileen	April 16, 2016	135 Hove St
Avshalomov, Lubov	April 17, 2016	5 Fisherville Rd
Steiman, Paula	April 17, 2016	1925 Steeles Ave E
Guttman, William	April 18, 2016	3865 Bathurst St
Gold, Irving Israel	April 18, 2016	Private
Spagat, Esther	April 18, 2016	4005 Bayview Ave
Bensimon, Lucy	April 19, 2016	1 Cordoba Dr
Langer, Belle	April 19, 2016	3636 Bathurst St

Zelda Cupchik	Apr 7/16	11 Glenholme Ave.
Neil Howard	Apr 8/16	3270 Bathurst St.
Hanette Gibson	Apr 11/16	126 Joanna Cres.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Helen Tepper	Apr 7/16	141 Kennard Avenue
Bernice Taylor	Apr 6/16	3303 Don Mills Road
Julia Hartman	Apr 10/16	2 Neptune Drive
Howard Kaplan	Apr 11/16	35 Empress Avenue
Zion Ohayon	Apr 11/16	659 Woburn Avenue
Eddie Rosenberg	Apr 10/16	4005 Bayview Avenue
Miriam Greenberg	Apr 12/16	548 Steeles Ave. West
Margaret Balanyi	Apr 15/16	525 Chaplin Crescent
Ida Fienberg	Apr 14/16	77 Dunfield Avenue
Min Honickman	Apr 15/16	7 Hyfan Court
D.J. Gotfrit	Apr 13/16	41 Lount Street
Barbara Lampert	Apr 15/16	274 Searle Avenue
Alan Golden	Apr 15/16	5444 Yonge Street
Laszlo Bodnar	Apr 13/16	3560 Bathurst Street
Deborah Burstein	Apr 17/16	55 Ellerslie Avenue

Fidler, Sheldon Martin ז"ל

born in Toronto on March 13th, 1939.

Sadly passed away in Los Angeles on January 25, 2016 at age 76. He is survived by his loving sister, Shirley Kofman of Toronto and in Los Angeles by his cherished wife Judi, daughters Laurie and Pati, son in laws Ted and Scott; grandchildren Tyler, Jamie, Miles and Lacey, Ashley and Noah; and nieces and nephews: Kathy, Marty, Elise and Barbi. He was preceded in death by his parents, Anne & Harry Fidler z.l. and his brother Sonny z.l., all of Toronto.

Sheldon will be sadly missed and forever remembered.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of

LAURIE LEIFER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst S. of Steeles
Stopnitzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

CLE for Lawyers & Accountants

Estate Disputes & Prenuptial Agreements

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

PRESENTERS

Charles Wagner
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP
Chair, Trusts & Estates

Jordan Oelbaum

Jordan Atin

Arehie Rabinowitz

Arieh Bloom

Sharon Shoub

John Clegg

Gregory Sidlofsky

Brendan Donovan

Debra Stephens
Goddard Gamage Stephens LLP

Wynne Harvey

Charles Ticker

Ian Hull
Hull & Hull LLP

Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner

Craig Vander Zee

Lionel Tupnian
Whaley Estate Litigation

Sponsored By: B'nai Brith Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, Dentons, Hull & Hull LLP, Wagner Sidlofsky LLP and Whaley Estate Litigation

HULL & HULL LLP Barristers and Solicitors "Trust Experience"

Scotiabank

B'NAI BRITH CANADA

大成 DENTONS

WHALEY

WS WAGNERSIDLOFSKY LLP

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue • 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto

The Enforceability of Prenups

CLE Seminar

Charles Wagner
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP
Chair, Trusts & Estates

Challenging a prenuptial agreement in the context of estate litigation happens more often than you think. When wealthy people marry, their lawyers often advise them to ensure that their fiancé signs a prenuptial agreement. The goal is to protect the wealthy person's family in case, God forbid, the marriage breaks up and/or the wealthy spouse dies. So, if the couple each hire good lawyers and the prenuptial contract clearly spells out their agreement, is that 'pre-nup' still open to challenge? Maybe. This is the issue being addressed at the June 21, 2016 continuing legal education program being run by B'nai Brith Canada's Estates & Trusts, Lawyers Division.

Since 2006, B'nai Brith Canada's Estates and Trusts Group has been providing seminars for lawyers and accountants on issues of interest. Our seminars have qualified for CPD hours. It will be a moot court format followed by a panel discussion, its facts drawn from a number of cases dealing with this sort of issue.

John Clegg
Scotia Private Client Group

In our fictional fact scenario the 65 year old widow Yenta Shmata marries the 41 year old bachelor Richard Shmere. At the insistence of Yenta's children Richard and Yenta sign a prenuptial agreement under which Richard waives any rights to a division of property or support if there is a divorce or if Yenta predeceases him. When Yenta dies Richard goes to court to set aside the prenuptial agreement and asks the court for a division of net family property and support.

Jordan Atin
Hull & Hull LLP

The seminar will highlight a number of legal issues including the relevance of full and frank disclosure, contracting out of the obligations of the Family Law Act, waivers of entitlement in support applications under the Succession Law Reform Act, and gifts mortis causa. The Judge of the moot court will be Jordan Atin of Hull & Hull LLP.

Debra Stephens
Goddard Gamage Stephens LLP

Ian Hull
Hull & Hull LLP

The role of Richard will be played by John Clegg who is an Estate and Trusts Professional at Scotia trust, Scotia Private Client Group. He will be examined in chief by Deb Stephens of Goddard Gamage and Stephens LLP and cross examined by Ian Hull of Hull & Hull LLP. This portion of the seminar has two of the premiere estate litigators in Toronto using a trial scenario to teach attendees about the role lawyers play in drafting domestic contracts, how prenuptial agreements may not preclude the surviving spouse from receiving support, and that a court has the discretion to order that an estate pay support even if the spouses signed an agreement waiving that right.

The event will take place on June 21st, 2016 at Shaarei Shomayim-Synagogue at 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5N 1V8 and is open to lawyers and accountants. Please contact Elyse Gruenspan at B'nai Brith Canada at (416) 633-6224 or email at egruenspan@bnaibrith.ca.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MAY 5, 2016 • NISSAN 27, 5776

$2.00 • 52 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan
Earn 500 Aeroplan Miles per night and up to 15,000 Aeroplan Miles for Extended Stays

Inside

Bazmegegie' Natasha opens Toronto Jewish Film Fest

PLUS: With so many films on offer, let *The CJN*'s critics help you choose. PAGES 28-30

Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company: Celebrating 10 Years
Special Section

Acharei Mot

Halifax	8:07 p.m.	9:17 p.m.
Montreal	7:50 p.m.	9:01 p.m.
Ottawa	7:55 p.m.	9:09 p.m.
Toronto	8:08 p.m.	9:17 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:37 p.m.	9:55 p.m.
Calgary	8:49 p.m.	10:09 p.m.
Vancouver	8:19 p.m.	9:35 p.m.

Yom Hashoah

Rabbi2Rabbi
PAGE 4

Comment
PAGE 6

Srebrenica and the spectre of Auschwitz
PAGE 7

Eli Rubenstein
PAGE 8

William Rosensweig
PAGE 10

Backstory
PAGE 43

Plus more news, commentary
PAGES 10-11, 16-21

6 27843 39403 7

RSC
ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL
BEGINS JULY 5
mirvish.com

An unexpected endorsement of the Bard, and a surprise best-seller

Merchant of Venice is one of his faves

As the world marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, says he's also a fan of the Bard, and especially *The Merchant of Venice*, famous for its derogatory depiction of the Jewish moneylender Shylock. "I have read most of works by Shakespeare and enjoyed them," Khamenei tweeted April 25. "Shakespeare plays, such as the *Merchant of Venice* or *Othello*, are all in accordance with values, but western values," he said. Shylock is portrayed as scheming, vindictive and greedy. The literal pound of flesh he collects from borrower Antonio has come to mean ruthlessness in the English language.

The Bard has a fan in Tehran.

Developer seeks creditor protection

Urbancorp, a Canadian real estate developer with single-dwelling homes and townhouse projects throughout Toronto, filed a request for protection from creditors last week, less than five months after it raised 180 million shekels ($60 million) in Israel through the sale of bonds. The money raised was used to repay loans to Canadian lenders. Midroog, a credit rating agency that operates in Israel, announced it was ceasing to rate Urbancorp's debt after the company's three Israeli directors resigned along with its internal auditor, which led the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to halt trading in its bonds. *Globes* reported in Israel. Meanwhile in Toronto, Tarion, an Ontario corporation that warranties new homes, issued a notice of proposal to revoke the registration of 17 Urbancorp-related companies. Urbancorp is appealing the decision.

Talmud is a hit in Italy

The first volume of a project to translate the Talmud into Italian is an unexpected best-seller, after a first print run of 2,000 copies sold out in three days and a second run of 3,000 also sold out. Publisher Shulim Volgelmann said the $57 (Cdn) volume was likely being purchased by non-Jews, reflecting a growing interest in Italy about Jewish culture. The 416-page book covers less than 10 per cent of the Talmud. Project Talmud began five years ago with the support of the Italian state, and more volumes are ready for publication. Italy has 30,000 Jews. ■

Gematria

93

Martin Gray, a Polish-born Shoah survivor whose 1971 memoir about his experiences in the war inspired a 1985 European TV miniseries, died April 25 in Belgium at 93.

7

Seven members of an alleged Jewish terror cell were indicted April 25 in Israel for attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank.

Quotable

66

He is now denounced in Quebec, after for a while being defended on the basis of freedom of speech.

— CIJA Quebec's David Ouellette on the anti-Jewish comedian Dieudonné, who's slated to perform in Montreal May 11-15. See p. 23.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz looks at efforts to trace Shoah victims and survivors.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	28	Parshah	40
Perspectives	7	News	12	Social Scene	36	Q&A	42
Cover Story	8	International	24	What's New	38	Backstory	43

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.

416-667-1474

www.stonecraftmonuments.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Response to York's president

As community organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Jewish students on campus and advocating for the Jewish community, we read the interview with York University's president, Mamdouh Shoukri ("President says York University committed to inclusion," April 21), with great interest.

We were disappointed to see comments that we felt were condescending to the concerns of our community and dismissive of the concerns of our students. While we acknowledge his stated commitment to combat bigotry and enhance inclusion, his administration's failure to address the growing sense of alienation among Jewish students on campus has led many in our community to question whether York University's leadership is either incapable of, or unwilling to, uphold its own ideals.

We remain alarmed by the seeming disregard of York University's administration to recognize and confront anti-Semitism on campus.

He stated that the mural at York University contributed to his decision to establish an advisory committee on inclusion. We were astonished to learn that almost half of the members appointed to the inclusion committee either support boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) or have been publicly critical of Israel.

These appointments cannot possibly be reconciled with encouraging inclusion and will only serve to increase tension and further alienate Jewish students and faculty.

If Shoukri's desire and the policies of the administration are to build an inclusive and diverse campus that nurtures the respectful exchange of ideas, we call on him to make a change. Remove any members of the committee with a record of publicly promoting BDS and other anti-Israel initiatives and replace them with those experienced in bridging differences and strengthening harmony on campus.

The community organizations that have signed this letter represent the diverse Jewish community in the Greater Toronto Area. Our collective goal is to ensure that the administration acts in a manner consistent with its stated goal of encouraging inclusion. Our desire has always been, and remains, to work with you and your administration to achieve this goal.

As he has stated, York University has a proud history in the community. By taking meaningful steps to address discrimination and intolerance on campus, York University has the opportunity to be a leader in North America in dealing with these difficult issues in an effective and equitable manner.

B'nai Brith of Canada, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, Hasbara Fellowships Canada, Hillel Ontario, StandWithUs Canada, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Matzah factory memories

Thank you for the wonderful article, "A matzah factory on Ontario Street," (April 21) and kudos to Bill Gladstone for unearthing this fascinating story about Canada's first matzah factory, back in 1908.

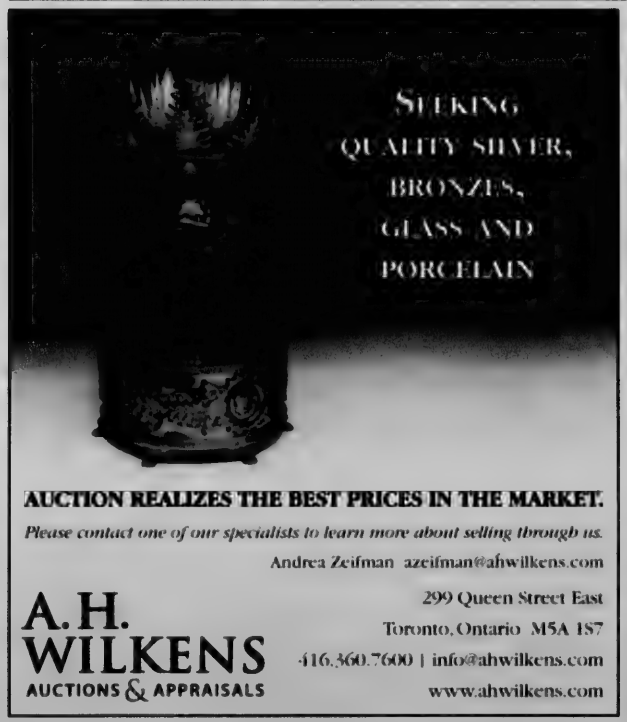
What I found very remarkable is that Montreal, with its much larger and more established Jewish community, did not have its own bakery at that time. Apparently the Toronto manufacturer was so eager to cater to the Montreal market that their product bore the kashrut certification of Rabbi Meldola de Sota of Montreal, rather than that of Toronto's leading rabbi at the time, Rabbi Yaakov Gordon.

The article does not say who owned the bakery or how long it was in existence. However I do remember there being a matzah bakery here in Toronto in the late 1930s when I was a youngster. I think it was owned by the Gula family, but I do not know whether it was the same one as on Ontario Street.

I don't think that this bakery was around after World War II, and I wonder why. Gladstone points out that there was a 25 per cent import duty on matzah. Would that not make local matzah very competitive with the older and more established New York bakeries such as Manischewitz and Streit's? Perhaps my contemporaries can provide more information about these bakeries and why they did not succeed.

Phil Elias
Toronto

Letters to the editor are welcome in English or French. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016

SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM 998
(including taxes)
Apr 1 - Sep 27
Valid for specific dates only & subject to availability

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES · NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included on Family Rates, Excluding Air

Summer	Winter Break
July 03-14	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 - Aug. 04	March Break
Aug. 07-18	Mar. 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 - Sep. 01	

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide – a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE – Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

tours@peerlesstravel.com · www.peerlesstravel.com

The time had come for my wife's unveiling. My kids and I wanted a monument that honoured her memory and captured who she was. A stone of lasting beauty, so that when we visited her grave, we felt close to her. The monument counsellor at Benjamin's Landmark designed a custom stone at a price we could afford. They truly took the utmost care.

RABBI·2·RABBI

The challenge of teaching the Shoah

We must honour survivors, mourn the victims and proudly proclaim "Never again," all while continuing to grow a living Judaism

RABBI N. DANIEL KOROBKIN
BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI LISA GRUSHCOW
TEMPLE EMANU-EL-BETH SHOLOM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Grushcow: The Holocaust and the founding of the State of Israel have been pillars of Jewish education for decades. We have taught our children that these two events are fundamental to their Jewish identities. But we are seeing less engagement with Israel in younger generations and an increasing distance from the experience of the Holocaust as well. I think we risk oversimplifying Judaism by restricting focus to these two aspects.

Emil Fackenheim wrote that the 614th commandment is to avoid giving Hitler a posthumous victory. But I don't think that the memory of the Holocaust in and of itself will motivate substantive Jewish choices. How can we make sure to hear the stories of the survivors and honour them, mourn the victims and proudly proclaim "Never again," all while continuing to grow a living Judaism?

Rabbi Korobkin: The last generation of survivors is gradually aging and passing on, and this has changed the entire paradigm of Holocaust studies. So it's not surprising that some of our youth might be less than enchanted with Holocaust studies. At the same time, new innovations are making the Shoah more relevant to today's youth. Projects like Facing History introduce the Holocaust through a contemporary lens of racism, prejudice and how evil stealthily and insidiously comes to prominence within society.

The dichotomy you present of choosing between remembering our past and moving forward with a living Judaism doesn't resonate with me. Not only is there no contradiction between the two, the very key to our future has always been through connecting with our past.

While Fackenheim may have overstated the role of the Holocaust in Jewish life, it is nonetheless a vital component. Not only do we honour the six million by remembering them, but we also provide more texture and context to the Judaism of today by connecting it to the world of European Jewry before the Shoah.

Rabbi Grushcow: I believe deeply in the importance of the past to the present, and forward into the future. But your believing it and my believing it does not necessarily make it resonate with others, especially those who are farther removed.

Rashi, in his famous comment on the first verse of Genesis, asks why the Torah begins with stories. Why not simply begin with the laws? Because, he says, the stories give a context for the laws.

The most effective Holocaust education puts stories in the foreground. I am thinking, for example, of the survivors who share their stories with our bnei mitzvah students at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, or how our confirmation class learns about individual lives for our Yom Hashoah service each year. It doesn't mean we ignore the bigger context, which is critical. It does mean that we search for the lens that helps our students relate.

At the same time, the Shoah is one chapter in a much longer history. I want our students to know about Rashi and Gluckl of Hamelin, Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai and Beruriah, Shabtai Zvi and Regina Jonas. I want our students to know the stories of Sephardi communities as well as Ashkenazi ones, and about Jews from Africa and Asia as well as Europe. We need to keep telling the story of the Shoah. We need to acknowledge evil to keep it from happening again – and not only to us, but to anyone. And we need to make room for many stories, so every Jewish child can see themselves in our past, and see their way into our future.

Rabbi Korobkin: I agree that we can't sacrifice the pantheon of Jewish history for the Holocaust. But as a child of a survivor, my view may be biased. The Holocaust is unrivalled by any other event in Jewish history because of the sheer magnitude of genocide and devastation to whole communities and cultures.

Its uniqueness to our history – indeed, to world history – demands that we treat it uniquely and with greater emphasis. So I'm willing to tolerate the rolled eyes of some millennials if it means that we might get through to others.

The Shoah's impact, both on our past and our future, is too important to consign to yet another iteration of Jewish suffering. As we see the new anti-Semitism of the 21st century intensifying, we can't afford to do any less. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI. No. 18 (2,244)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjnnfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

Consulate General of Israel

The Community is invited to attend

YOM HAZIKARON

The Official Memorial Ceremony for Israel's Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror

Beth Tzedec Congregation • 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Program in Hebrew and English

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein Editor Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge News Editor Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski Art Director Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashwa Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Harlang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus,
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Dinner in Cornwall

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Part of the crowd at the annual dinner in Beth El Synagogue hall, Cornwall, Ont. in the 1940s

SeeJN | Focus on social justice

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath joined Ve'ahavta's 17th annual Third Night Social Justice Seder, held April 24 at Holy Blossom Temple in partnership with Holy Blossom, Mazon Canada and Congregation Habonim. More than 350 people attended, including those served by Ve'ahavta's poverty-alleviation programs. From left are Jay Brodbar, national executive director of Mazon Canada, Horwath, Avrum Rosensweig, founder and CEO of Ve'ahavta, and Eli Rubenstein, religious leader of Congregation Habonim.

From Yoni's Desk

Fievel Mousekewitz's lessons about anti-Semitism

Thirty years ago, *An American Tail* hit the big screen. The animated movie/musical tells the story of Fievel Mousekewitz, a precocious rodent with an oversized newsboy cap who, along with his family, flees oppressive late-1800s Russia to seek freedom in the United States. Separated from his family during a treacherous sea voyage, Fievel is forced to navigate the New World on his own in the hope of reuniting with his father, mother and siblings.

An American Tail was the first time I can recall being exposed to the notion of anti-Semitism. The metaphor that underpins the film – the mice represent the Jewish People, the brutal cats are stand-ins for anti-Semites – is simple enough to parse, that long before I was old enough to begin to comprehend the history of anti-Semitism, let alone the Holocaust, *An American Tail* taught me there were people in the world who hated people like me because we were Jewish. (The late film critic Roger Ebert's primary criticism of *An American Tail* – that it "has such vague ethnic grounds… that only a few children will understand or care that the Mousekewitzes are Jewish" – belies my experience, and, I suspect, that of many more Jewish children of a certain era who were shown the film by our day school teachers.)

The central conceit of *An American Tail* is that "there are no cats in America." Fievel's father first voices the refrain in the wake of a pogrom that convinces him to leave Russia; it makes a second appearance in musical form later on, as the collected mice sing their way across the sea.

But Papa Mousekewitz's prophecy ultimately proves to be entirely false – there are indeed cats in America, and they harbour the same hatred as their Old World kin. Even as Fievel is reunited with his family at the end of *An American Tail*, the film's message is that there is no escaping anti-Semitism.

It's a lesson that resonates especially these days. In the United Kingdom last week, two Labour Party parliamentarians made news for their hateful rhetoric and inaccurate statements about Jews. It started when online comments by Naz Shah, a Labour member of Parliament, were unearthed. In 2014, she shared a Facebook post titled "Solution for Israel-Palestine Conflict – Relocate Israel into United States," which claimed that relocating Israel would end "foreign interference" in the Middle East, and leave "the whole world happy." Two days later, Ken Livingstone, the former mayor of London and a current Labour MP, was suspended after telling the BBC, "When Hitler won his election in 1932, his policy then was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism before he went mad and ended up killing six million Jews."

Meanwhile, back in America, Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump was pushing his "America First" vision, repurposing a phrase (knowingly or unknowingly – with Trump you're never quite sure) popularized by the anti-Semite and Nazi-sympathizer Charles Lindbergh in the early years of World War II.

As Fievel Mousekewitz learned in *An American Tale*, even in the glorified utopia of the West the cats still chase the mice. Some things, it seems, never change. ■ — YONI

YOM HASHOAH

Srebrenica and the spectre of Auschwitz

Franklin Bialystok

I was in The Hague in December 2011 part of the Canadian delegation to the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Research and Commemoration, since renamed The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. It was created in 2000, and Canada was admitted in 2007 and made a full member three years later.

I was invited to join the delegation by the multicultural branch of the Ministry of Immigration and was assigned to the Education Working Group. The task force met biannually and that year, the host was the Netherlands.

A few weeks before the meeting in The Hague, a notice was sent to the delegates (about 200 from approximately 30 countries) offering us a visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The tribunal was held in a separate building across the plaza in the complex that housed our meetings. I was one of about a dozen task force members who signed up.

We were given a detailed briefing about the civil war in Yugoslavia, the creation of the tribunal, and the charges against Radovan Karadzic for crimes against humanity against Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia. Historically, Yugoslavia was a mixture of Muslims, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs. They spoke the same language, and during the reign of Josip Broz Tito, from 1945 to 1980, lived in relative harmony. With the breakdown of the Yugoslav federation, the two main nationalities, Croats and Serbs, sought to divide Bosnia. But their mutual animosity and the acceleration of territorial demands by Serbia led to the creation of Republika Srpska, an autonomous Serbian state within Bosnia,

Gravestones at the Srebrenica massacre memorial WIKICOMMONS PHOTO

with Karadzic as the self-appointed president in 1992.

Karadzic was born in 1945 and was an acclaimed poet in his youth. He attended the University of Sarajevo and the Columbia Medical School and studied neurotic disorders in Denmark before becoming a psychiatrist in Sarajevo. He spoke at least three languages fluently – Serbo-Croatian, English and German. His paramilitary began a program of "ethnic cleansing" – specifically the persecution, deportation, hostage taking and murder of the Bosnian Muslim population. Under his direction, the male population of Muslims, numbering more than 7,500 in Srebrenica, was systematically murdered and buried outside the town. When the regime fell in 1995, Karadzic was indicted by the tribunal. The Srebrenica action was declared to be a genocide. He avoided capture for 13 years by disguising himself and adopting an assumed name and identity. His trial began in 2010

> *As a child of survivors and a student and teacher of this history, I have never been able to grasp the incongruity in the human capacity to navigate between benevolence and evil.*

and he chose to represent himself.

After our briefing, we were taken to a gallery of the tribunal with one-way glass separating us from the proceedings. Karadzic, looking very much the urban European intellectual, with his well-known mane of white hair, was about 20 feet from our seats. A report on the Srebrenica massacre was being explained by an Australian forensic archeologist who had worked at the site. His account was factual, and its impact was graphic. Karadzic listened without translation and in his cross examination, speaking Serbo-Croatian, asked specific, pointed questions, seeking to poke fissures into the report. He was calm, incisive, unflappable.

I witnessed this grotesque spectacle, captivated and repelled. As a child of survivors and a student and teacher of this history, I have never been able to grasp the incongruity in the human capacity to navigate between benevolence and evil. Karadzic, a doctor who ministered to all Bosnians, orchestrated the first genocide in Europe since the Holocaust.

That night, I paced my room until dawn, boarded a train for Amsterdam, and flew home.

Karadzic had shaken my hope for humanity. In my naiveté, I had believed that Europe had learned a lesson in the Holocaust. But the disintegration of Yugoslavia, and the current breakdown of civility throughout the continent, is evidence that the spectre of Auschwitz has not been erased.

Karadzic, born as I was in the shadow of the Holocaust, was found guilty on all counts on March 16. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison. ■

Franklin Bialystok teaches in the Canadian Studies and Jewish Studies programs at the University of Toronto.

IF THE CHASE FOR YIELD HAS YOU EYEING EQUITIES THIS SHOULD BRING YOU BACK TO YOUR SENSES.

Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund

YEAR	NET RETURN	YEAR	NET RETURN
2006	10.3%	2011	8.2%
2007	10.5%	2012	7.7%
2008	9.9%	2013	7.4%
2009	8.7%	2014	7.8%
2010	8.7%	2015	8.2%

With a 50-year history of capital preservation and consistent returns, our commercial mortgage fund is ideal for accredited investors, foundations, endowments and pension funds seeking a low-volatility asset that performs like anything but. To discuss your investment of $150,000 or more:
Dianna Price diannaprice@romspen.com | 416 928 5105

Results from January 1, 1985, to January 31, 2016, are those of a pool of individually syndicated mortgages managed by the manager of Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund (the "Fund"). The indicated rates of return are historical returns calculated on a cash-on-cash basis, after fees, and the annual compounded net returns assume a monthly reinvestment of distributions. Returns do not take into account income taxes, changes in unit values, third-party guarantees or redemption charges that could have reduced returns. This is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy units of the Fund, which are offered to investors who meet eligibility requirements under applicable securities laws. Fund units are offered only by offering memorandum, which contains important information about the Fund's fees, objectives, and risk factors, and which should be read before investing. Consult your financial advisor. The Fund's returns are not guaranteed, unit values may change, and past performance may not be repeated.

ROMSPEN

Hate is never right, and love is never wrong

For many survivors, the lesson of the Holocaust is to rebuild, reconcile and live life in a way that belies the brutal experience of their youth

ELI RUBENSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

For the last 30 years, I have been working closely with Holocaust survivors in Canada and around the world. In all that time, the one attribute found in an astonishing number of survivors that has impressed me most has been their ability to love – to rebuild, to reconcile, to carry on their lives in a fashion that belies the brutal experience of their youth.

Nowhere was this more evident than last year, when I attended the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The most extraordinary moment for me was when Roman Kent, a survivor of Auschwitz, spoke about his experience. When asked how much time he has spent in the camp, he said, "My answer is I do not know. What I do know is that a minute in Auschwitz was like an entire day, a day was like a year, and a month an eternity."

He went on to say that "it is our mutual obligation, that of survivors and national leaders, to instil in the current and future generations the understanding of what happens when virulent prejudice and hatred are allowed to flourish. We must all teach our children tolerance and understanding at home and in school. For tolerance cannot be assumed... it must be taught. And we must make it clear that hate is never right and love is never wrong."

After everything he'd gone through, his answer was still that "hate is never right and love is never wrong."

My mind drifted back to a time, approximately 15 years ago, when I was in a Jerusalem hotel on Yom Hazikaron, the day when Israel marks the loss of its soldiers. I was with Max Eisen, a survivor who lost over 50 members of his family in the Holocaust. At 11 o'clock in the morning, a siren sounded throughout the country, and its citizens stopped whatever they were doing to stand in honour of the people who sacrificed their lives to defend Israel. Pedestrians crossing the street, cars in the downtown core of Jerusalem, children on a basketball court – all paused mid-activity in a moment of sombre solidarity with the victims of Israel's many conflicts.

Max and I were the last two guests still lingering in the hotel dining room that day. The only people with us were the mostly Arab staff – the waiters and those who were cleaning up after breakfast. We were so engaged in our conversation – Max has a miraculous story of survival – that we lost track of time. When the siren sounded, we rose immediately and stood. The Arab waiters, meanwhile, continued to work.

Of course, it's not hard to understand why. The Arab-Israeli conflict has dragged on for the better part of a century. It's not a given to expect members of the Arab population to stand up and honour Israel's fallen soldiers, given the hostility and the difficult relationship that still exists between Arabs and Jews in Israel.

But even looking at the situation from that perspective, one of the waiters went further than mere abstinence. In fact, he crossed a line. During the minute of silence, he aggressively lifted up his hand and made an obscene gesture recognizable to anyone, an act of open hostility in this moment of solemnity – a defiant anti-salute to what was being marked at that point in time.

I wasn't sure if Max had seen the gesture, and we continued with our conversation until we returned to our rooms. A little while later, I called Max in his room and asked if he had seen what the waiter had done. He had indeed noticed the same obscene gesture, and I could tell that he was shaken by it. So I immediately called the hotel manager, who arranged to meet me downstairs in the dining room. (He also sent a fruit basket and box of chocolate to Max's room.)

I arrived in the dining room, not sure what to expect.

To my shock, I found the manager standing in the middle of the room with all the waiters, mostly young men, lined up. He asked me to point out the one who had made the defiant gesture.

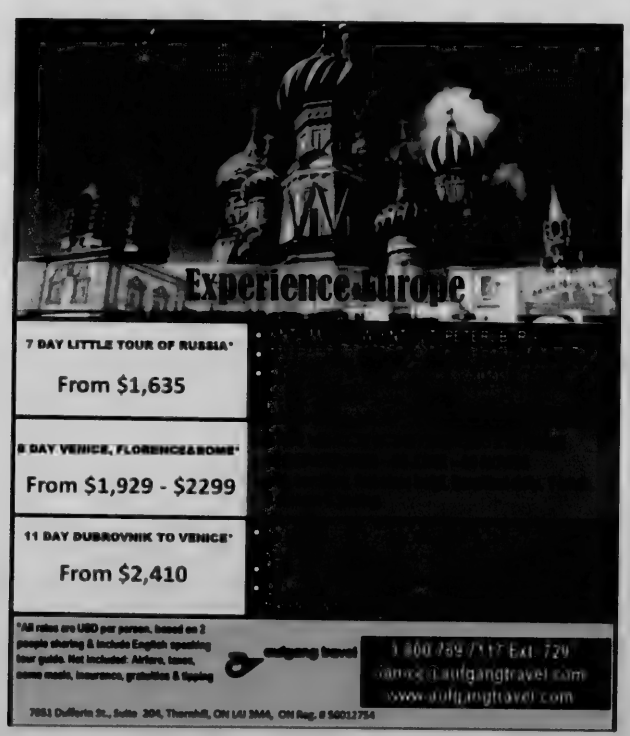
It was a difficult moment. I was not sure I would be able to recognize him and, if I did, what the consequence for this individual might be. If I identified him, he would probably get fired. Would it solve anything if this person, who obviously had strong feelings, reasons that I could never know, lost his job? Or would it further exacerbate the situation? What was the correct response?

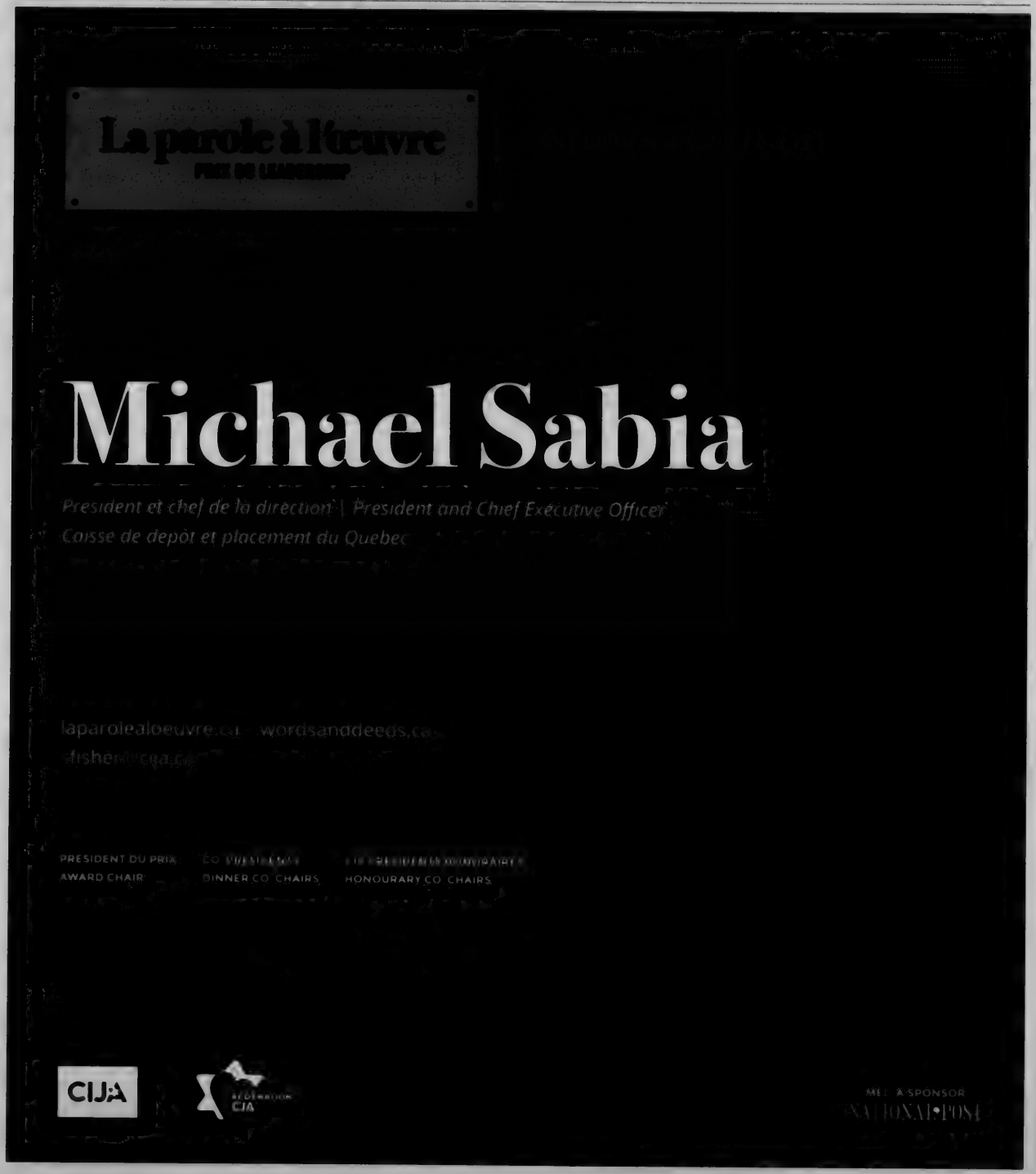
In that moment, I had no idea.

Buying time, I said, "Let me take a closer look." I scanned the 15 waiters and my eyes fell on the one I felt fairly sure was the culprit.

I paused for a moment, and our eyes locked. He knew he was the one I suspected.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23


Experience Europe
7 DAY LITTLE TOUR OF RUSSIA*
From $1,635
8 DAY VENICE, FLORENCE & ROME*
From $1,929 - $2299
11 DAY DUBROVNIK TO VENICE*
From $2,410
*All rates are USD per person, based on 2 people sharing & include English speaking tour guide. Not included: Airfare, taxes, some meals, insurance, gratuities & tipping
1 800 769 7417 Ext. 729
www.aufgangtravel.com
7051 Dufferin St., Suite 204, Thornhill, ON L4J 3N4, ON Reg. # 50012754


La parole à l'œuvre
Michael Sabia
President et chef de la direction | President and Chief Executive Officer
Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec
laparolealoeuvre.ca
wordsandadeeds.ca
PRESIDENT DU PRIX
AWARD CHAIR
DINNER CO CHAIRS
HONOURARY CO CHAIRS
CIJA
CJA
NATIONAL POST

The lonely survivor

Avrum Rosensweig

He braces himself against the stacks of old papers and food packaging scattered throughout his diminutive apartment at Bathurst Street and Steeles Avenue in Toronto.

His is a challenging life. It is a sad life.

He is a survivor of the Holocaust, and nobody comes to visit him except a social worker from time to time, or those young religious girls who listen to his memories of Auschwitz. He thinks they think he is simple and has little depth, but they are wrong. Or perhaps he is, and they don't think that at all.

The days are long and the nights are quiet. His shelves are stocked with tinned spaghetti and rice crackers, but he's thankful to the National Council of Jewish Women for a box of Passover food brought to his home. His Passover seder was traditional, but only the spirit of the prophet Elijah walked through his door, and he (the prophet) was in a rush.

One day, many years ago, the once debonair man wrote a letter to all the Jewish leaders he could think of. The letter was written on a special cotton stock with his name embossed in gold ink along the centre-top. He begged them to recognize the plight of many Holocaust survivors in Toronto, Israel and elsewhere, who live below the poverty line and experience the worst lifestyle possible after the Shoah – loneliness.

Cordial responses arrived from rabbis and executive directors expressing their concern. One even asked him to speak at a conference addressing survivor poverty and isolation. He accepted, but the conference never happened. It was cancelled because there were "other pressing priorities." He had already written his speech.

The next morning, after receiving that letter, he tossed his speech into the garbage. All afternoon he stared at the crumpled piece of paper. As he did, he remembered his late wife, Minnie. Her image comforted him and made him

> *One of the greatest injustices in our society today is to let an elderly survivor be alone.*

sob. Mengele, "the bastard," had experimented on this beautiful young woman and ensured that children and grandchildren would never be part of their lives.

And as the light of the day dimmed and Yom Hashoah ended, he continued to wonder how it was at all possible that any survivors could be by themselves. He thought about the hundreds of songs, plays and reports about the plight of survivors of the Holocaust and how many had been abandoned to a life of solitude.

In his mind, he just couldn't understand how it could be that not a knock came on his door and the telephone stayed quiet. He didn't need the old dial phone anymore so, as the darkness fell, he pulled it from the wall and placed it on top of the stack of newspapers. It sat there like a silent relic never to be plugged in again.

The lonely survivor died in the winter. The good people at Steeles Memorial Chapel called around for a minyan to say *Kaddish* for him. The final amen was a shame.

• • •

On Yom Hashoah, commit to discovering who our survivor population is at home and in Israel and how you can visit. One of the greatest injustices in our society today is to let an elderly survivor be alone! It is our responsibility to rectify this sin and to ask the lonely survivors to forgive us for not being more vigilant, as we said we would.

According to the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Survivors (September 2015), Israel is home to 189,000 Holocaust survivors, 25 per cent living below the poverty line. Their average age is 84. About a third of them live alone. ■

Avrum.rosensweig@veahavta.org

The two stories that emerged from the Holocaust

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

What do we commemorate on Yom Hashoah?

We remember the most horrific event in history. In a macabre mix of cruelty and efficiency, six million Jews were murdered in just six years. In events that still defy belief, a leading western nation put its strategic self-interest aside to pursue genocide, and an army of well-educated men plotted the murders of 1.5 million children. In the end, nearly two-thirds of Europe's Jews were murdered.

It's impossible to ignore the Holocaust, and as a consequence, it's easy to misinterpret the Holocaust. The memory of the six million has been misused by small-minded preachers and petty politicians, and even by idealists who desperately search for good everywhere. Lawrence Langer, in his book *Preempting the Holocaust*, critiques those who find "positive lessons" in the Holocaust. He cites an incident at Matthausen, when a group of Jews were thrown into a pit of quicklime, and shouted for hours as they died an agonizing, slow death. Langer concludes: "Nothing we hear from well-intentioned commentators about… the light of human community emerging from Holocaust darkness… or 'fellowship of the suffering and the long suffering'… can silence the cries of those hundreds of Jews being boiled to death in an acid bath."

Langer is correct. The six years of the Holocaust are an enormous black hole of barbarity, an inexplicable horror that one can mourn, and only mourn.

And yet that is not all. There are two perspectives in history. An event can be viewed both on its own and as part of a larger narrative.

So what would be the larger narrative of the last 77 years? In terms of world history, little has changed. Over and over, political leaders have vowed "never again," but that promise has proved false. Since 1945, there have been genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Even Samantha Power, who writes eloquently about ending genocide, serves an administration that did nothing for the civilians of Syria. In the last 71 years, the world has not changed very much.

But in terms of Jewish history, things have changed dramatically. The Holocaust was the culmination of two millennia of anti-Semitism and should have broken our spirits. Survivors should have given up hope, and world Jewry should have collapsed.

Yet nothing of the sort occurred. In the shadows of the concentration camps, orphaned survivors got married and started new families. The *brichah* sent ten of thousands of survivors to Israel, where many went directly to fight for the new state. And survivors around the world built communities and garnered remarkable accomplishments in business, scientific and political life, including several Nobel Prizes.

Alongside the survivors, the Jewish world re-energized itself. After 1,900 years of exile, Jews returned to their homeland and built a state that is a world leader in multiple areas. The arc of Jewish history since the Shoah has been nothing short of miraculous, with a people rising from the ashes in a manner no one could have predicted.

On Yom Hashoah, we need to keep two stories in mind. Our first responsibility is to reflect on six years of carnage and mourn the six million. But at the same time, we must be inspired by the remarkable story of the past 71 years.

Last year, I accompanied the March of the Living to Birkenau and spent a dismal Yom Hashoah in that awful site of mass murder. But then I caught a glimpse of two teenagers standing by the barbed wire with Israeli flags draped over their shoulders. I was profoundly moved, because it reminded me that Jewish history did not end in 1945. We now have the State of Israel, and we have proud young Jews who will carry the legacy of the six million. And even though it was Yom Hashoah, I couldn't help but think, "Am Yisrael Chai." ■

The imperative for us to commemorate

Rabbi Dow Marmur

Natan Sznaider was born more than six decades ago in a displaced persons' camp in Germany to Holocaust survivor parents. When he was 20, he moved to Israel and is today a professor at the Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College, where he teaches contemporary thought. I heard him recently make an important distinction between Holocaust survivors and Holocaust refugees. The former lived under the Nazis, the latter were displaced because of Hitler but had escaped Nazi rule.

My wife is a survivor of the Lodz ghetto and the Ravensbruck concentration camp. Part of her story can be seen in *Every face has a name*, to be shown at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival later this month. I'm a refugee who spent the years of World War II in various parts of the Soviet Union that weren't under Nazi occupation.

What survivors and refugees often have in common is that they're alive not because they were wise but because they were fortunate. I never tire of reminding myself and others that my parents and I survived because they acted irrationally, nay irresponsibly.

In 1940, when the Soviets asked them if they wanted to stay in Soviet-occupied Ukraine or return to their homes in Poland under Nazi rule, my parents, and thousands of others, opted for the latter. The Soviets, therefore, assumed we were a fifth column and exiled us to Siberia. The Germans never got there and we survived. Had my parents been prudent, we would have stayed and perished in the Holocaust.

The reason for their decision was a misguided faith in German culture and a pathological fear of Soviet Communism. To this day, it seems that many survivors and refugees are more comfortable with the political right than with the left. They lap up the writings of radical right-wing pundits – several of them Jewish – and eerie declarations by reactionary politicians.

They may profess commitment to Jewish values and the progressive teachings of the biblical prophets, but they seem to lose their sense of judgment when it comes to contemporary exponents of anti-liberal ideas.

For all my disdain for communism, I'm alive because of Communist USSR. My grandparents, aunts and uncles perished with their children in German-occupied Poland.

Growing up during World War II and its aftermath, I imbibed the tales of survivors and refugees. With time, I realized that what I heard may not have always reflected what actually happened. I now also know that what I myself remember from that time may not always tally with the facts.

Over the years, particularly around Holocaust Education Week in Toronto, I heard many lectures about different aspects of the Holocaust. Almost invariably, survivors and refugees insisted that only they knew what actually happened and that the academics and experts got it wrong.

Soon the world will only know what the academics teach, because every year the number of survivors and refugees diminishes. The world may then know more facts, but it'll miss the emotional impact of testimonies. While the stories, whether or not factually correct, made an impact on audiences, the historic accounts are more likely to leave them cold. They'll read about them in the way we read about the expulsion of the Jews from Spain more than 500 years ago or the pogrom in Kishinev at the beginning of the last century.

Which is an added reason why we should commemorate Yom Hashoah the way we mark many Jewish sacred occasions, including the tragic ones. What historians won't be able to give us and survivors and refugees won't be there to testify to, liturgy must provide. It must impress upon future generations that what happened to the Jewish People between 1933 and 1945 has changed Judaism for all time and imposed on us the imperative – in the words of the Toronto Jewish philosopher the late Emil Fackenheim – to survive in order not to give Hitler his posthumous victory. ■

Mein Bubbie

Sheryl Saperia

As the last generation to have known Holocaust survivors personally, it falls on us to tell their stories.

Today I bear witness to one woman: Perela Weintraub Pila, my late grandmother, mein bubbie.

Perela was the youngest of eight children from a traditional Jewish family in a Polish shtetl. As the war came to her village, the Jews were rounded up in the market square. "Do not come with us," were her mother's last life-saving words to her. "Go out into the world." She never saw her family again.

By then, she had already met my grandfather, Zalman. They wished to marry but felt it was unwise to do so during the war. After separating from her family, Perela tried to flee together with Zalman, but the Nazis caught up with them. Zalman was sent to Auschwitz. Perela was deported first to Graben and then to Bergen-Belsen, where hunger, cold and terror remained constant companions.

Perela contracted typhus on the death march and was transferred to a hospital after liberation. After months in and out of consciousness, she emerged from her bed and was returned to a now-liberated Bergen-Belsen. Here, she was reunited with a friend of her parents, who uttered these auspicious words: "Your fiancé is alive."

Perela and Zalman married in October 1945. Both were the sole survivors of their large families. My grandmother recalled that her hair was still wet from the mikvah when she and Zalman took their wedding vows.

They came to Canada penniless and unable to speak English. They worked day and night to make a good life for their children and grandchildren. There was no narrative of victimization. The lessons and values they taught were exceptionally positive.

Here are a few simple pearls from the woman called Perela.

On transforming suffering to compassion: Both my grandparents took their suffering and transformed it into hard work and kindness. They knew pain in a way that few ever do and were determined to relieve it in others. Perela was force-fed hatred and inhumanity but nurtured others with love and compassion. She delivered food right to the doorsteps of those in need, visited the sick and provided financial assistance to any person or organization that asked. She always had a smile on her face.

> *Perela was force-fed hatred and inhumanity but nurtured others with love and compassion.*

On optimism: "Maybe today is not a good day. Tomorrow will be better."

On anger and parenting: Parents must keep anger away from their kids. If a child is being difficult, bring that child closer.

On motherhood: "You are a mother and now you are going to suffer."

On faith: Perela unequivocally ascribed her survival to God and the signs He gave her during those dark years. She was certain that God spared her for the purpose of doing good in the world.

On marriage: My grandparents' marriage served as a model to our family. They made their decisions together as though they were a single person, and never raised their voices to one another. Her advice to my mother before getting married was to greet your husband with a smile on your face, and be sure to put on some lipstick before he gets home.

On judging others: "If you really want to know someone, you can't enter the house through the front door. Peek through the back instead." It was her version of not judging a book by its cover.

This was my grandmother, unknowingly the bane of the radical Islamist world, which accuses her and her ilk of being agents of the great Jewish lie of the Holocaust. She epitomized the ability to instil love into life despite her own unspeakable history. She was living proof of the fallibility of the Islamist promise of victory over the weak and despicable "lovers of life."

Her memory will remain a testament to the truth of an ancient rabbinic dictum that a little light can vanquish great darkness. ■

Sheryl Saperia is director of policy for Canada at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

News

Rights complaint filed over delivery of 'hate propaganda'

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Canada Post and the government of Canada have been named in a complaint under the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) for distributing a monthly Toronto tabloid newspaper that is allegedly laced with hate propaganda.

Ottawa lawyer Richard Warman, who has a track record of successful actions before human rights commissions, claims in a four-page complaint that *Your Ward News* is "misogynist, racist, anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim and homophobic hate propaganda."

"The government of Canada has the legal obligation to stop the dissemination of hate propaganda, not profit from its distribution through Canada Post."

Warman goes on to assert that by continuing to distribute *Your Ward News*, the government and post office are not only in violation of the CHRA, but also international legal obligations that prohibit the dissemination of hate propaganda.

"By knowingly distributing hate propaganda and profiting from it, [Canada Post and the government of Canada] have engaged in discriminatory conduct," Warman asserts.

Late last week, Judy Foote, the minister of public services and procurement, issued a statement saying, "I have reviewed some of the material published in the tabloid *Your Ward News*, and find it highly offensive and well outside the norm of Canadian values. Many residents of the Greater Toronto Area have raised significant objections with the distribution of

James Sears

the tabloid in their region by Canada Post. As minister responsible for Canada Post, I have asked its board of directors to review and consider appropriate measures within their authority to address the distribution of this material."

James Sears, editor-in-chief of *Your Ward News*, replied to *The CJN's* request for comment with a series of extracts from the paper's most recent edition.

He rejected allegations the paper is anti-Semitic or homophobic: "These are slogans spewed out by ZioMarxists to attack the purveyors of the truth. If you criticize Israel for murdering Palestinians or if you disagree with the Hollywood narrative of the 'Jewish Holocaust,' then 'Social Justice Warriors' call you an 'anti-Semite.'"

Sears said he'd fight any move to prevent delivery. "We have made it clear to Canada Post that if they interfere in any way with the delivery of our paper, we will sue them for access to apartment buildings," he said.

Your Ward News has been a lightning rod for controversy ever since its first copy was delivered by Canada Post in March 2015. At the time, a Jewish postal worker objected to delivering what he called hate propaganda.

The paper proclaims itself "the world's largest anti-Marxist publication" and a "Christian Libertarian National Socialist gospel." The spring 2016 issue features a Liberal party banner under a menorah, Photoshopped pictures of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, and Bernie Farber, former CEO of Canadian Jewish Congress, wearing a tallit and tfillin and handing Ontario MPP Arthur Potts, dressed as a Roman centurion, 30 pieces of silver.

In 2015, *Your Ward News* claimed it was delivered to 48,000 homes and was read by 300,000 people. Its website states it's delivered by mail to 300,000 homes and businesses in an area bounded by Highway 401 to the north, Lake Ontario to the south, Victoria Park in the east and Lansdowne Avenue to the west. It boasts more than one million readers.

The website lists its publisher/owner as Leroy St. Germaine, and it claims to be "Metis-owned and operated since 2007."

Warman's complaint refers specifically to its four most recent issues, dating to last December. In only its most recent edition, the spring 2016 issue, Warman alleges the paper advocates Nazism, refers to opponents as "faggy," described someone as a "boy-hungry faggot," engages in Holocaust denial and anti-Jewish bigotry and mocks sexual assault victims.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers welcomed Warman's complaint as did an anti-racist coalition that includes political consultant Warren Kinsella, and Farber.

The Toronto Police hate crimes unit opened an investigation into the paper in March 2015, after complaints it violated Criminal Code provisions against publishing hate literature. No charges were laid.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), along with Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, initiated the 2015 police complaint. CIJA's chief executive Shimon Fogel said police never explained why they declined to lay charges.

As to whether they should renew their investigation, Fogel said, "In any given issue of *Your Ward News*, there are sufficient reasons to warrant the laying of charges. Some issues are more egregious than others, but the publication is inherently offensive and replete with various examples of hate speech, whether directed against Jews or others."

Farber believes there are sufficient grounds for prosecution. "If the hate laws were written for anything, they were written for this kind of garbage," he said.

Referring to the cover of the current edition, Farber said the Photoshopped image of him handing Potts 30 pieces of silver "is classical anti-Semitism – a Jew paying off a politician to do his will."

Warman told *The CJN* he chose to target Canada Post and the federal government because both are subject to the CHRA and both are "morally and legally wrong" for distributing the material.

A spokesperson for Canada Post, said, "We take this matter seriously. We will consider the contents once we have had a chance to review the formal complaint." ■

...From one Fine Home to Another

Moving, Reorganizing, ReDecorating?

...of Things Past offers Home Visits and will provide a one-stop, solution for all your consignment needs. With over 20 years of experience, a team of experts and 3 locations to serve you, we are your premier choice.

Call us today for more info at 416-256-9256

185 Bridgeland Ave • Toronto, On • 416-256-9256

...of Things Past
luxury consignment

Anti-Semitism rally draws passionate crowd to city hall

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The wet weather did not dampen the passion of the 100 people who turned out for a community rally against anti-Semitism on Sunday afternoon at Nathan Phillips Square.

The people in attendance included Christian and Jews, and represented all age groups. Many participants carried signs and placards, while others draped themselves in Canadian or Israeli flags.

The rally was hosted by Aedan O'Connor, vice-president of programming for Students Supporting Israel (SSI) at Ryerson University, and Robert Walker, Canadian director of Hasbara Fellowships Canada.

The roster of speakers included university students who talked about anti-Semitic activity on local campuses, advocacy leaders such as Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, and Lisa Cohen, executive director of the Centre for Jewish Culture and Education (CJCE), as well as Jewish community activist Vivienne Ziner and First Nations activist Ryan Bellerose.

O'Connor, a second-year biomedical sciences student at Ryerson, said there is anti-Israel activity at Ryerson, but the situation is much worse at other universities. She said a lecture at the University of Toronto on April 29 by Kenneth O'Keefe, an U.S.-born pro-Palestinian activist, spurred her to organize the May 1 rally.

What was most disturbing, she said was to see the hundreds of business people attending the lecture who "cheered O'Keefe's blatantly anti-Semitic" remarks, adding that she was outraged tax dollars paid for the facility where he spoke.

Another student who addressed the rally was Aidan Fishman, a first-year U of T law student. He acknowledged that a university, which values free speech, couldn't prevent O'Keefe from speaking there.

But he said he was particularly disturbed that U of T's Graduate Student Union, which is funded by a levy on all graduate students, paid speaker Amanda Lickers, who he said gave a "racist diatribe" against Jews in February.

He said she was supposed to talk about Israel, but all she did was attack Ashkenazi Jews, whom she likened to Nazis. "She called Ashkenazim 'Ashken-Nazis'... she said Jews were inherently racist colonials and parasites."

Rena Silver, president of Hasbara at York

About 100 people turned out May 1.
BARBARA SILVERSTEIN PHOTO

University, said she feels victimized and marginalized by anti-Semitism at York. She asked rhetorically how is it that all York students can study in a safe environment except Jewish students?

Cohen of the CJCE told stories of anti-Semitism from academics at McMaster University. She said when she took a course on peace and wrote a paper in support of Israel, she was given a failing grade. She said the mark was changed by the university administration when she agreed to drop the course.

Benolo told the gathering that anti-Semitism is rampant worldwide. "Over 1 billion people on the planet dislike Jews. We are such an insignificant number, and Israel is just a sliver of land, yet Israel is the heart of the world."

Nevertheless, he said he's encouraged by the many non-Jews who support Israel and the Jewish People. "We are supported by friends and allies – people who are standing with us. That warms my heart."

Bellerose, a strong supporter of the Jewish community, said First Nations have a lot to learn about survival from the Jewish People. But he said Jews must be more active in fighting anti-Semitism. "One of the biggest problems is that Jews are too apologetic. 'They say, the other guy [Palestinians] has a good story, too.'"

In a rousing speech, Ziner warned against the tendency for complacency among Jews, and especially indifference to flagrant anti-Semitism on campuses. "Anti-Zionism is inherently anti-Semitism," she said.

She accused the left of perverting the meaning of Zionism. "The left is making anti-Semitism palatable to the public."

Former York student Willem Hart, echoed Ziner's call to action. "I look around and I see all the same faces. Tell your kids to get involved." ■

ISRAEL ON THE TABLE
May 12-15, 2016
A brand new way to mark Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, and connect with Israel.
Pick a day. Arrange a meal. Join the conversation.
Tell us how your conversation goes and you could win a trip for two to Israel with El Al!
1000+ participants already signed up!
Register at IsraelOnTheTable.ca.
Got a question? E-mail us at info@israelonthetable.ca

Thornhill residents decry plan for tower on plaza site

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Thornhill residents who rely on the Jewish community stores in the kosher Sobeys plaza at Clark and Hilda avenues are fighting an uphill battle against a developer that wants to build a 20-storey residential building on the east side of the site.

Pamela Levy-Taraday, president of the SpringFarm Ratepayers Association (SFRA), a volunteer community advocacy group, spoke to *The CJN* about the plan that has the neighbouring Jewish community angry and worried that the proposed changes will negatively impact them.

Last November, RioCan – a commercial developer that owns what's officially called the Spring Farm Marketplace, which is home to a kosher Sobeys, a kosher Second Cup, Israel's Judaica and other Jewish-themed stores – held a meeting that attracted about 400 people.

At the gathering, Thornhill residents learned about a plan to demolish the stores on the east side of the plaza to make way for an 18-storey building. The proposal has since been amended to add two more storeys to allow for stores on a lower-level platform.

Ratepayers association says developers would be violating Vaughan's official plan.

"It's going to change the traffic patterns. They are going to change the exits... They want to close the Hilda Avenue entrance. The want to have the only real vehicle entrance and exit to the above-ground parking to come from Clark, which [as] we all know, it's pretty hard to get into the plaza from Clark anyway," Levy-Taraday said.

In the months since RioCan presented its plan to the community, the SFRA has conducted a community survey, held meetings to appeal to RioCan to amend its proposal, and drafted a petition to the City of Vaughan to halt the development.

The petition (http://bit.ly/SFRA_Petition_Sobeys_Plaza_Redevelopment) states that the proposal violates Vaughan's official plan and contravenes zoning bylaws for usage, density and height.

Vaughan councillor Alan Shefman, who represents Ward 5, where the plaza is located, said he has "very, very strong reservations" about RioCan's proposal.

"They'll need lots [of exemptions]... The reality is that it is not respectful of the city's official plan," Shefman said.

"I'm very strongly opposed to what they are doing here, and I don't think it's appropriate. I think their behaviour has been disrespectful."

Shefman said RioCan has been doing nothing more than pay lip service to concerned residents.

In February, RioCan agreed to host a charrette, a meeting that attempts to resolve conflicts between residents and developers.

About an hour into the meeting, which was attended by SFRA committee members and city staff, Shefman was informed that RioCan had already submitted its proposal to the city earlier that day, prior to the consultative gathering.

"To me, that was shocking... it was appalling behavior, and I have rarely seen that with a development company," Shefman said.

He said he is concerned about the impact the development will have on the Jewish community in the area if it is approved.

"It's not like any other neighbourhood plaza in the City of Vaughan... RioCan has failed to recognize the uniqueness of the character of that plaza... These guys don't care. They just don't care."

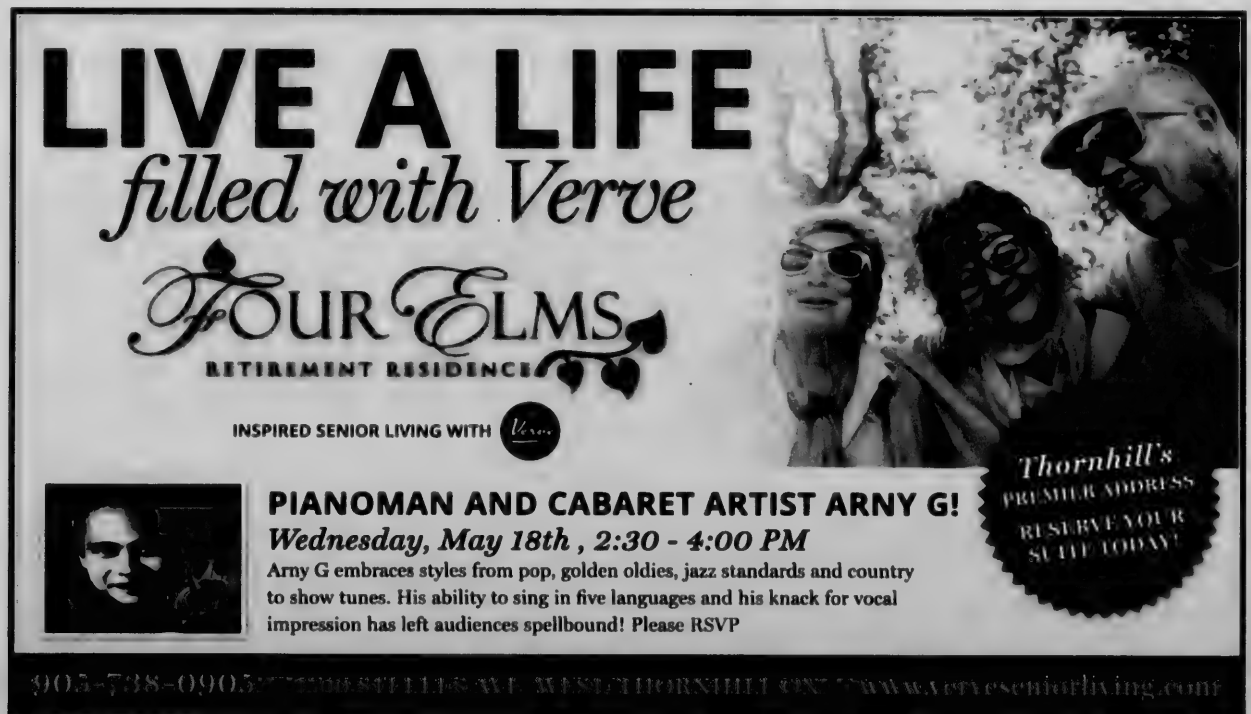
Sobeys, the kosher grocery store that sits on the west end of the plaza, has a lease that runs until 2030 and is currently undergoing renovations.

Sobeys Ontario spokesperson Vicki Leung said the company has been assured by RioCan that the development will not negatively affect them.

"Our investment is for the long term, so we have a vested interest in the Spring Farm Marketplace plaza to ensure that we can provide the most exceptional shopping experiences to our customers," Leung said.

Attempts to reach members of RioCan's planning and development team were unsuccessful.

The public hearing to address this proposal is scheduled for May 31. ■


LIVE A LIFE
filled with Verve
FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve
PIANOMAN AND CABARET ARTIST ARNY G!
Wednesday, May 18th , 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Army G embraces styles from pop, golden oldies, jazz standards and country to show tunes. His ability to sing in five languages and his knack for vocal impression has left audiences spellbound! Please RSVP
Thornhill's PREMIER ADDRESS
RESERVE YOUR SUITE TODAY!
905-738-0905
www.verveseniorliving.com

UJA's

RIO CAN

WALK with Israel

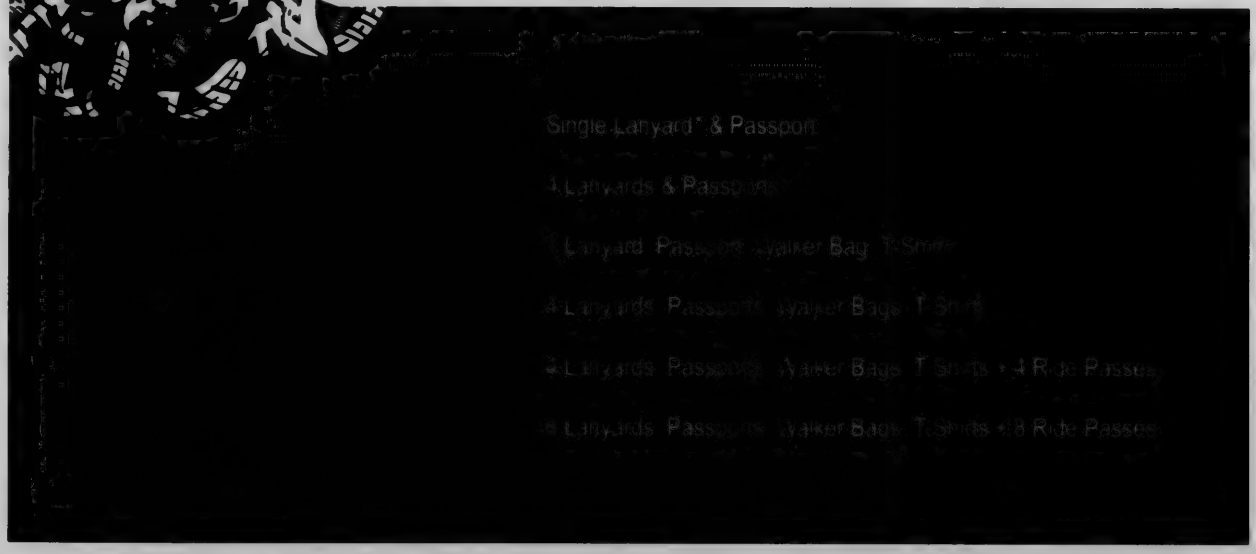
Sunday, May 29

Registration: 9am
Walk Start: 10am

Coronation Park

All participants must register to Walk at:

walkwithisrael.com


Single Lanyard* & Passport
Lanyards & Passports
Lanyard Passport Walker Bag T-Shirt
Lanyards Passports Walker Bags T-Shirts
Lanyards Passports Walker Bags T-Shirts + 4 Ride Passes
Lanyards Passports Walker Bags T-Shirts + 8 Ride Passes

Thanks to Circle of Care and Dignity Transportation, shuttle buses are available along the Walk Route.

UJA's WALK with ISRAEL

Dance & Erwin Nadel Festival

Jewish Heritage Month

Survivors' belongings educate UQAM museum students

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

While she was an inmate of Lippstadt, a slave labour camp in Germany during World War II, a young Hungarian Jewish woman clandestinely created a cookbook, collecting favourite recipes from her fellow prisoners.

Found out, it would probably have cost her her life. But she persisted, secreting old receipts from the factory she worked in to use as pages, as well as string to bind them.

In all, she collected about 200 recipes, which she carefully wrote by hand. Thinking about these delicious dishes probably helped her get through her 12-hour workdays, when she subsisted on 1,000 calories a day.

She buried the book and dug it up after liberation. It's the only "souvenir" of the Holocaust that she kept and brought with her when she immigrated to Montreal.

Edith Gluck's cookbook is one of the many personal artifacts that Montreal survivors or their descendants have donated to the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) for display in its museum and for research.

For Gluck's daughter, Shirley Rosenfeld, these yellowed, fragile pages represent her mother's courage and the importance she placed on keeping her heritage alive under dire circumstances.

This story is told in a short video produced by Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) museum studies students, one of four so far made and disseminated on YouTube under the pilot project "Objects of Memory." They are graduate students enrolled in a new master's seminar called "Muséaliser les patrimoines sensibles," which teaches how to curate sensitive or difficult histories.

The students, paired with mentors from the MHMC and professional filmmakers, delved into the museum's artifacts and oral history collections. They did further research in local and international databases and archives, and interacted directly with the objects' former owners.

Then they made documentaries of 2-1/2 to 4 minutes in length, combining archival imagery with original interviews with the donors.

The students were guided by videographer Luc Cyr, who made the 2010 feature documentary *The Heart of Auschwitz*, about the cloth, heart-shaped autograph book made by a woman in Auschwitz, which has become an icon of the MHMC's permanent exhibition.

UQAM students, from left, Anna Maria Vera-Jaramillo, Maria Juliana Angarita Bolaños, Claire Liberge and Bachir Bensaddek examine an Auschwitz prisoner's jacket with Luc Cyr.

The partnership between the MHMC and UQAM is a natural one. The director of the graduate museology program, Jennifer Carter, is chair of the MHMC's museum committee.

The three other videos focus on a prayer shawl, a prisoner's uniform jacket, and the "people's radio" the Nazis distributed free of charge to spread their propaganda.

The tallit was donated by Ann Cohen, granddaughter of Harry Cohen, who immigrated to Montreal from Poland in the 1920s. Already established here with a family (including Ann's father), Cohen returned to his native land in June 1939 to see how relatives were faring as the Nazi menace grew.

After the Germans invaded Poland in September, he went into hiding with a Christian woman, but was caught and deported. He was never heard from again.

All his family received was a few traveller's cheques and the tallit.

The Romanian-born Louis Miller was 19 when he was deported to Auschwitz in 1944. The striped top of his uniform is the only thing he kept from that time – a symbol of his will to survive – and he brought it with him to Canada in 1948. After he died in 2009, his wife, Cecile, gave it to the MHMC.

The video about the radio includes archival footage of Joseph Goebbels' speeches, with French and English subtitles. A 1938 model of the radio is housed at the MHMC.

In addition to providing training to a new generation of museum professionals who previously had little knowledge of the Holocaust, and educating the public via social media, the MHMC hopes the project will encourage other donations of objects related to the Holocaust or Jewish prewar life.

The goal is not solely conservation of evidence. The MHMC has found that the belongings of survivors who live or have lived in Montreal have a powerful impact on visitors. ■

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE*
with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
84 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgroupltc.com

*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
® TM Lennox International Inc.

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital
we work directly with our clients to create custom lending solutions on all types of real estate including:

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker M08000279
1298 | kyle@corwincapital.ca | www.corwincapital.ca

Carleton project plans to record oral histories

DIANE KOVEN
OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

Carleton University's Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES), which was established last November, is set to begin recording the stories of local Holocaust survivors for a new and innovative teaching tool.

"Since the 1990s, survivors have been invited to do presentations in schools and their stories have become an integral part of teaching Holocaust history," said Mina Cohn, director of CHES.

"If we can create something short, that teachers can use in the classroom... they will be able to hear the voices of the actual survivors telling their own stories, even after they are gone."

Cohn said the idea for the project evolved over a period of years, as it became apparent that there would soon be nobody left with first-hand knowledge of what had happened during the Shoah.

"At first, we decided to train the 'second generation' to take over, but then we realized that most of them did not know the stories," she said. "We had a representative from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem meet with our second generation group so that we could learn from them what is being done."

> *If we can create something short, that teachers can use in the classroom... [students] will be able to hear the voices of the actual survivors*

CHES was established with the plan to record the stories of those Ottawa survivors who are still alive, in particular for use in schools and universities. Carleton's Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, which houses CHES, is collaborating in this project, which will allow future generations of students, researchers, teachers and others to hear and see the people who experienced and witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust.

Mina Cohn

The CHES committee consists of 12 people, some of whom are children of survivors, who are utilizing their various skills for the project. Some are contacting and recruiting survivors, others will prepare them for the interviews, and some will work with the videographers.

"We will record as many as possible, as our budget permits," Cohn said.

Unfortunately, unlike other major centres in Canada, Ottawa does not have a Holocaust centre or funding for such a project.

"The money we have now came mostly from our committee members," said Cohn.

Having already identified 30 survivors living in the Ottawa area, the plan is to begin by recording 10 of them. For that to happen, Cohn estimates CHES will need $7,500 to cover production and editing costs.

Carleton University's FutureFunder has embraced the project and featured it on a dedicated fundraising page. There is a promotional video on the site and tax receipts will be issued for donations to the fund.

The page is time-limited and the number of days it will remain open is clearly noted online. ■

For more information, visit https://futurefunder.carleton.ca/project/ottawa-holocaust-survivors-testimony.

Ottawa high schoolers hear Romanian survivor's story

DIANE KOVEN
OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 1,300 high school students, from 15 schools in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board were bused to Algonquin College last month to hear the personal story of Romanian Holocaust survivor Felicia Carmelly.

For the second year, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa collaborated with the Azrieli Foundation to bring a survivor's story to local youths who may otherwise never have an opportunity to learn first-hand the horrors of the Holocaust.

The Azrieli Foundation's Memoirs Program publishes memoirs of Holocaust survivors as a way of teaching these lessons to the broader community.

The students who heard Carmelly speak on April 12 and 13 were each given a copy of her memoir, published by the foundation.

"My claim to fame is basically that I survived the darkest time in history, which is the Holocaust," said Carmelly who was a young girl of 10 years old when her war story began.

She set the scene for her family's struggles with the aid of a map, showing the geographic area from which they were deported – the small, resort town of Dorn in Romania – and the route they travelled once they were deported.

From left, Debbie Halton-Weiss, chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Shoah committee, Elin Beaumont of the Azrieli Foundation and Felicia Carmelly

Carmelly's family (the Steigmans) lived a life of comfort in the resort town, in one of the only homes to have hot and cold running water. They enjoyed "cordial relationships" with their Romanian neighbours and did not anticipate the troubles that lay ahead for them.

"In 1940, when it became known that Poland was already occupied and atrocities had started...we couldn't believe what was happening," she said. "We thought it could not happen to us, because Romanians were different. Afterward, we found out that Jews in other countries had thought the same thing."

Eventually, the Jews of Dorn were deported, sent on trains and barges where many died along the way.

Carmelly and her parents found refuge in a small shack owned by a Jewish family. Eighteen refugees took shelter in a space that had previously housed only five. Their plan to stay only a few days stretched into 3-1/2 years, until they were eventually liberated by the Russians.

"In the spring of 1944, we left and arrived in May 1945 back to our home. Because our home had hot and cold running water it had been a German hospital, then a Soviet hospital, then a fire station. They allowed us to occupy one room in our own home," she said.

Although Carmelly and her parents survived the war, 34 members of their family perished.

After the war, her family spent a few years in Romania, then immigrated to Israel and eventually settled in Canada.

Along the way, Carmelly – who chose that surname while visiting Mount Carmel in Israel – taught herself English and earned a master's of social work and eventually a doctorate.

"On behalf of those who can no longer speak, I will end by saying that it is not what we stand for, but what we stand up for," Carmelly said to the students.

"If people like me can survive and get an education and get a profession, so can you." ■

Detail: *Judith Seducing Holofernes*. Diptych 73 x 96" (185.5 x 244cm)

LILIAN BROCA
Heroine of a Thousand Pieces:
The Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca
May 5 – July 4, 2016
Artist will be in attendance at the opening.
Thursday, May 5, 2016. 6:30pm – 9:30pm

carrier villa gallery
901 Lawrence Avenue West,
Toronto ON M6A 1C3
(416) 789-7011

DISABLED VETERANS OF ISRAEL
JOIN US
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
CONCERT
DIRECT FROM ISRAEL
ONE NIGHT ONLY!
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016
7:30 pm | George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St.
Four heroes telling their stories
of strength, determination, and triumph,
share the stage with Israel's rising musical stars
RESERVE TODAY
TICKETS AVAILABLE
FROM $75
www.beithalochem.ca
905 695 0613 | TOLL FREE 1 800 355 1648

Lecture series to look at Nuremberg chief prosecutor

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Now in its 11th year, the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's annual Sol and Florence Kanee Distinguished Lecture Series – scheduled this year for May 16 – has brought to Winnipeg such notable scholars as Martin Gilbert and Deborah Lipstadt and journalists such as Caroline Glick and Avi Shavit.

This year's presenter may not be quite as well known – outside legal circles, anyway – but nonetheless he has a fitting topic, since this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials.

John Barrett, a law professor St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., has a special interest in Robert Jackson, a former justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and, more pertinent to the Kanee Lecture, the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials.

"John Barrett was recommended to us by some judges who heard him speak in Winnipeg last fall at a judicial conference," says Ilana Abrams, the Jewish Heritage Centre's general manager. "We were told that he is a fabulous speaker and that we should book him for the Kanee Lecture Series. He may not be as well known as some of our previous speakers, but the topic is interesting and timely."

Abrams said the series attracts 400 to 800 people, depending on the speaker and topic, and raises $50,000 to $55,000 for the centre's programs.

"Because Prof. Barrett is not as well known as some of our earlier speakers, we have to work a little harder to sell tickets," she said. "We are confident, though, that his presentation will be up to the high standards of our previous speakers."

Barrett's resume includes working for the Office of the Independent Counsel probing the Iran-Contra scandal in the later years of the Reagan presidency and for the U.S. Justice department in the mid-1990s before assuming his present position.

While Jackson may be little known today to the general public, his rulings are still much studied in American law schools. "In his time, Robert Jackson was considered to be one of the best lawyers in practice in the United States," Barrett said, "and the best writer to ever sit on the Supreme Court. His writing of opinions is candid and colourful. One idea clearly leads to another."

John Barrett

Jackson was a self-made man, Barrett said. He never graduated from law school although he did attend for a couple of years. He became a lawyer by apprenticing for his uncle, a practising lawyer. He was brought into government by U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt, eventually serving as solicitor general and attorney general before Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1941.

Barrett said president Harry Truman took him away from the bench for a year to be lead prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials.

"The Nuremberg Trials were the result of a hard and deliberate choice by the Allies, led by the U.S., to bring the top Nazis to justice for their crimes rather than simply allowing them to be shot," Barrett said.

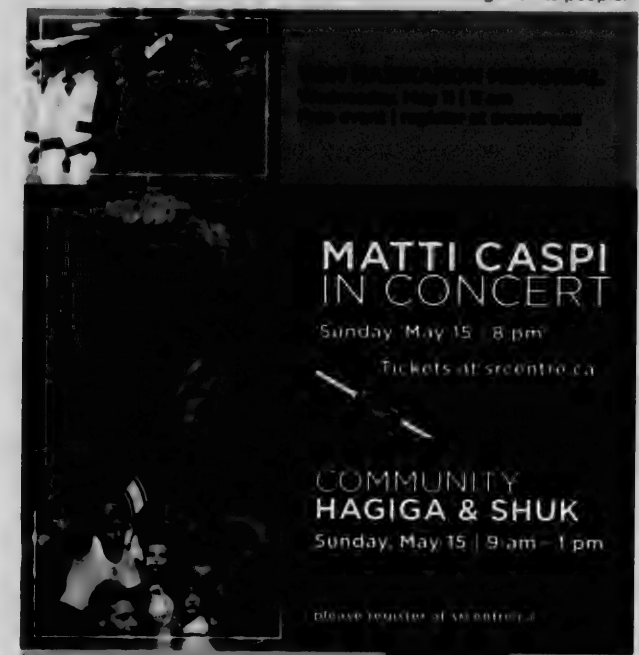
"The trials set out an historical record of the Nazi crimes and the Holocaust, and laid the foundation for the international human rights laws that followed and allowed for the prosecution of the Yugoslavian and Rwandan war criminals and the creation of the International Criminal Court."

In 2003, Barrett edited and published Robert Jackson's lost manuscript, *That Man: An Insider's Portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt*. Since then, Barrett has contributed to two books on the Nuremberg Trials and a chapter connected to Jackson on Supreme Court justices and their law clerks. He is currently working on a biography of Jackson. ■

diller
TEEN FELLOWS
Be a community Leader - Apply to the Diller Teen Fellows today!
We're looking for the future leaders of OUR community.
Internationally award winning leadership program
Accepts 20 students annually
3 week Israel summer conference
10 day North American conference
For more information please visit jewishtoronto.com/diller
or contact the Toronto Diller Teen Fellowship Admissions office
at 416.635.2883 x 5015 | diller@ujafed.org
APPLICATIONS DUE BY JUNE 1, 2016

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre present

Celebrate the birth of the Jewish State and the strength of its people!



Matti Friedman is a former Associated Press correspondent and a regular contributor to *Tablet Magazine*. Two essays he wrote about media coverage of Israel after the 2014 Gaza war, for *Tablet* and *The Atlantic*, triggered intense discussion and have been shared together on Facebook more than 100,000 times. He was born in Toronto and lives in Jerusalem

Mizrachi Canada
Yom Hazikaron-Yom Ha'atzmaut
Remembrance & Celebration
Wednesday, May 11 | 7 pm
Guest speaker: Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto
811 Clark Ave. West | 416.650.8266

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
The Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Jewish Heritage Month Canada

Some pogroms about politics, not hate: prof

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

In comparing three pogroms that happened at three different points in Jewish history, political science professor Jeffrey Kopstein claims that some anti-Jewish violence of the "neighbour-on-neighbour" variety was politically, not culturally or ideologically, driven.

Kopstein, of the University of California, Irvine, made this case April 18 at a lecture to a packed room at the University of Toronto.

Titled "The Common History of Violence: Pogroms in Alexandria 38 CE, Valencia 1391 and Lvov 1941," Kopstein's talk was the keynote address of the Schwartz-Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies, presented by the Granovsky-Gluskin Graduate Program at U of T's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies.

Kopstein, a former director of the centre, outlined some of the conditions and contributing factors that brought about a wave of anti-Jewish violence in three cases: the pogroms in Alexandria, Egypt in 38 CE led by the Greeks and Egyptians; the massacres of Jews under Catholic Church auspices in 1391 in Valencia, Spain; and the pogroms against Jews by Ukrainians and Poles in Lvov, Ukraine, in 1941.

Kopstein argued that in each of these instances, extreme anti-Jewish violence was not due to anti-Semitism, but to political situations in which Jews were seen as threats to a particular group's political or nationalist agenda.

Leading up to the pogrom of 1941, Kopstein said, the Polish and Ukrainian populations of Lvov had felt let down by Soviet rule, and many saw Jews as Soviet accomplices.

When the Germans arrived in the city and discovered the Soviet secret police's prisons full of the corpses of prisoners – largely Ukrainian nationalists – word spread that the "Jewish Bolsheviks" were responsible. Local residents and Ukrainian militia subsequently carried out massacres against the Jews under "the approving eye of the Germans," who infamously told local populations to "do self-cleansing of Communists and Jews," Kopstein said.

But while the Germans' presence caused a sense of chaos, this alone wasn't a necessary condition for the violence.

Rather, he said, the pogroms were a result of the Jews having been significantly involved in Zionist parties at the municipal level for the previous two decades.

"The vote for Zionist parties was four times as high in locations [in Ukraine] where the pogroms happened than in non-pogrom places," Kopstein said.

Jeffrey Kopstein JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

He noted that at the time, Zionism wasn't focused on going to Israel, but represented "a refusal to join another group's nation-building project."

"The pogroms were the one chance the locals felt they had to rid themselves of what they saw as future political rivals."

In Alexandria, Kopstein said, the pogroms didn't happen because the Alexandrian Greeks and Egyptians disliked the Jews for their strange customs, but because they'd long resented the Jews for siding with the Romans and for attempting to gain full citizenship rights.

"The beginning of Roman rule was associated with competition over citizenship, and this drove the conflict, rather than cultural differences or anti-Semitism," Kopstein said.

Finally, he argued, in Valencia, the pogroms weren't simply, as it appeared, the case of classic Christian anti-Semitism of the period, wherein Jews were targeted for supposedly having killed Christ.

Under the crown of Aragon, Jews were considered "the king's treasure, or patrimony," Kopstein said, and were, therefore, viewed as proponents of royal absolutism and a threat to the Catholic Church. "This encouraged a tendency among Christians to criticize terrestrial sovereignty itself as 'Jewish' or 'Judaizing,'" he said.

In 1391, when a minor inherited the throne, enemies of the crown of Aragon seized the moment of weakness and "sought to redefine the relationship between the kings and the people through an attack on the Jews," Kopstein said.

These pogroms, too, were therefore a matter of the "Jews getting caught up in a political and constitutional battle."

In conclusion, Kopstein clarified that he doesn't want to replace a "one-sided culturalist account" of anti-Jewish violence with "an equally one-sided political and instrumentalist account," but to distinguish between anti-Semitism and politically driven anti-Jewish violence. "The former has been ubiquitous and constant, and for that reason it cannot explain the pattern of variation in the latter," he said. ■

Holocaust memorial unveiled in Suriname

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

For European Jews, living in the former Dutch colony of Suriname provided numerous benefits over the years. In the early days of the colony on the Atlantic shore of South America, it meant escape from the Spanish Inquisition and a place of refuge for Sephardi Jews. But during World War II, ties to the home country of Holland proved fatal for 105 members of the community.

When war broke out, 15 per cent of the community's 700 residents were abroad – doctors, dentists, businesspeople and others – attending universities or other schools of higher education. They were caught up in the Nazi onslaught and murdered.

On March 18, a memorial was unveiled to commemorate the slain members of the community. The name of each is inscribed in stone, including date of birth, as well as date and place of death.

Government dignitaries, diplomats, representatives of other religions and others joined the Jewish community as it unveiled the memorial monument.

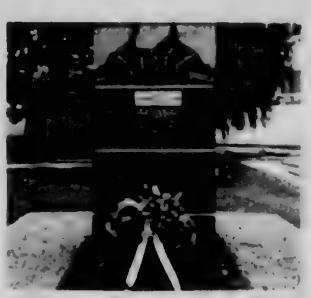
The memorial – *matzevah* in Hebrew – is located in the courtyard of the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Paramaribo, the capital city. Rectangular and made of imported granite, it was designed by local architect Philip Dikland. Its $13,000 (US) cost was funded by donations from the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation and 45 people in the United States, Australia, Canada, Suriname and Holland, along with help from the Canadian Friends of Kulanu, a Toronto non-profit group.

The community itself, which played an important role in the country's early history and plantation economy, did not have the financial means to fund the memorial on its own, explained Jacob Steinberg, an Israeli-born Toronto financial consultant.

Steinberg, whose work for a gold mining company took him to Suriname for 2-1/2 years, considers himself part of the Surinamese community, even though he now lives in Richmond Hill, Ont. When he moved to the South American nation, "I didn't know there were Jews in Suriname," he said.

The community's history dates back to the 1630s, when Jews of Portuguese descent arrived from northern Brazil. Further migrations followed. In 1669, they were given special privileges allowing them to establish their own community, known as the Jewish Savannah, as well as freedom of religion, the right to operate a court of justice and their own civil guard.

Steinberg returns to the country periodically and has assisted the community in various endeavours, including raising more than



The unveiling took place March 18 at the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Paramaribo.

$100,000 (US) to clear three cemeteries and erect an iron fence around them.

Lilly Duym is grateful for his assistance. Contacted by phone in Suriname, she said the 200-strong community had for some years hoped to erect a monument, but did not have the means to do so. Its demographics trend to the elderly, and there are only eight children under the age of 12. Over the years, most Jews left for Holland, she said.

Asked to help with the memorial, Steinberg at first was at a loss on how to proceed. He approached a local contractor who'd helped with the cemetery project. He referred him to Dikland, the architect, who agreed to build the monument at cost.

When he told community president Jules Donk what the price would be, Donk responded, "God has his ways."

Donk proved to be right. After he returned to Canada, Steinberg received calls out of the blue from Jerry Klinger, an American who was interested in preserving small Jewish communities and had seen Steinberg's name on a website about the Surinamese community. Hearing of the project, Klinger agreed to contribute $4,000.

A few days later, Steinberg heard from a stranger in Boulder, Colo., who sent a cheque for $2,800 for the project.

Donations continued to arrive, including some from a group of 140 people called the "Chai Membership," who had assisted Steinberg in his earlier efforts to help the Surinamese community.

With the co-operation of Yad Vashem, which added to the known list of Surinamese Shoah victims, the project proceeded. Duym said the unveiling helped educate the broader Surinamese population about a little-known aspect of the Jewish community's history. "The Surinamese people did not know what was going on at that time," she said. "It was very important for us to tell the whole world – all the communities, all the religious groups – that our people were also murdered," she said. ■

Experience Winter 2017
In Israel with CAARI
Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel

You are invited to a presentation
Meet with CAARI Director & Alumni
Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Road, Toronto
Light Refreshments Served
R.S.V.P. Frances Dvorchik 416-807-1936
Email: caarivolunteers@gmail.com

CAARI Program 2017
January 9 – February 25, 2017
Program Options available from 2 to 7 weeks
www.caarivolunteers.com

Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel
CAARI

"Everything is taken care of."
– Leon Kane, Kensington Place Resident

Living at Kensington Place gives Leon the luxury of time: time to enjoy the heart-healthy and kosher diet he follows, time to hop on the residence bus to do errands, time to visit his synagogue for prayer, time to socialize.

"It's home," Leon says. "Everything is taken care of and everybody's a friend here."

GREAT SPRING INCENTIVES, CALL TODAY!

Kensington Place
Toronto's Finest Kosher Retirement Residence

866 Sheppard Ave. West
Toronto, Ontario M3H 2T5
416.636.9555
www.TheKensingtonPlace.com

A Baybridge Senior Living Community

Independent Living • Assistance When Needed

Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut over a good meal

Consulate promotes plan to connect with Israel while enjoying its delicacies

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Is there anything more Jewish than celebrating Israel's 68th birthday by getting together to eat and discuss all the things that are right – and wrong – with the Holy Land?

The Consulate General of Israel in Toronto is marking Israel's Independence Day on May 12 by encouraging the Toronto Jewish community to have a broad conversation about Israel over some shakshuka – or any other quintessential Israeli fare – to help the community connect with Israel and generate ideas for the future.

DJ Schneeweiss, Israel's consul general of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada, spoke to *The CJN* about Israel on the Table, an initiative that he believes is unique to Toronto's Jewish community.

"To my knowledge, it is the first time something like this is being done in Toronto in connection with Yom Ha'atzmaut," he said.

"We're trying to reach more people... We see this as an opportunity for people to celebrate and acknowledge their connection to Israel, but also to explore that connection and to explore it with their friends and family... It creates an opportunity for lots of people to engage on Yom Ha'atzmaut and to connect with Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut in a way that they wouldn't necessarily have. In Israel, the whole country stops and everyone celebrates, but here, it is just another workday."

According to the program's website, participants are asked to register for the program and dedicate a meal between May 12 to 15, the weekend of Yom Ha'atzmaut, to discuss Israel with family, friends or colleagues.

The website offers a basic guidelines, Israeli recipes and conversation topic suggestions, including, "What does Israel mean to you? What excites you most? What upsets you most? What is the most pressing challenge Israel faces today? What is one idea you have to solve it? What ideas do you have to bring Canadians and Israelis closer together?"

In the days following, they'll be asked to reply to a questionnaire about their experience and list any ideas that were generated from the conversations.

DJ Schneeweiss

By registering and completing the questionnaire, participants will be entered into a draw for a free trip for two to Israel, courtesy of El Al airlines.

Schneeweiss said people can choose to have an informal discussion around the Shabbat table with their immediate family, or Jewish community organizations and synagogues can sign on as "super hosts" to have more formal discussions.

"It can be done on a community level. A congregation can get together... and take the opportunity to explore how the institutions, how the community can connect to Israel. What's working? What are some new ideas? Maybe the younger generation has new ideas that we haven't canvassed before," he said.

Schneeweiss hopes the questionnaire will provide useful ideas that come from the discussions.

"Once we get it all together, hopefully this will give us a snapshot of what is on people's minds when it comes to Israel. Hopefully it will generate some interesting, practical ideas. What we'll do with that is then prepare a poll which we will share with the participants and will share with the relevant organizations in the community and in Israel who need to think about how the Jewish world relates to Israel and so on." ■

For more information about the initiative, visit www.israelonthetable.ca.

RAMBAM
Creating the Future of Medicine
Serving the people. Serving the world.

For more information:
Canadian Friends of Rambam
64 Merton Street, Toronto
Ontario M4S 1A | Canada
info@cfram.ca
Tel: (416) 481-5552

Canadian Friends of RAMBAM

Israel's Health Care Campus

Baycrest

The Professional Advisory Group of the Baycrest Foundation Breakfast

Thursday, May 19, 2016 | 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Loftus Hall | Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged
3560 Bathurst Street | Toronto ON M6A 2E1

Guest Speakers and Topics:

How Advanced Planning Can Help You Avoid Estate Litigation
Ian M. Hull, a Partner at Hull & Hull LLP, is a certified specialist in Estates and Trust Law and Civil Litigation. He was admitted to the Ontario Bar in 1990. Mr. Hull is the author of numerous publications, including Advising Families on Succession Planning: The High Price of Not Talking. He is a guest lecturer for the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

How To Recognize Elder Abuse and What To Do: A Primer For Non-healthcare Professionals
Adriana Shnall, PhD, MSW integrates clinical practice, teaching and research in dementia caregiving and psychosocial issues related to aging. She has been a social worker at Baycrest for more than 25 years and was recently appointed lead of the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Family Caregiving. Dr. Shnall also has an academic appointment with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto.

$50/person (includes breakfast) **Educational Credits**
RSVP by May 12, 2016 | Email - cli3@baycrest.org
or call Cynthia Li 416-785-2500 x 5180

The Professional Advisory Group of the Baycrest Foundation aims to educate financial, legal and accounting professionals for the purpose of offering advice to their aging clients and families.

Primary sponsor
Crowe Soberman

Pressure mounting to keep French comic out of Canada

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Jewish groups believe that French standup comedian Dieudonné, who has an extensive criminal record related to incitement to hatred and violence, in particular toward Jews, should not be allowed into Canada. He is scheduled to give 10 shows next month at a Montreal venue, and the more than 2,000 tickets available are sold out.

B'nai Brith Canada has filed an official complaint with the Canadian Border Services Agency, and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has told the federal government that this "convicted anti-Semitic agitator" should be inadmissible.

The 50-year-old Cameroon-born Dieudonné M'bala M'bala has become infamous for ridiculing the Holocaust and the Nazi-style salute known as the *quenelle*, as well as for blatant attacks on Jews.

Dieudonné is booked for May 11 to 15 at the 200-seat Espace Mushagalusa on Ontario Street East, a gallery of African art.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre also is opposed to Dieudonné's coming here. He tweeted in French on April 22: "A person who incites racial hatred in Europe and is a fomenter of social tensions is not welcome in Montreal." He signed off with the English, "Dieudonné OUT."

The show is titled *En Paix* (In Peace), and the venue's owner Guy Chigoho said the tickets went quickly after the run was announced via Facebook. Chigoho said that he has reviewed the script of the show Dieudonné is scheduled to give and found "nothing insulting, nothing degrading, nothing racist. I can't be responsible for what he has said in the past."

Dieudonné is also booked for a Trois-Rivières performance and possibly Quebec City.

Dieudonné remains popular with some in the province, despite mounting condemnation against him in Europe. He first performed in Montreal in 2004 at the Just for Laughs Festival, and returned a couple of times afterward until it became obvious to major promoters that his humour had crossed the line from controversial to criminal.

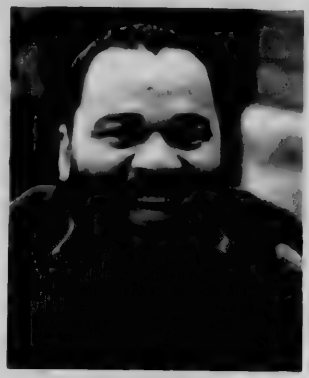
He was last scheduled in Montreal at the Corona Theatre in 2012, but the show was cancelled by promoter Evenko after the Jewish community protested.

Dieudonné is today considered a threat to public security by authorities in France, Belgium, Britain and Hong Kong. He has been repeatedly found guilty of hate speech by French and Belgian courts since 2007.

In January, he was banned from entering and performing in Hong Kong following warnings by the French and Israeli consulates about the nature of his performances. He has been prohibited from entering Britain since 2014.

Within France, he is regularly prevented from going on stage by municipal officials and the Public Security Ministry.

Most recently, in November, the Belgian correctional tribunal in Liège sentenced



Dieudonné M'Bala M'Bala

Dieudonné to two months in prison and a 9,000-euro fine for anti-Semitic comments and incitement to genocide. The judgment referred to a 2012 performance in Belgium as a "catalogue of anti-Semitic clichés" and worse, for calling on Christians and Muslims to "unite to kill the Jews."

In March 2015, a Paris tribunal sentenced Dieudonné to two months in jail, which were deferred, for "praising acts of terrorism" after he expressed solidarity with the perpetrator of the murderous attack on a kosher supermarket two months earlier.

The same month, he was ordered to pay a 22,500-euro fine for his show *Le Mur* (The Wall), which was deemed anti-Semitic.

B'nai Brith Quebec region executive director Harvey Levine said that border services agents have the power to make a decision on the spot whether to admit a person to Canada.

"I'm sure [Dieudonné] has been red-flagged. I'm sure they know who he is," Levine said.

Levine added that B'nai Brith is "astounded" that so many tickets have been sold for the Montreal shows. "It's really scary that so many people want to see that kind of hate speech on stage."

CIJA Quebec public affairs director David Ouellette said his organization is encouraged by remarks issued by federal Immigration Minister John McCallum's office that the matter is being watched, and by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. The latter said that Dieudonné's criminal record will be taken into account by border services agents when they make a decision at his point of entry.

Ouellette affirmed that in Quebec's entertainment industry, Dieudonné has become persona non grata, the turning point coming after the French government sought to ban his new show in 2014.

"He is now denounced in Quebec, after for a while being defended on the basis of freedom of speech, or that it was only humour and that he laughed at everyone," Ouellette said.

"It is now clear that this is not humour, but rather the most foul anti-Jewish rhetoric." ■

'I asked them to put themselves in someone else's shoes'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Finally, I looked at the manager and said that I couldn't be 100 per cent sure. Instead of singling out one individual, I asked if I could speak to all of the staff. The manager agreed. To the best of my recollection, this is what I said: "We are in this world together. Yet we often find ourselves in situations with other people about whose circumstances we know very little."

I went on to explain that I had been sitting next to a Holocaust survivor whose entire family was murdered by the Nazis in World War II. I explained that, for Max, Israel represented a ray of hope after that terrible tragedy, and because of that, the obscene gesture had caused him a great deal of pain.

I asked them to consider putting themselves in someone else's shoes, to imagine what it would feel like if someone came to their village, in the middle of a memorial ceremony for their lost sons or daughters, and disrupted it by making a mocking gesture. I suggested that they would feel very hurt, and rightfully so. I concluded by explaining to them that what had happened that morning was that a person who had survived one of the most awful tragedies one can imagine in life was deeply shaken by what he had seen.

> *When a Holocaust survivor tells you you've done the right thing, you feel a measure of reassurance*

My final plea to them was this: "Before you do anything, try to ask yourself: what is going on in someone else's life? What are the ramifications of my actions? That's all I'm asking you to do. Hopefully, one day, we'll find peace in this world, between Arabs and Jews, and between all people. And it will only begin when we ask ourselves this question: what is it like to be in someone else's shoes."

After I left, I wasn't sure about my response. Was I too conciliatory? Should I have been more retributive? When I returned to my hotel room, I called Max to ask him if he thought I did the right thing. Max said, yes, he thought so, asking what would it have achieved to have this young man fired. It might have made him even more embittered. And what would that have accomplished?

I sighed a sigh of relief. When a Holocaust survivor tells you you've done the right thing, you feel a measure of reassurance. But I could tell that neither he nor I were absolutely sure what the right course of action actually was. I do know this, though: whatever our past traumas and grievances, the approach Roman Kent offered in January 2015 at that ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau is the most noble one.

And I pray for a day when all people in the world – regardless of past trauma and suffering – come to the realization that "hate is never right and love is never wrong." ■

Eli Rubenstein, national director of March of the Living Canada, is the author of Witness: Passing the Torch of Holocaust Memory to New Generations *(Second Story Press 2015).*

INTERNATIONAL

Labour in denial about anti-Semitism: Israeli envoy

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Israel's new ambassador to the United Kingdom said parts of Britain's left are "in denial" about the "disease" of anti-Semitism.

Speaking to the *Sunday Times*, May 1, Mark Regev addressed a rising tide of anti-Semitic outbursts by Labour party members, including most recently Ken Livingstone, who was suspended from the party last week for declaring and continuing to insist that Adolf Hitler was initially a Zionist.

"I have no doubt that part of the left is in denial. They say 'anti-Semitism, that's the right, that's the fascists.' That's a cop-out. It doesn't stand up to serious historical examination," Regev said in the interview, which ran on the newspaper's front page.

"Anti-Semitism should concern everyone. When it does raise its ugly head, it should be condemned across the board. And failure to condemn has to be in itself condemned," the Israeli envoy added, in remarks that the British paper said would likely be interpreted as an attack on Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn.

On April 29, Corbyn called for an independent inquiry into anti-Semitism and racism within the Labour party, after initially denying there was a problem. This came a day after former mayor and veteran Labour politician Livingstone said Hitler was a supporter of Zionism before he "went mad" and killed six million Jews during World War II.

Israel's Labor chief, Isaac Herzog, called Livingstone's remarks "repulsive," and offered to show UK Labour leaders around the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum to remind them of "the painful realities that they have perhaps forgotten, but we remember every day."

Regev said he hoped Corbyn would take up Herzog's weekend invitation.

Regev also praised British Prime Minister David Cameron for his "outspoken and unequivocal" denunciations of anti-Jewish hatred. "That's leadership," he said.

Livingstone's comments have sparked an ongoing uproar, prompting his suspension from the party and the condemnation of a large number of Labour MPs, some of whom called for him to be expelled.

Labour MP John Mann, who was among the first to condemn his colleague, calling him a "Nazi apologist," said last Saturday the Labour party has "no reason to exist" if it fails to denounce and shake off anti-Semitism.

Israeli Ambassador to the UK Mark Regev
NATI SHOHAT FLASH 90 PHOTO

Naz Shah with former London mayor Ken Livingstone in Bradford, April 2015, before her election as a Labour MP. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, GOODADVICE.COM, PHOTO

"Hitler started with the Jews, as others have done in persecutions throughout history. But it never ends with the Jews," wrote Mann in an op-ed in the *Mirror*.

"That is why Labour has always prided itself in upholding the rights of the Jewish people and has always been the Party that never tolerates anti-Semitism.

"If we cannot do that now, then we have no reason to exist," he wrote.

After doubling down on his comments April 29, Livingstone further refused to apologize directly and defended his comments by charging that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu essentially said the same thing several months ago.

"How can I have hurt and offended the Jewish community when the prime minister of Israel said exactly the same thing?" Livingstone said in an interview with LBC radio station. He cited comments made by Netanyahu last October suggesting that Hitler had not initially intended to annihilate the Jews, only expel them from Europe, and that the idea of extermination came from Jerusalem's then-grand mufti, Haj Amin Husseini, a Palestinian nationalist widely acknowledged as a fervent Jew-hater.

"If the prime minister of Israel can say, two days before, exactly what I said, it can't mean that I'm anti-Semitic – and he's certainly not anti-Semitic," alleged Livingstone, giving an incorrect timeline of Netanyahu's statements and falsely implying that Netanyahu had suggested Hitler supported Zionism.

Livingstone said he would "invite the prime minister of Israel to come over and defend me, as he clearly agrees with what I said," according to the *Telegraph*.

British historian and journalist Andrew Roberts wrote last week that Livingstone knew full well that Hitler was no Zionist and that his remarks were intentionally made to offend as many Jews as possible.

"The sole reason Ken Livingstone brought up the Fuehrer in his interview was to be as vicious and loathsome as he possibly could to any Jews listening, rather than genuinely intending to make some valid historical point about the migration policies of the putative Third Reich in the 1930s," Roberts wrote in an article on *CapX*, a news website, adding "he must know perfectly well that the very insertion of the word 'Hitler' in the context of a debate over anti-Semitism would create precisely the effect that it has.

"It was therefore a totally cold-blooded attempt to offend the maximum amount of Jews to the maximum extent," Roberts wrote.

In a letter published by the *Guardian*, 83 Jewish members and supporters of the Labour party rejected assertions that the Labour party had an anti-Semitism problem and said the accusations were "part of a wider campaign against the Labour leadership, and they have been timed particularly to do damage to the Labour party and its prospects in elections in the coming week.

"As Jews, we are appalled that a serious issue is being used in this cynical and manipulative way, diverting attention from much more widespread examples of Islamophobia and xenophobia in the Conservative and other parties," they wrote, adding "we dissociate ourselves from the misleading attacks on Labour from some members of the Jewish community."

The Livingstone controversy erupted a day after Corbyn, a bitter critic of Israel who has referred to Hamas and Hezbollah representatives as "friends," reluctantly suspended MP Naz Shah, who had called for the dismantling of Israel, compared Israelis to Hitler and posted pro-Hamas tweets.

Senior UK Labour party lawmakers have called on Corbyn to take firmer action against anti-Semitism among its members, in light of the anti-Semitic remarks by Livingstone, Shah, and others. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Next year, not this year, in Jerusalem for Pesach

Israelis enjoy the beaches of the Kinneret, the Sea of Galilee, in northern Israel, during Passover on April 26. Despite low turnout from foreigners this Passover, internal tourism was still very good. HADAS PARUSH/FLASH90 PHOTO

LINDA GRADSTEIN
THE MEDIA LINE

The traditional Passover seder meal ends with a promise, "Next year in Jerusalem." But at least this year, many American Jews chose to stay away.

"There were far, far fewer tourists this year," Mark Feldman, the CEO of Ziontours in Jerusalem told the *Media Line*. "Many people were scared to come. They felt that the Old City of Jerusalem was off limits completely and that Jerusalem itself was not safe."

Several hotels contacted for this article refused to release figures on their occupancy over Passover, but Feldman said hotel occupancy, especially in Jerusalem, was down by 20 or 30 per cent over last year.

"Tourists plan their travel way in advance," Feldman said. "They had to decide in November or December, when the situation here was very unstable."

He was referring to what came to be known as the "knife intifadah" in which Palestinians, many of them young, stabbed and killed 30 people, most of them Israelis over the past six months. While the situation has calmed down, a bombing on a Jerusalem bus last month that killed only the attacker but wounded 21, sparked anxiety again.

Israel's Ministry of Tourism says it doesn't have exact figures for tourism yet but that the situation was "not bad," according to Pini Shani, the deputy director of the marketing administration of the Ministry of Tourism. He said looking at monthly statistics can be complicated, because it depends on other issues such as whether Passover and Easter fall in the same month or in different months. He said that estimates are that about three million tourists will visit Israel this year, similar to 2015.

Tourism during Passover tends to be primarily internal by Israelis, say tourism experts. In March, hotels were 58 per cent full, said Pnina Shalev, the spokesperson for the Israel Hotels Association, while in 2015, it was 55 per cent. The summer 2014 fighting between Israel and the Islamist Hamas in Gaza, affected tourism, which usually sees hotels 60-70 per cent full in March.

"Passover was great with 80-90 per cent occupancy in most places," Shalev told the *Media Line*. "Eilat (on the Red Sea) was full of Israelis, as was the Dead Sea, Tiberias, and the kibbutzim (collective settlements)."

Israel is also turning eastward, hoping to tap into the burgeoning Chinese market. Shani said that tourism from India and China is increasing quickly, he said, and Hainan Airlines, the largest private carrier in China, recently launched its first direct flight to Israel. Tourism officials say they hope to see 100,000 tourists from China visiting Israel each year.

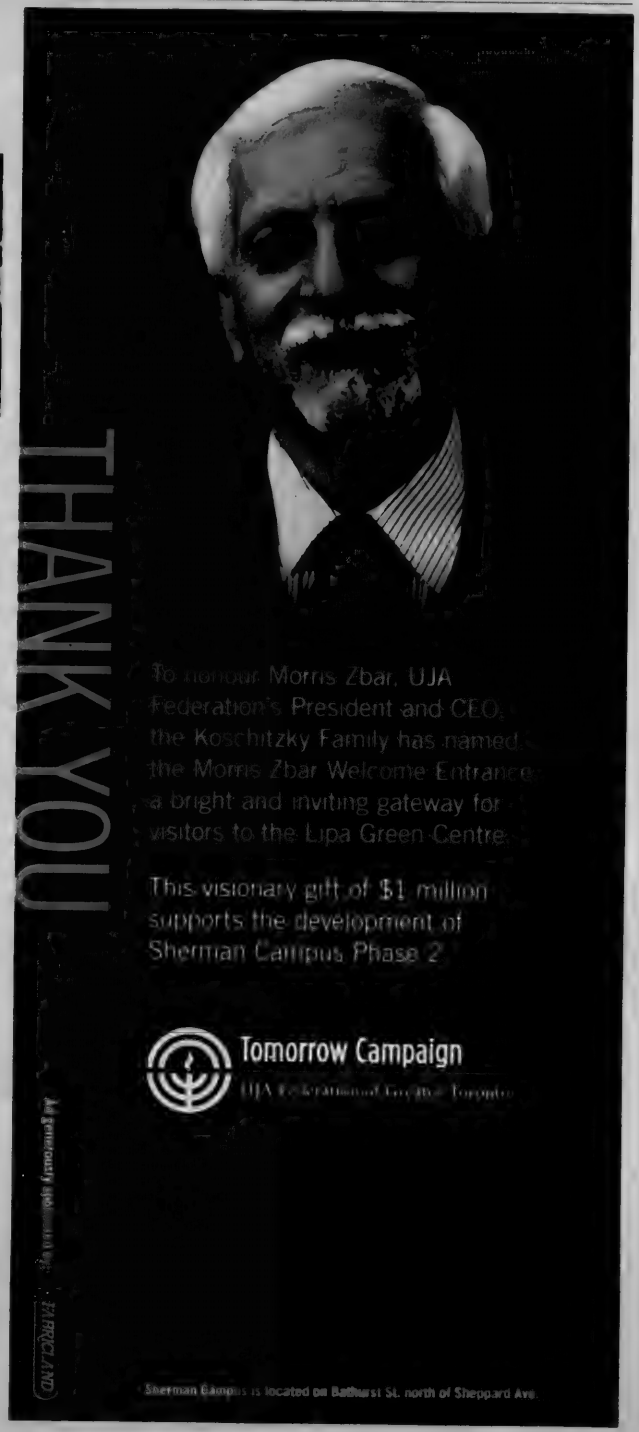
Israel has also seen a sharp decline in visitors from Russia, which is Israel's second largest market after the United States, due to the sharp financial crisis there.

Overall Israel, with an average of three to three and a half million tourists annually remains far behind other Mediterranean countries like Greece, which has 25 million visitors a year despite the financial crisis there, or Turkey, with close to 40 million tourists.

Many of those who work in tourism are concerned that the downturn in tourism could become permanent.

"In the summer of 2014 with the operation in Gaza, I had a lot of cancellations and I've had very little work since then," Suzanne Pomeranz, a longtime tour guide originally from North Carolina told the *Media Line*. "Yesterday I was talking to a high school friend and he said, 'Why don't you come home? There's a war in Israel,' and I said there is no war here but that's the way it looks to everyone." ■

The Media Line / Themedialine.org


THANK YOU
To honour Morris Zbar, UJA Federation's President and CEO, the Koschitzky Family has named the Morris Zbar Welcome Entrance a bright and inviting gateway for visitors to the Lipa Green Centre.
This visionary gift of $1 million supports the development of Sherman Campus Phase 2
Tomorrow Campaign
Sherman Campus is located on Bathurst St. north of Sheppard Ave.

Israeli soldier motivated by 'twisted ideology': report

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

An internal Israeli military document leaked to *Vice News* states that Sgt. Elor Azaria, the IDF soldier charged with manslaughter for shooting and killing a Palestinian attacker in Hebron last March after he had been neutralized, was motivated by a "twisted ideology," the website said.

The 17-page document issued by military prosecutors investigating the case, stated that Azaria, a 19-year-old sergeant in the Kfir infantry brigade, told other soldiers both before and after the shooting that the assailant "needs to die."

It also stated that Azaria changed his version of events during his questioning, saying he had shot "because I felt there was a threat to my life."

The shooting took place March 24 in Hebron, a West Bank city that has been a focal point of a seven-month wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Two Palestinians stabbed and lightly wounded a soldier before troops killed one of them and shot and wounded the other. A video later showed one of the attackers, Abdul Fatah al-Sharif, still alive minutes later before Azaria shot him in the head.

Elor Azaria at his military court hearing on April 14. FLASH 90 PHOTO

Azaria's defence team has said he believed al-Sharif was wearing an explosive vest when he shot him.

The leaked report noted that both assailants had been checked by another soldier prior to Azaria's arrival at the scene, who confirmed that they no longer posed any danger.

Azaria, standing nearby, reportedly told a comrade that "a terrorist that wounded their friend needs to die." The second soldier tried to calm him, telling him their friend would be fine, but Azaria then stepped forward and fired a shot at al-Sharif's head, hitting him.

When questioned by the company commander as to why he had shot the man, Azaria once again said, "He's a terrorist, he needs to die," the report noted. It was only after he was detained and an investigation was launched that Azaria began claiming he had believed the assailant still posed a danger.

"The facts speak for themselves," *Vice* quotes an investigator as saying. "The company medic took the decision to shoot the terrorist due to a twisted ideology."

The document was also said to be critical of the soldiers' failure to treat al-Sharif as he lay wounded on the ground, before Azaria shot him.

Other contributors warned that the incident could gravely damage Israel and the IDF's image in the world.

In summary, the most senior investigator in the report stated that "shooting at the terrorist while he is on the floor with almost no movement, and is bleeding for a few minutes after the terror attack happened, is a significantly immoral action and there is no good explanation for this... The shooting serves the Palestinian claims about executions and by this hurts the legitimacy of our actions.

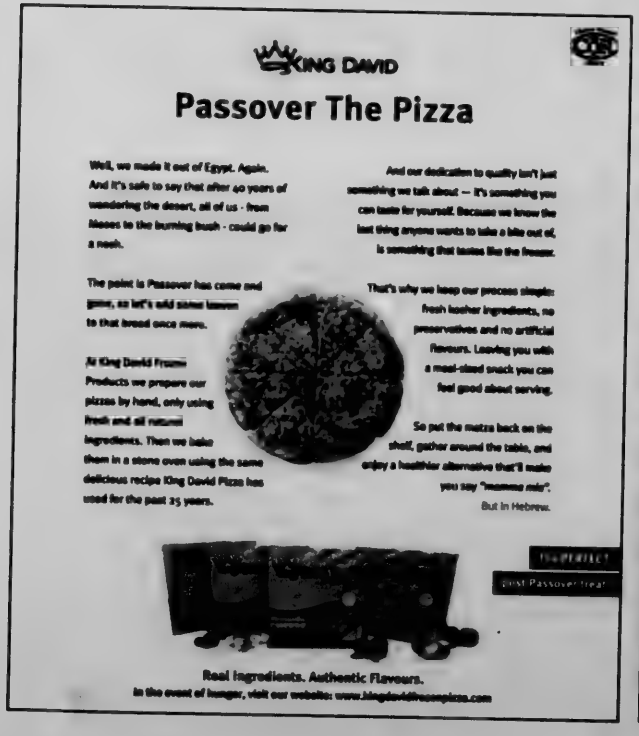
"I expect and order in the clearest way that the IDF forces in the West Bank will do their best to ensure medical treatment to every Palestinian including terrorists that (have) attacked and (have) stopped being dangerous."

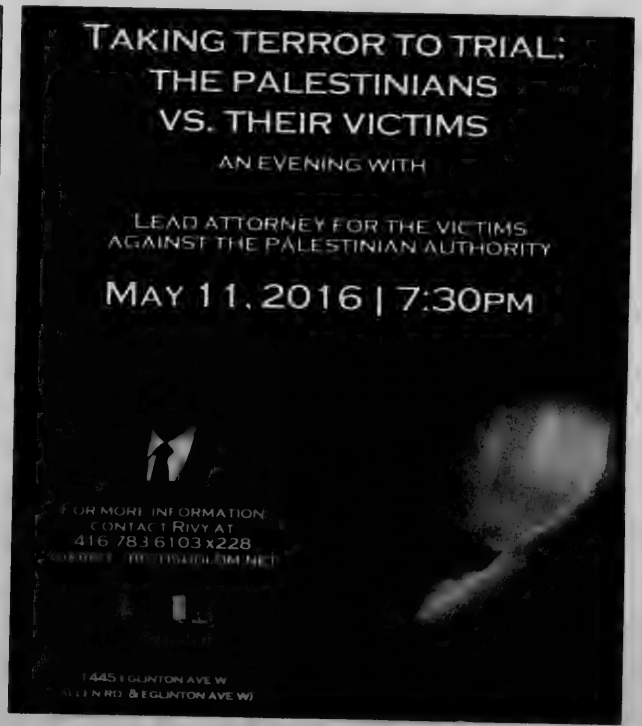
A military court indicted Azaria for manslaughter in the fatal shooting of al-Sharif. He was also charged with inappropriate military conduct.

Azaria was released for two days from his on-base detention to join his family for the Passover holiday. Azaria was welcomed home by friends and family to hugs, songs and cheers.

"Thanks for the support. Thanks to the judges who allowed him to have the holiday at home. With God's help this whole thing will end and we'll go back to being a normal family," the soldier's father, Charlie, told reporters outside the family home in Ramla. "We love Israel, we're not enemies of the state." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com


KING DAVID
Passover The Pizza
Well, we made it out of Egypt. Again. And it's safe to say that after 40 years of wandering the desert, all of us - from Moses to the burning bush - could go for a nosh.
The point is Passover has come and gone, so let's add some leaven to that bread once more.
At King David Pizza Products we prepare our pizzas by hand, only using fresh and all natural ingredients. Then we bake them in a stone oven using the same delicious recipe King David Pizza has used for the past 25 years.
And our dedication to quality isn't just something we talk about — it's something you can taste for yourself. Because we know the last thing anyone wants to take a bite out of, is something that tastes like the freezer.
That's why we keep our process simple: fresh kosher ingredients, no preservatives and no artificial flavours. Leaving you with a meal-sized snack you can feel good about serving.
So put the matza back on the shelf, gather around the table, and enjoy a healthier alternative that'll make you say "mamma mia". But in Hebrew.
Real Ingredients. Authentic Flavours.
In the event of hunger, visit our website: www.kingdavidpizza.com



Israel denies rift with Germany over two-state solution

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

A senior official in Jerusalem dismissed a report on April 30 that claimed Germany was becoming increasingly frustrated with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies.

"Ties between Israel and Germany are close and good, and they will continue to be," the official told *Ha'aretz*, adding that the statements in the report published by the German weekly *Der Spiegel* were "most likely an internal German attempt to bash Angela Merkel over her close relationship with Netanyahu."

A report in *Der Spiegel's* latest edition said that Merkel's camp was "furious" at a leak of confidential consultations between Jerusalem and Berlin in the German capital in February, which subsequently appeared in the free *Israel Hayom* daily.

Furthermore, the magazine said, the leaked details of Merkel's remarks were "twisted" to give the impression that she supported Netanyahu's position that a two-state solution with the Palestinians was currently unfeasible, whereas the chancellor had actually said that Israeli settlement construction "makes it unlikely that a viable Palestinian state can be established in accordance with plans aimed at a two-state solution."

(The *Times of Israel* reported at the time that the German government was displeased with Netanyahu for asserting that Merkel had changed her stance on a two-state solution, and that it dispatched emissaries to Jerusalem clarify Berlin's position.)

The report also claimed that Netanyahu was having a deleterious effect on Israeli-German relations, to the extent that "many, particularly in the Berlin Foreign Ministry, have begun wondering if Germany sent the wrong signals in the past." This shift by Berlin, *Der Spiegel* said, could be seen in Germany's vote in a January 2016 resolution by the European Union on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Prior to the vote, Netanyahu called German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier to seek reassurance over a paragraph in the draft resolution criticizing settlement construction.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel with Benjamin Netanyahu in 2014. FLASH 90

"I'm counting on you," Netanyahu told Steinmeier, the report said. But the foreign minister voted in favour of the draft, with the wording condemning settlement expansion unchanged.

According to *Der Spiegel*, the Merkel government has "lost hope that the peace process can be revived so long as Netanyahu remains in office."

Another manifestation of this view came when Merkel met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Berlin some two weeks ago. The chancellor, the report said, "was demonstrative in her support."

"I understand why President Abbas continually seeks out the Security Council," Merkel said, according to the report. The magazine added that, "Even accusations from Netanyahu that EU labeling rules for products made in the settlements are akin to an anti-Jewish boycott are no longer taken seriously." ■

Timesofisrael.com

ADL tells Trump to abstain from using the term 'America First'

JTA
WASHINGTON

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) called on Donald Trump to abjure the term "America First," noting its unsavoury World War II-era association with anti-Semitism.

"The undercurrents of anti-Semitism and bigotry that characterized the America First movement – including the assumption that Jews who opposed the movement had their own agenda and were not acting in America's best interest – is fortunately not a major concern today," the ADL said in an April 28 statement.

Trump, the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, unveiled his foreign policy in a speech April 27 in Washington and said "America First will be the major and overriding theme of my administration."

He referred to a policy that would not attempt to export democracy, that would avoid foreign wars, and that would require allies to pay for America's defence or go it alone.

"For many Americans, the term 'America First' will always be associated with and tainted by this history," ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in the statement. "In a political season that already has prompted a national conversation about civility and tolerance, choosing a call to action historically associated with incivility and intolerance seems ill-advised."

The ADL has called Trump out for his campaign rhetoric, including his broadsides against Muslims. ■

Bibi responds to 'French initiative'

JTA
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is ready to start "direct, bilateral negotiations" with the Palestinians.

The invitation, which Netanyahu has repeatedly extended, was included in a statement issued April 28 by the Prime Minister's Office under the heading "Israel's Response to the French Initiative."

The French government announced on April 21 that it will convene a summit of foreign ministers in Paris May 30 as a start to renewing the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The meeting will not include representatives of Israel and the Palestinians.

The summit is set to be the run-up to an international peace conference to be held in the French capital this summer that would include Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

"Israel adheres to its position that the best way to resolve the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is direct, bilateral negotiations," the statement issued April 28 said. "Israel is ready to begin them immediately without preconditions. Any other diplomatic initiative distances the Palestinians from direct negotiations."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault angered Israel in January for threatening to recognize a Palestinian state if a Paris-hosted conference failed to relaunch peace talks. Ayrault backtracked on his statements in March, saying the conference would not "automatically" spur any action. ■

Women in Judaism: A Pioneer's Perspective

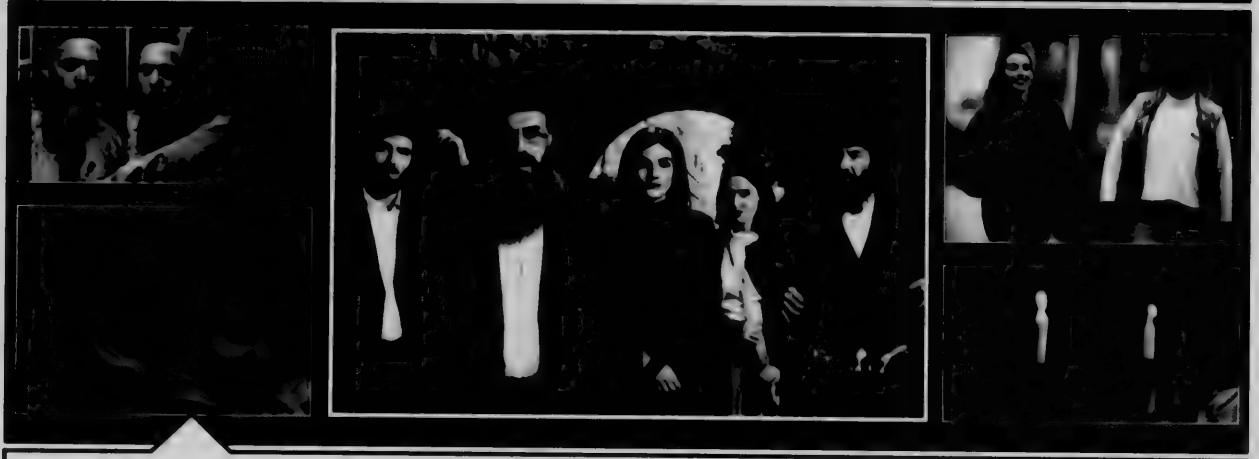
...ly J. Priesand
...'s First Female Rabbi
...ty Scholar in Residence
Reflections on my Life as a Rabbi
Why I am a Reform Jew
Remembering Rabbi Regina Jonas
(the world's first female rabbi)

Friday, May 6 & Saturday, May 7
Kol Ami, 36 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill

KOL AMI
קול עמי

For more information visit kolami.ca or call 905 709 2620.

Jewish Life



Wide selection of films at 24th edition of TJFF

JOSEPH SERGE
jserge@thecjn.ca

David Bezmozgis's screen adaptation of his story *Natasha* will open the 2016 Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

From May 5 to 16, the 24th edition of the festival will screen four world premieres, 11 North American and 31 Canadian premieres.

Natasha, a coming-of-age story, explores the modern life of Toronto's Russian Jewish community through the eyes and imagination of the award-winning writer and filmmaker.

The festival closes with *Every Face Has a Name*, the Canadian premiere of the documentary about Operation White Buses in which over 15,000 people were rescued from several concentration camps in 1945 and brought to Sweden. Seventy years later, filmmaker Magnus Gertten tracked down some of these refugees to show them original, rarely-seen newsreel footage of their arrival in Malmo. While watching this footage of themselves, survivors remember faces, names and stories about friends and family.

In between these two films is a wide selection of dramas, comedies, documentaries and special features.

This year's sidebar series "Jewish images from a Golden Age of Canadian Television" explores expressions of Jewish identity from the first 12 years of CBC Television (1952-64). This includes a look at the comedy duo of Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster, as well as writer and filmmaker Jack Kuper and actor Sylvia Lennick. (See page 30).

The Senegalese/French documentary *Black Jews, the Roots of the Olive Tree* will have its Canadian premiere as part of the "Black Jewish Relations" series. It takes a unique look at the Jews of Cameroon, a community that observes Jewish prayer and customs in a country not always understanding of this foreign religion.

Doing Jewish: A Story from Ghana also gets its world premiere. This Canadian film follows Gabrielle Zilkha, a Canadian filmmaker working in Ghana, who sets off across the country to celebrate Rosh Hashanah with the tiny Sefwi Jewish community.

The Jewish state is featured in a series commemorating Israel at 68. Among the highlights in this series are *Einstein in the Holy Land*, an exploration of Albert Einstein's life, and political views on Israel. *Hagiga – The Story of Israeli Cinema* is a two-part look at Israel's rich cinematic history. (page 29) and *Sabena Hijacking: My Version* is a suspenseful blow-by-blow account of the 1972 Black September attack on an airplane in Tel Aviv. Foodies will love *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*, a documentary about a country constantly attempting to redefine its identity.

"Women – Front and Centre" features several films and documentaries in which women play a primary role. *Imagine: Bette Midler – The Divine Miss M* is a must-see look at the funny and outrageous Bette Midler. In the Canadian premiere of the 2014 French film *Papa Was Not a Rolling Stone*, director Sylvie Ohayon delivers a sensitive comedy-drama about growing up Jewish in La Courneuve, an impoverished suburb of Paris in the mid-'80s. It will be screened with *Mushkie*, an Israeli short about two best friends and what happens when one of them experiences an embarrassing medical problem.

There are lots of dramas, thrillers, romances and comedies, of course. Highly recommended is the Canadian premiere of the Israeli film *Freak Out* (*Mesuvag Harig*). In this dark comedy, 18-year-old Matan is serving in the army and is frightened and misses his mother. When strange things begin to happen on guard duty, he realizes that none of them will likely get out alive.

Called an Israeli *Dr. Strangelove*, *Atomic Falafel* takes on the Israel-Iran nuclear showdown. A widowed falafel seller, his awkward teenage daughter, her computer nerd boyfriend and a German weapons inspector save the region from potential nuclear war.

Ed Mirvish, Big Carrot's David Teitel and architect Benjamin Brown are among the Canadians featured in several documentaries airing at the festival.

And not to be missed is season 2 of the Israeli TV show *Shtisel*. The six episodes will be shown in two screenings.

This just touches the surface of what promises to be another successful festival. ■

The TJFF runs May 5 to 15 at five theatres across the city. For full schedule and ticket information visit tjff.com

Three comedies to watch at the TJFF

Michael Fraiman

The 2016 Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs from May 5 to 15, and you'd be forgiven for claiming you don't have enough time to research every one of the dozens of features and shorts being screened.

But if the festival's spot-on branding is any indication (Have a beard? "Jewish enough"), the comedy offerings should fill up nicely. For those tired of equating Jewish cinema with Holocaust documentaries and nebbish romantic leads, read on.

(A disclaimer apology to the majority of Canadians who undoubtedly – and justifiably – resent the propagation of Toronto-centric media, but look: we've got a pretty big Jewish film festival here, and there are funny-looking movies worth checking out.)

How to Win Enemies
(May 7, 9 p.m.; May 11, 6:30 p.m.)
Tackling the distance between fiction and reality is well-trodden territory. (Can washed-up sci-fi actors survive a real-life galaxy quest? Is Pleasantville really all that pleasant?) But in Gabriel Lichtmann's latest feature, the stakes are more personal: Lucas, a young, handsome lawyer withdraws enough cash to buy a house, only to find it missing the morning after a one-night stand.

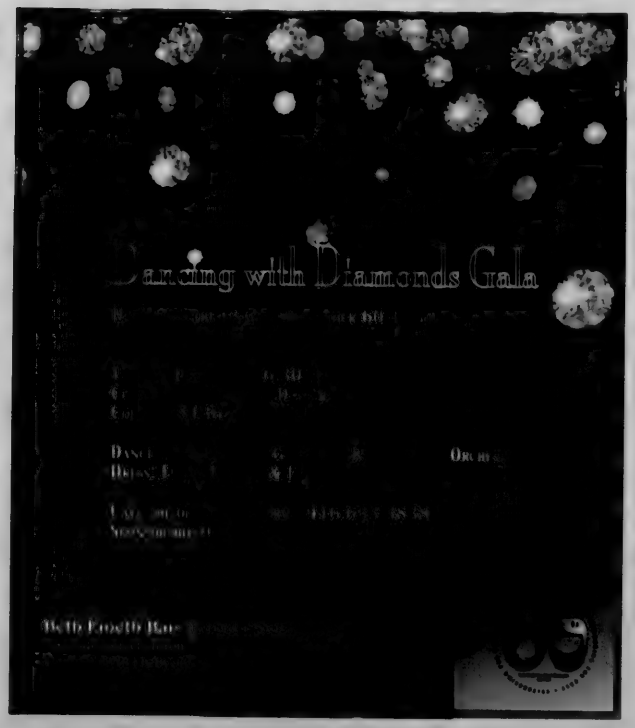
An Argentine entry with European style, Lichtmann's feature is undeniably Jewish (there's a wedding, chupah and all), but doesn't appear to bank on that theme for jokes. Instead, Lucas' main trait is being a mystery-novel fan, and the film mines his trove of suspense fiction for clues as to how to solve his own case. Complete with funky jazz and deadpan punchlines, this Jewish *Nine Queens*-style heist comedy should be one of the more sophisticated films on the 2016 roster.

That Daughter's Crazy (May 11, 8:30 p.m.)
Of all the famous comics from the 1960s and '70s to influence Jewish culture, Richard Pryor does not come to mind. Yet, here is his daughter, Rain Pryor, half-Jewish on her mother's side, who's been performing a one-woman show called *Fried Chicken and Latkes* about her distinct upbringing – neither Jewish nor black enough to fit into either community. *That Daughter's Crazy* isn't strictly a comedy – the late Pryor's notoriously complicated life included civil disobedience and seven marriages – but Rain seems as vibrantly extroverted as her father was.

The difficult, long-standing relationship between the black and Jewish communities is something of a theme this year at the TJFF (among the selections: *Black Jews*, about Cameroon's Jewish community; *Doing Jewish: A Story From Ghana*, which seems quietly heartbreaking; the coming-of-age *Papa Was Not A Rolling Stone*; and *A Demonstration in the White City*, following Eritrean and Sudanese refugees in Israel). *That Daughter's Crazy* complements this narrative well, detailing the history of those who grew up in the 20th century between two persecuted minorities, either expected to pick sides or forced to forge a new identity between both.

Atomic Falafel
(May 12, 9 p.m.)
It's astonishing that no filmmakers have yet made an Israeli version of *Dr. Strangelove*. The threat of global nuclear annihilation could hardly be positioned more acutely than in the Middle East –something that Tel Aviv-based director Dror Shaul clearly understood when making this film.

But just in case the premise was too sensitive, he named his opus *Atomic Falafel*, ensuring that nobody could possibly mistake this movie for anything but slapstick comedy. I'll confess I'm not 100 per cent sure what the whole thing's about – the trailer's a hodgepodge of Israel Defence Forces officers ripped from *Full Metal Jacket*, awkward teenage sexuality, a falafel truck, the Ayatollah, adult circumcision and nuclear war rooms, all wrapped up in Hebrew, English and Farsi. At only 80 minutes, it'll be impressive to see it all pulled off. ■



"AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX AND DARING HOLOCAUST PLAYS I'VE SEEN"
THE MODEL APARTMENT
MAY 7 - 29, 2016 • THE GREENWIN THEATRE • TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL 1 855 985 2787 OR VISIT HGJEWISHTHEATRE.COM

The Jewish Camp Council of Toronto

Join us and make a difference: Call for future Board Members and Volunteers

Join our Board or become a volunteer to help build our future Jewish community – in Toronto, the GTA and across Canada.

Camp Northland is a not-for-profit Jewish community camp operated by the Jewish Camp Council of Toronto and is the largest Jewish community overnight camp in Ontario with its origins dating back to 1909. We are committed to making residential camp accessible to children and young adults in partnership with the Jewish community, and are dedicated to providing a fun and safe environment for campers and staff to build their Jewish identity, a love of nature, connections to Israel, positive relationships, life skills and independence.

For details about the Board and Volunteer roles visit:
http://campnbb.com/camp-life/board-of-directors or call: **905-881-0018**
If you are interested in volunteering and/or joining the Jewish Camp Council Board to make a long-term difference in our Jewish community and the lives of thousands of children and their families, please email your resume and covering letter to: ndorphin@rogers.com and to simon@campnbb.com on or before May 18th 2016.

Your resume and cover letter should include your background, previous volunteer and Board experience, business interests, fundraising experience, and reasons for wanting to volunteer and/or join the Board.

CAMP NORTHLAND B'NAI BRITH

Camp Northland est. 1909 Changing the game

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University

Education. Culture. Community

TRUDEAU: Good for the Jews?

Introduced by DAVID KOFFMAN, Assistant Professor, Department of History
Moderated by YONI GOLDSTEIN, Editor "The Canadian Jewish News"

Jonathan Kay
Journalist, author and editor-in-chief of *The Walrus*, and the editorial assistant on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2015 memoir

Keren Mock
Community activist, former National Director of the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith, and the Liberal candidate for Thornhill in the 2011 federal election

Michael Taube
Troy Media syndicated columnist, *Washington Times* contributor, and speechwriter for former Prime Minister Stephen Harper

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2016
2-4 PM

Followed by a reception

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
Accolade East Building
York University, Keele Campus

FREE PARKING PASSES FOR STUDENT SERVICES PARKING STRUCTURE AVAILABLE AT VENUE

Live Streaming at thewalrus.ca/trudeau-and-the-jews

REGISTER at:
https://trudeau-good-for-the-jews.eventbrite.ca
Tel: 416-736-5123

YORK UNIVERSITY

Sylvia Lennick, right, with Paul Kligman in *The Littlest of Kings*. CBC STILL PHOTO COLLECTION

Festival's sidebar series looks at CBC's early Jewish flavour

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When did the CBC ever have a Jewish flavour? Apparently, as soon it discovered television.

Following in the footsteps of early American TV programs with Milton Berle and Sid Caesar, and the series *The Goldbergs*, the Mother Corp acquired a certain *tam*.

The venerable broadcaster's first dozen or so TV years are the subject of a sidebar series at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival (May 5-15). "Jewish Images from a Golden Age of Canadian Television" is devoted to exploring expressions of Jewish identity on CBC-TV from roughly 1952 to 1964.

It was a time of immense creativity. "During this almost-forgotten era of inspired drama and comedy, expressions of Canada's ethnic diversity began to appear on TV," writes TJFF program director Stuart Hands in this year's festival program. "Among these CBC shows, one can also find drama and comedy that reflect the lives of Jewish immigrants and children of immigrants at the time."

Hands got the idea for the series following last year's festival tribute to the late Al Waxman and the screening of writer and filmmaker Jack Kuper's 1959 autobiographical CBC production, *Sun in My Eyes*.

Hands and Kuper started talking about the era, and "it's fascinating," Hands told *The CJN*. "When you consider all the [Jewish] directors, writers and actors who were there, it's really quite amazing, this sort of community that was.

"Canadian Jews don't know a lot about this history. It was a revelation to me. I thought it would be a revelation to do at [this year's] festival."

The series focuses on three significant Jewish contributors to the CBC of those days: Kuper, the comedy team of Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster, and actor Sylvia Lennick.

Moving from radio to TV in 1954, Wayne and Shuster "presented to their audience who they were – university-educated children of Jewish immigrants," Hands writes in the program. "Although their Jewish roots were rarely openly addressed – other than scattered expressions understood primarily by their Jewish audiences – their urbanity and sophistication spoke to a diverse Canadian population, as well as international fans."

Lennick, who was married to fellow CBC mainstay Ben Lennick, may be best remembered for playing Calpurnia, Julius Caesar's wife, in the Wayne and Shuster sketch in which she delivered the immortal warning, in a Bronx drawl, "I told him: Julie, don't go! It's the Ides of March! Beware, already!"

Kuper, a Polish-born child survivor of the Holocaust, began at the CBC in 1952 as a graphic artist and went on to create some of the broadcaster's most memorable teleplays and films, many based on his experiences.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Above, the cast of Jack Kuper's (centre) *Sun in My Eyes*. Below, a scene from *Lost in a Crowd*. CBC STILL PHOTO COLLECTION

The CBC series promises that "even a young William Shatner makes an appearance." (It's in the 1955 drama *On A Streetcar*, written by Kuper).

By the early 1950s, the CBC had something it "never had before: a considerably Jewish flavour," Mavor Moore, the writer, producer, actor and polymath is quoted in Mary Jane Miller's 1996 book *Rewind and Search*, a look at the heady early days of CBC television drama.

Moore recounted that he and another executive once drew up a list of appointments. It "contained the names of a half dozen very able young Jewish men and women, and the reason was enormously simple: they hadn't been given a chance before."

It was presented to the director of television, who looked up and said, "a lot of Jewish names on that list."

It was a time of "a great deal of anti-Semitism at the CBC," Moore noted. Actor Lorne Green, apparently, had difficulties. So did John Adaskin, who went on to success in radio.

Kuper recalled his early days at the CBC as "a struggle. We were all learning how to do it and fighting to get what we did accepted."

It was uphill, he told *The CJN*, if "you were stupid enough to step out of the norm, like I did, by writing about subjects and people I knew. This was not the norm, the way people running the CBC understood life. [It was] not what they were looking for or knew or understood or expected to see. Naturally, it was not easily accepted."

While he did not encounter overt anti-Semitism, resistance from CBC brass sprang from their "non-acceptance of the other."

Still, it was "an amazing place. I could not believe I was working there and getting paid. It was my education. Without the CBC, I don't know where I would have ended up." ■

The series on the CBC will feature seen rarely-screened archival TV shows, accompanied by guest speakers: For schedule and venues visit tjff.com

Follow TJFF on:

@TJFFTweets

www.facebook.com/TorontoJewishFilmFestival/

TJFF App Available on:

Love story depicts moral crumbling of prewar Germany

MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

A great deal has been written about Germany between the two world wars of the last century. The rise of the Nazis is well documented in history and in literature. One of the seminal works remains *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, the magnum opus published in 1960 by William Shirer, the American journalist who reported from Berlin in the 1930s until the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies. In 1941, Shirer published his first-hand observations of Germany's startling descent into an ugly, military-industrial, genocidal superstructure in *A Berlin Diary*.

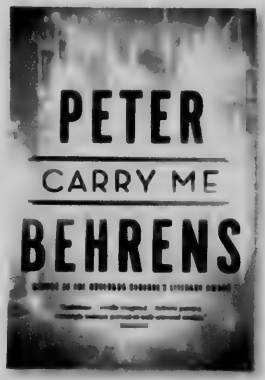
Christopher Isherwood, the British-American author, wrote about the seedy, morally unravelling underside of Berlin society in the 1920s and 1930s. His novel *Goodbye to Berlin* eventually formed the basis for the famous musical *Cabaret*, which so painfully portrayed the unique evil of Nazism.

Over the intervening years, many scholars and authors have brought their considerable skills to chronicling and trying to "make sense" of what – at its core – has no explanation in sense or logic: how does brazen hatred acquire such an unbreakable, steel-jawed hold over an entire society?

And though the question may have no answer, our minds continue to search for one.

In his new novel *Carry Me*, the Canadian-born, award-winning author Peter Behrens touchingly, tenderly and provocatively asks that question, many compelling variations upon that question, and much more.

The two key characters of *Carry Me* are Billy Lange and Karin von Weinbrenner, unlikely lovers whose eventual escape from Nazi Germany is the central thread



Carry Me
By Peter Behrens
(Anansi Press 2016)

of Behrens' compelling work. The title of the story derives from a scene in the couple's younger life when Karin asks Billy to carry her. The memory of that scene stays with Billy forever. He literally and metaphorically carries Karin many more times, especially through the harrowing, dangerous shards of their broken society. Their escape from Germany is the narrative culmination of the story.

Behrens cleverly begins the tale well before Billy and Karin are born, and he deftly develops for us their formative background. *Carry Me* starts with the stories of Billy and Karin's parents and transports us across numerous horizons in the Pacific Ocean, the coastline of the British Isles, continental Europe, the United States and even Canada.

He examines the breakdown of German society in the years prior to World War II by first exploring the tensions within civil European society prior to World War I. Just as the main individuals in Behrens' story are interconnected in myriad profound ways, so, too, are the stormy political and ideological events through which his characters live. His narrative takes the reader through a number of conflicts, including the unfathomable slaughter of World War I, the struggle for Irish independence from British rule, World War II and the first moments of the ultimate genocide of the Jews.

Billy's father was a German national. British authorities interned him in a camp for suspect foreigners during the long, cruel war. His sorrowful experiences there affect him for the rest of his life. Behrens makes the point that discrimination, oppression and mistreatment of the "other" is not the exclusive domain of one nationality or one people.

The author describes the aftermath of World War I: the emotional distress, emptiness and the constant ache at the heart of those societies that sent their soldiers to die in the war's bloodied fields. "You could say that in Frankfurt – probably England and France, too - the dead were in charge. Millions were walking about the cities with memories of dead sons, fathers, husbands operating painfully on their minds."

In Germany's societal emptiness, the vile worm of anti-Semitism thrived. It twisted and turned its immoral, deathly ideology deep into the body of an increasingly vulnerable society. Scapegoats were sought to explain away the military and other failures of the German *volk*. "It was the Jews!" the thugs and tyrants screamed. The Jews – both the bankers and the Bolsheviks – became the national hanging rack on which the suffering, the exploited and the willfully murderous pinned their woe.

For instance, Behrens shows us Billy's classmate who, in Frankfurt in 1932, explained with full conspiratorial effusion that Germany lost the war because of a bet the Frankfurt Jews made with the Jews of London.

"You see fellows, they each wagered on the other country to win. Each tribe figured they could fix the fight! Yids are utterly ruthless. Our tribe of Jews caused the defeat of Germany and collected millions of pounds in reward. They were able to stab in the back the best army the world had ever seen."

Behrens' depiction of the moral crumbling of prewar Germany is narrated from the varied perspective of many individuals with whom we become familiar, the good folk who are caught up in it and the villainous folk who contribute to it.

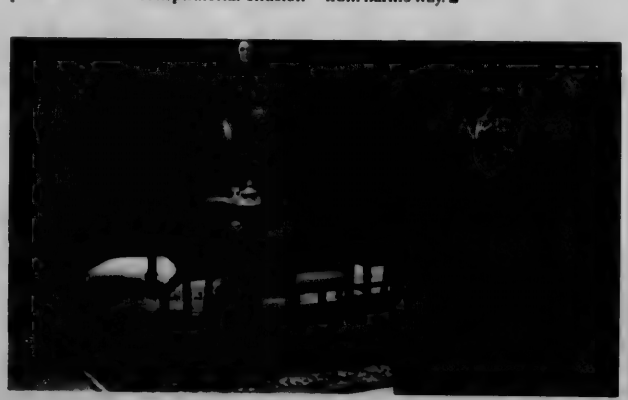
He is also brutally honest about how villainy eventually triumphed. When marauding Nazi brutes violently close in upon increasing numbers of individuals whom Billy knows, he admits candidly and somewhat shamefully, "I wasn't going to rock the boat... [M]y generation knew the smart thing was to stay away from other people's trouble."

But the troubles of other people inevitably became Billy's troubles, too.

Behrens brings the reader into the ghastly centre of prewar Nazi Germany, when all morality was turned on its head, when the institutions of the state brutalized its own citizenry. The despairingly dark description of that place and time dominates *Carry Me*.

But *Carry Me* is equally and perhaps even more memorably a lush, beautifully crafted story about the complicated relationships between individuals – friends, parents, children and lovers.

Behrens stunningly, though dolefully, reminds us with a clarity, artistry and poignant punch demonstrated by few writers, that despite the innumerable ways in which love anchors and sustains life, it cannot always keep those whom we love from harm's way. ■



Toronto actor takes on two roles in theatre double bill

AMY GRIEF
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Toronto-based actor Alon Nashman's latest role is one of biblical proportions. That's because he's playing Lot in *Sunday in Sodom*, a feminist retelling of the Sodom and Gomorrah story.

It's one of two new plays by the Governor General's Award-winning Canadian playwright, Jordan Tannahill, that the Canadian Stage is mounting at the Berkley Street Theatre from April 26 to May 15.

Tannahill's double bill will include *Sunday in Sodom* along with *Botticelli in the Fire*, which explores the religious fervour that gripped Renaissance-era Florence, as its citizens – led by Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola – burned licentious items such as art, books and even mirrors.

In that play, Nashman is Savonarola. "It's a beautifully drawn role of somebody who is very sincerely devout and who is able to inflame the people to identify their problems as being caused by the luxurious tastes and the immorality of the ruling classes," says Nashman. He describes his character as a populist and a dogmatist who whips Florence into a zealous frenzy.

"The other play is a kind of modern midrash to explain why Lot's wife turns around," he says of *Sunday in Sodom*. The show unfolds from Lot's wife's (played by Valerie Buhagiar) perspective.

It's set in Sodom, yet this ancient metropolis exists in the modern-day world. There are CNN news broadcasts on television as the city is under the imminent threat of attack.

Alon Nashman plays Lot and Dominican friar Girolamo Savararola.

> *It's a beautifully drawn role of somebody who is very sincerely devout and who is able to inflame the people to identify their problems as being caused by the luxurious tastes and the immorality of the ruling classes.*

The show starts with a call from Isaac (Stephen Jackman-Torkoff) to Lot's wife; Isaac is scared because his father just tried to kill him. Lot's story doesn't take up too much room in Genesis, but Nashman notes that Tannahill's version stays true to the text while greatly expanding upon it.

And although Tannahill has written two distinct plays, they maintain a clear thematic link; both deal with the devastating consequences of unrestricted hedonism. They're also connected by certain musical and visual cues.

For this production, CanStage partnered with the department of theatre at York University and two graduating MFA students are directing the shows.

Matjash Mrozewski is directing *Botticelli in the Fire*. She's a well known choreographer who's now making the leap to theatre. Estelle Shook is leading *Sunday in Sodom*; she was the artistic director of British Columbia's Caravan Farm Theatre.

Nashman describes the two as the most innovative directors he has worked with in years.

Along with these two plays, Nashman will also be performing an offstage role at the Tarragon Theatre's technological thriller *The Summoned* from April 27 until May 29. He'll also be narrating *Tafelmusik's Tales of Two Cities: The Leipzig-Damascus Coffee House* from May 19 to 24.

For now though, he's looking forward to having audiences see Tannahill's latest work for the first time. "It's just amazing what Jordan has done in terms of riffing on the Bible," says Nashman. "It's entertaining and devastating material." ■

Botticelli in the Fire *and* Sunday in Sodom *run until May 15.*
For tickets call 416-368-3110 or visit www.canadianstage.com

'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:

"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.

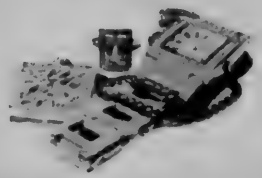
The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.

Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."

The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.

CJN

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
or
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS

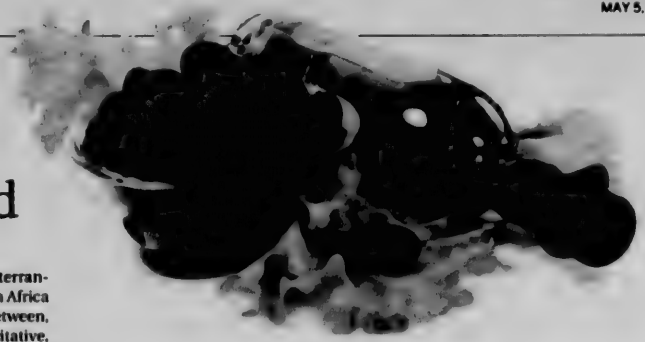
• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System

PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS

TORONTO	416-283-2508
HAMILTON	905-383-1343
OTTAWA	613-247-3334
MONTREAL	514-943-0393
CANADA/USA	1-800-668-7439

PTP www.ptpads.com

Everything you've always wanted to know about Mediterranean food



SUE EPSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Large communities of Jews have lived in Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, North Africa and the Middle East since biblical times. However they weren't dining on corned beef, blintzes, bagels or brisket.

Joyce Goldstein's *New Mediterranean Jewish Table*, with over 400 pages, is a virtual encyclopedia of everything you've ever wanted to know about the foods of the Mediterranean.

The recipes celebrate a colourful and delicious mosaic of this cuisine with locally grown, seasonal and unadulterated ingredients. Typical ingredients include cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, cumin, almonds, tahini paste, artichokes, tangy olives and preserved lemons.

This is not just a cookbook. It is a delicious food history book. The diverse collection of recipes spans the Mediterranean from southern Europe to North Africa to the Middle East and all points between, offering a comprehensive, authoritative, and accessible guide to the entire region's food. Goldstein also gives the variations that each country add to the recipe.

If you've ever visited any of the Mediterranean countries and longed to be able to prepare the foods you've eaten there at home, this is the book for you. Recipes such as Italian Crispy Fried Artichokes, Moroccan Tagine of Pumpkin and Lentils, Venetian Style Marinated Fish, Chicken and Rice Pilaf Wrapped in Filo, Tunisian Hot-Pepper Condiment, Candied Eggplant (yes, candied eggplant!), or Greek Creamy Cheese–Filled Filo Pastry will have you heading for the kitchen. Admittedly the recipes are not necessarily simple or quick, but they're well worth the raves you'll receive.

Moroccan marinated olives

(Olives Marinees)

- ❑ 1 cups drained brined black or green olives
- ❑ 6 tbsp. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ❑ 6 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- ❑ 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- ❑ 1 tsp. red pepper flakes, or 2 fresh red chiles, slivered lengthwise
- ❑ ½ tsp. ground cumin
- ❑ ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ❑ 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- ❑ 3 or 4 thin strips lemon or orange zest, or peel of ½ preserved lemon, homemade or store-bought, rinsed and cut into strips, with some of its juice

Using a meat pounder or the side of a heavy cleaver, crack the olives. Put the olives in a bowl, add water to cover, and let stand for about 1 hour. Drain well, pat dry, and return to the bowl.

Add the parsley, cilantro, garlic, pepper flakes, cumin, oil, lemon juice, and lemon zest and toss well.

Transfer to a jar or other container, cap tightly and refrigerate for 2 days before serving. They will keep for up to 7 days. Serves 6. ■

Veteran Canadian actor stars in black comedy

KATHRYN KATES
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Film, stage and television actor Eric Peterson will grace the stage in Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company's (HGJTC) presentation of Donald Margulies' *The Model Apartment*, running May 7 to 29 at Greenwin Theatre in the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

First produced in the '90s in New York, *The Model Apartment* is a black comedy about two elderly Holocaust survivors, Max and Lola, and their daughter. The action takes place one evening in the early '80s. The couple has purchased a condo sight unseen, and arrive in Florida only to learn there are problems.

The Toronto-based Peterson, who originally hails from Indian Head, Sask., plays Max. He will be joined by Dora Award-winning actor Clare Coulter playing his wife, Lola, Lisa Norton as their daughter, Debbie, and Tony Ofori as Debbie's friend. Tanja Jacobs directs.

"The basic story of *The Model Apartment* is about Max and Lola... Lola is a survivor of Belsen, and Max survived by hiding in the woods," Peterson says. "They meet after the war, come to New York and have a daughter, Debbie. As the play opens, Max and Lola have come to Florida to their condo. Max is looking forward to a peaceful retirement.

Eric Peterson

> *It has been fascinating for me to delve into this story about the Holocaust*

"The condo isn't ready, so the management has told them to stay in the display bachelor condo... therefore the title, *The Model Apartment*. They are very tired, and somewhat depressed and frustrated because their own place isn't ready. They are joined by Debbie, who is in her late 30s – she is obese and mentally challenged in various ways... let's say she's a handful. Later that night, they are joined by a young, black street kid."

Peterson says the play has given him food for much thought. "I am from the goyim. It has been fascinating for me to delve into this story about the Holocaust and the Jewish experience of it. Although I am not Jewish, I have a lot of Jewish friends. The Holocaust is an historic element of Jewish experience.

"The play has a very specific story with specific characters with specific problems. One can indeed extrapolate from that experience – about being parents and what we give to our children, how we aid them and how we screw them up. For a non-Jewish person, there's a lot to get out of the play because universality is only accessible if it is based on specifics... That's my theory. This story is about a specific culture and history – this event called The Holocaust.

"Even if you are a non-religious Jew, this is a history you identify with and know. One of the themes in the play is that trauma becomes a legacy and is passed down. The Holocaust has had direct implications for the children and the children's children of survivors," says the father of two daughters.

He says the challenge for him is to try to understand this and be part of it convincingly and not offend anybody with his portrayal. This is Peterson's first time working with HGJTC, and he says he is glad to be part of it and to perform alongside such a wonderful cast. So far, he says, learning about the Jewish culture and history has been a really rich ride for him.

The 69-year-old actor's career spans more than four decades and includes portrayals of a World War I flying ace in *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, Jewish lawyer Leon Rabinovich in *Street Legal* and the grumpy Oscar Leroy in *Corner Gas*, to name a few. He has received many accolades and awards, including being named a member of the Order of Canada, receiving five Gemini Awards, a Dora Mavor Moore Award, an ACTRA Toronto Award for Excellence and an honorary doctorate from the University of Saskatchewan. ■

For tickets, call 1-855-985-2787 or go online to www.hgjewishtheatre.com

New documentary gives a voice to Israeli Arabs

Mohammad Ka'abiya, an Israeli Bedouin, gets stopped twice in under two minutes by Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem.

Igal Hecht

JOSEPH SERGE
jserge@thecjn.ca

In *My Home*, the latest documentary by Toronto filmmaker Igal Hecht, an Israeli citizen talks about his love for his country. He has served in the Israel Defence Forces and now trains youths from the same background as his to connect with Israel.

The man, Mohammad Ka'abiya, is an Israeli Bedouin, an Arab citizen of Israel. As he puts it in the documentary, "This country is good for every Arab citizen who lives here. We don't have any other country. There is equality here. God bless the occupation."

Ka'abiya is one of the Arab Israelis interviewed in *My Home* who talk about what Israel means to them. And contrary to many people's expectations, the majority of Israel's minority love living in Israel.

"We interviewed a variety of people with a variety of opinions," Hecht tells me. "Some are Zionists, some aren't," but they all appreciate Israel.

"By giving Israeli minorities a platform, you see what is really happening in Israel. It's not all rosy – anyone who thinks Israel doesn't have racism, is an idiot. Arabs in Israel have complete freedom. It doesn't mean there is no racism, there is," Hecht says.

Ka'abiya himself encounters racism. In one poignant, almost ironic moment in the film, Hecht and his cameraman, Lior Cohen, are following Ka'abiya as he walks down a Jerusalem street with a Jewish woman, shortly after one of the stabbing incidents that had been widely reported late last year.

Suddenly, a group of young soldiers approach Ka'abiya, asking him for ID and questioning him. Ka'abiya is polite, and takes it all in stride. But only moments later, the same group of soldiers approach and harass him again.

"That scene speaks volumes," Hecht says. "He understood the first time why he was stopped. A minute and 12 seconds later he was stopped by the same group. That's where the problem is."

Yet Ka'abiya takes it all in stride. As he says at one point, "We [Bedouin] have been citizens here for 67 years. Isn't it time we felt that we belong?"

Minorities make up 20 per cent of the Israeli population, and the Bedouin are one of four major Arab groups, along with Muslims, Christians and Druze, in this minority.

But, according to this documentary, to most Israelis, they are all collectively "Arabs."

The reason for this, Hecht believes, is that the Israeli media, which dictate the narrative, and Israeli society are lazy.

"It's easier to call them Arabs," Hecht says. "They don't want to think, that's a Muslim, that's a Christian, etc., each with different thoughts, and that maybe Arab culture doesn't impact everything they do. It's easier to think in black and white. There's a thousand shades of grey. Making things black and white is easier for people, but by doing that, you're creating more hatred and racism."

As far as the Israeli media are concerned, Hecht points to one specific scene from this documentary. At one point, they are at a protest in Sakhnin. Unexpectedly, the entire Arab Joint List party show up and the speeches, in Arabic, are full of incitement and hatred against Israel.

"It's a call to arms, a call to bomb people. That's just as horrific and racist as a prime minister saying Arab people are turning out to vote," a reference to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial comments on election day.

Yet, Hecht says, the Israeli media only had a 20-second item on this protest, mostly because, he says, Israeli journalists don't understand Arabic.

He said it was important for him to give a voice to the average Arab. "All you hear on TV is an Arab minister screaming and BDS people, but the average individual is never given a platform. We give the average individual a platform to speak – about how they view Israel and what Israel means to them. And we show Israelis that not every Arab hates Israel, some love Israel."

One of the more interesting people of the four Arabs interviewed for this film is Jonathan Elkhoury, a Lebanese Christian who immigrated with his family after the Israeli withdrawal. Elkhoury is interviewed in his home, discussing with his Jewish roommate why he doesn't like being called an "Arab."

"That was such a surreal scene," Hecht recalls. "You have the Jew telling the Arab, 'You live in an oppressive state,' and him saying, 'No, what are you talking about?' He's a Christian who lived under the oppressive regime of Hezbollah. He's now living in a predominantly Jewish democracy that allows him to celebrate Christmas and walk outside wearing his cross. He doesn't take any of that for granted."

My Home recently premiered in Boston where Hecht won best director at the Global Cinema Film Festival.

The documentary is also being edited for a five-part series that will feature over 30 interviews. ■

My Home *has its world broadcast premiere on the Documentary Channel on May 10 at 8 p.m.*

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small REPAIRS
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating close to 60 years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And Morelli
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
VAN RIJK
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

SENIOR SIDE OF LIFE

Strong beliefs come to the aid of many seniors

Dr. Michael Gordon

The envelope contained a lovely letter. In this new world of electronic communication, it's uncommon to receive a hand-written card, and even more unlikely that you will get a fully formed letter. So this was a welcome surprise.

It was a very heartfelt letter written by a daughter who visited me with her father over a number of years along with her mother, as her father gradually declined into a greater degree of dementia.

At the beginning, the reason they sought assessment was to try to define what was going on and try to give his condition a "working label" they could deal with. At that time, as is often the case, he denied any problem. He was still very active in the Jehovah's Witnesses church and was still actively proselytizing door to door – which according to what I gathered from his family, he did with enormous respect and grace.

As his cognition declined despite symptomatic treatments and he faced the usual traumas such as reporting his condition to the Ministry of Transport, which removed his driving licence, the focus of discussions with the family, with him in attendance, was always on future plans and preparation for the further decline that ultimately would lead to the end stages of dementia. He would often participate at some level, but the family carried the conversation.

Then he was accepted, after a long process, at a suitable long-term care facility and it became clear that the whole trajectory of their life together would be changing. That event prompted the letter I received. At my final visit with the man and his family, he clearly was not involved in what was going on, but I did get a chance to thank him for teaching me about his religious movement and tell him how much I learned from him. That was something he clearly was able to understand, and with a smile, he thanked me again for seeing him. And that was our final goodbye, although I asked the family to let me how he acclimatized to his new milieu.

Even though his belief system was alien from mine and those of most of the people I care for, the important thing for me was how much emotional, intellectual and spiritual support it provided for him. Without getting into the complexities of the implications of belief systems and religion, I want to emphasize that for many of the older people I see clinically, having a belief-system – usually with one of the recognized religions – seems to matter a great deal in how they deal with the challenges of what are often daunting illnesses.

Much of my practice is with ambulatory geriatrics, where the majority of patients come to me with multiple medical problems in which cognitive impairment plays a major role. The other part of my clinical activity is on the palliative care unit at Baycrest, where patients are at various stages of the end of life process with, for example, malignancy, late end-stage heart failure and dementia.

For many, it becomes clear after admission how much they seek some religious or spiritual support to help them through this very difficult part of life. We have the assistance of religious leaders, consultants from virtually all the religions in the city including, as expected, rabbinical support with which we are fortunately well-endowed. A good part of our support comes through the work of chaplains who, whatever their own belief associations, are able to minister in a general spiritual way to anyone who wishes to participate.

The important principle is that for many, and for seniors in particular, belief in a deity matters – especially during the crises of life and at the end – and it may provide a meaning and important succour that nothing else can match. We must understand this in order to provide the best of care in all domains. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
93 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-8457

Happy 85th birthday to Rosa Finestone – a very special mother, mother-in-law and safta who is loved and cherished on this day and always.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Andrea Natalie, daughter of Arlene & Nelson Levine to Stuart Mark, son of Lynda & Max Fried.

Maxine & Marvin Rosenblatt, Joyce & David Bergman announce the engagement of their children Stefanie & Jeffrey. Grandparents Mira, Harvey and Cookie share the joy.

Happy 50th anniversary to Benny & Marsha Domb. With all our love, Jude, Alan, Gil, Melissa, Marisa, Shoshana, Mordechai, Maya, Goldie and Shlomy. Mazel tov!

Happy fourth birthday Orrie Rothman seen at right with brother Aedden, age 6. Love and kisses from all the family and friends.

Welcoming Zoë Hava Zichermann-Haber, Feb. 14. She joins her brothers, Zach and Benny. Thrilled parents, Sandra & Kevin. Mazel tov to the Zichermann and Haber families!

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Sari Drazin, Rabbi Glenn Black, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Mindy Zobin, Devorah Abenhaim, Rochel Schecter and Lauren Suissa

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks addressing 250 teens

Mindy Zobin and Marg Polowin

Engaging Montreal youth

NCSY Montreal held an exclusive breakfast featuring Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, religious leader, philosopher, bestselling author and moral voice for our time. After meeting with an intimate group of NCSY supporters, Rabbi Sacks spoke on the topic of unity and diversity within our community to an audience of close to 250 teens from four Jewish high schools. ■

– *The Socialite*

Lauren and Alvin Suissa

Meir Israel and Rabbi Glenn Black

Peter and Maria Veres

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks speaks with longtime NCSY supporters Leibel and Gayle Wolfe

Sari and Shlomo Drazin

Motti Basch, Dovid Tzvi and Rochel Schecter

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Louis Drazin

VICKY SHIZGAL PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

Give a Gift Card for Special Occasions
Kosher Dining • Spa • Hotel • Events
KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MAY 5 - MAY 12

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, May 5

RETHINKING ISRAEL & PALESTINE
Yossi Alpher, former Mossad analyst, discusses "No end of conflict: rethinking Israel and Palestine," 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam. Co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

YOM HASHOAH
Temple Har Zion holds a Yom Hashoah service, 7 p.m.

YIDDISH VINKL
Shirley Kumove discusses "Growing up in two languages: a memoir," noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20, includes lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

BOOK LAUNCH
Nora Gold launches her new novel, *The Dead Man*, 6-8:30 p.m., Women's Art Association of Canada, 23 Prince Arthur Ave.

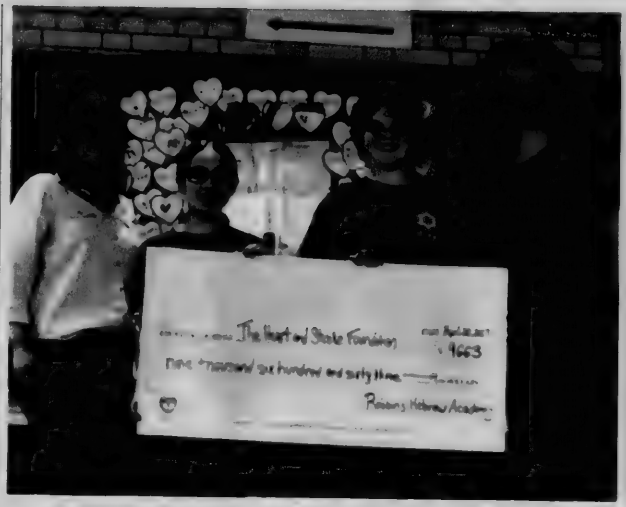
Sunday, May 8

PROTECTING THE CHILDREN
Dr. David Pelcovitz discusses "Protecting children: the role of the educator and the community," 10 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation.

THE STORY OF HATIKVAH
Pianist **Astrith Baltsan** presents a multimedia program "The unbelievable story of *Hatikvah*," 7:30 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $20/$25. 416-635-5340, ext. 308.

BIBLE STUDY
Prof. Carl Ehrlich discusses "From Joshua to the Babylonian exile," 7:30 p.m., Congregation Darchei Noam.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of May 19 is May 9. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**



Jump Rope for Heart

Robbins Hebrew Academy students participated in Jump Rope for Heart, which encourages kids to get active by skipping rope while collecting pledges for heart disease and stroke research. Last month, Melanie Spensieri, left, from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, accepted a cheque for $9,663 from RHA students Ellie and Leo with RHA teacher Marla Kizner.

Monday, May 9

TEMPLE EMANU-EL SERIES
Anne Urbancic discusses "Eating to live," in Temple Emanu-El's spring lecture series, 2 p.m. $15. 416-449-3880.

LET'S PLAY BALL
Sportscaster **Dan Shulman** is the guest speaker at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Dinner at 7 p.m.; dialogue at 8 p.m. $50/$60. RSVP 416-221-3433.

AUTHOR TALKS
Gail Benick discusses her novel *The Girl Who Was Born That Way*, Temple Sinai, 8 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Na'amat Toronto 416-636-5425.

GETT
Beth Tzedec Congregation shows the film, *Gett: The Trial of Vivian Amsalem*, 10:30 a.m. **Gillian Helfield** reviews the film following the screening. $25. RSVP 416-781-3511.

Tuesday, May 10

LUNCH AND LEARN
TVO host **Steve Paikin** discusses "Politics from a Canadian perspective." Bring your lunch at noon, program starts at 12:30 p.m. Temple Har Zion $3/$6.

ISRAEL STAMP CLUB
Israel Stamp Club meets at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes Dr., 7 p.m. Topic, "Israel Memorial Day and Yom Ha'atzmaut on stamps." 416-226-2050.

LUNCH AND LEARN
Rose Reisman discusses "Rush hour meals," 12:10 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

SEPHARDI CONTRIBUTIONS
Sarah Carlen reviews the book *The Sephardi Journey: Sephardi Contributions Throughout History*, 7:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue. RSVP 416-633-5500.

ADATH ISRAEL BOOK CLUB
Cynthia Good reviews *Second Person Singular* by **Sayed Kashua**, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $10/$15. **Beverley** 416-499-6920.

ISRAELI BIRDING EXPERT
Israeli birding expert and environmentalist **Dan Alon** speaks at 7 p.m., Prosserman JCC, room 211. Presented by Canadian Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Yom Hazikaron will be acknowledged at the event. RSVP 647-346-0619 or spnicanada@gmail.com

YIDDISH WOMEN WRITERS
Frieda Forman discusses the lives and works of Yiddish women writers, May 10-June 7, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. W., room 2-225. $50 for the 5 sessions. For more information, email frieda.forman@utoronto.ca

Wednesday, May 11

JEWISH HISTORY
Hana Werner discusses "Saul, David and Samuel: the triangle of power, struggle and strife," 1:30 p.m., dessert. Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10. RSVP 416-781-3511.

LUNCH AND LEARN
Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich discusses "A Zionism for tomorrow," Beth Sholom Synagogue, noon. $18. RSVP 416-783-6103.

BUSINESS ETHICS FROM BOOKS
Lunch and learn series on "Business ethics from the bookshelf." Today, **Rabbi Jonathan Ziring** discusses *The Necklace*, 12:30 p.m., Zeifmans LLP, 201 Bridgeland Ave. RSVP 416-256-4002, ext. 398.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Thursday, May 12

MAIMONIDES

Harvey Spiegel discusses "Maimonides: has the world changed in the last 1,000 years?" 11 a.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $10/$15. 416-635-5340, ext. 308.

BOOK REVIEW

Janna Nadler reviews *Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932*, by **Francine Prose.** Temple Emanu-El, dessert at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m. $10.

THE YATZKANS

Friends of Yiddish and Toronto Jewish Film Festival show the film *The Yatzkans*, 6 p.m., Cineplex Empress Walk Theatre, 5095 Yonge St. www.tjff.com.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

◗ Circle of Care, in partnership with Jewish Family and Child, is looking for volunteers to join the hospice program team. Volunteers receive a 30-hour training program that starts May 16. Call **Arnold,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or email afoss@circleofcare.com

◗ Bernard Betel Centre needs volunteers to deliver meals to seniors or visit with seniors in their homes. Call **Cheryl Besner** 416-225-2112 ext. 127.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

◗ Mind Body Connection for Women: A multi-session group for women to learn mindfulness and meditation. Starts May 5, at 7:30 p.m., Lebovic Community Campus, 9600 Bathurst St.

◗ Life skills for today's women: a 6-session wellness group for women. Starts May 11 at 1 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.

◗ The challenge of anger for women: A 6-session group for women to learn to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way. Starts May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre; May 12, 7 p.m. at 35 Madison Ave.

◗ Living with teens: A 6-session group for parents of adolescents. Starts May 11, 7:30 p.m., Lipa Green Centre.

◗ Effective parenting: A 4-session group for parents of children aged 2 to 10. Starts May 12, 1 p.m. at Lebovic JCC; May 17 at 7 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, Tuesdays to June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; Yom Ha'atzmaut concert with **Yitzhak Argaman,** May 12, 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.

◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. May 10, **Myrna Neuringer Levy** discusses "Shattered stones, scattered seeds," 10 a.m.; May 12, wellness lecture on "Civic dialogue," 1:30 p.m.; May 15, concert with Silverthorn Symphonic Winds, 1:30 p.m.

◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama May 11; Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; barber/hairdresser May 12, 10 a.m.

◗ **Lunch and Learn.** The Well Group perform at a seniors' lunch and learn program, May 10, noon, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. 416-633-5100.

◗ **Jukebox Jammers,** formerly the Entertainers of the Wagman Centre, are a group of seniors who love to entertain other seniors. For bookings, call **Judith Ross,** 416-733-0580 or rossjudith@rogers.com

◗ **WEL Group (Women Enjoying Life)** meets monthly at Earl Bales Community Centre. Next event, June 8 is a day trip in Toronto. **Shirley** 416-661-4471 or **Lorraine** 416-638-6828.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.

◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Degas and his dancers," May 10 at 1 p.m.

◗ Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," Wednesdays to May 25, 1 p.m.

◗ Mini memoir/legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 19, 1 p.m.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 25, 10:30 a.m.

◗ Examining contemporary Jewish stand-up comedy with **Rosalin Krieger,** June 4-28, 1 p.m.

◗ Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott,** "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.

◗ Children's outdoor art classes start June 22.

◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

◗ *The InterLove Project*, photos by **Colin Boyd Shafter,** is on display until May 25.

◗ Comic adaptations of Jewish stories, a panel discussion with **Steven Bergson, Liat Shalom, Ellis Rosen, David G. Klein** May 15, 7 p.m.

◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Against the odds: celebrating female artists," May 9 and 16, 1:30 p.m.

◗ ReelAbilities Film Festival shows *Deaf Jam*, May 16, 7 p.m. and *Anita*, May 19 at 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre. Tickets at 416-599-8433.

◗ Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

◗ Klezmer ensemble conducted by **Eric Stein,** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.

◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.

◗ Red Cross babysitting course for ages 11 and up, May 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

◗ Mother and baby ballet barre, May 11- June 15, 11:30 a.m.

◗ Yom Hashoah commemoration May 5, 11 a.m.; Yom Hazikaron commemoration, May 11, 11 a.m.

◗ Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 26, 1 p.m.

◗ Outdoor soccer with Jay, parent-and-tot and drop-off classes start May 24.

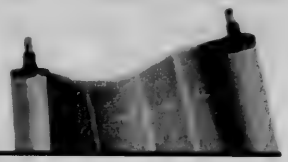
◗ Workshop to paint and draw on clay, May 19 and 26, 1 p.m.; Saggar firing workshop, June 2 and 9 at 1 p.m.

◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 26, 7-9 p.m. ■

www.cjnews.com

Parshah

Acharei Mot | Leviticus 16:1-18:30



Yacov Fruchter wonders how to make theological sense of the Holocaust
Rabbi Shalom Spira considers an arcane law concerning separate seating at shul
Rachael Turkienicz explains why the mundane aspects of life are important in Judaism

Yacov Fruchter

After the death of Aaron's eldest sons as they were consumed by God's fire, Acharei Mot describes how to purify and maintain the sanctity of the Sanctuary in the Mishkan. This was no small task for Aaron and no insignificant commandment. Aaron and future generations of high priests are charged with maintaining the sanctity of the place where his sons died.

Even after experiencing Sinai, and perhaps especially because God must have seemed so close to him then, could anyone question Aaron if he turned to Moses and said, "Sorry brother – I'm out! Find a new kohen gadol." Instead, Aaron took his brief moment to mourn his sons, and then went on helping his brother lead the Children of Israel.

Rabbi Irving Greenberg explains in his book *The Jewish Way* that following the Holocaust, no survivor and no Jew could be blamed for turning away from a religious life and even from God entirely. He argues that one way of making theological sense of the Holocaust is that God broke His side of the Covenant with the Jewish People and from that point on, the Covenant was a voluntary one.

He notes that, remarkably, most did not turn away from Judaism, but took on more power in the partnership between God and the Jewish People. We were no longer going to wait for God to act on our behalf, and neither would we naively rely on our governments.

Since the Holocaust, Jews in the Diaspora have worked to create a safer and more stable environment by building well-organized Jewish communities and institutions, establishing coalitions with others and working to defend the rights of all people.

Ultimately, the greatest demonstration of Jewish self-determination was the establishment of the State of Israel. Like Aaron, at a moment of great pain, the Jews chose to keep the flame of the Jewish People alive by establishing a spiritual centre for their people. ■

Yacov Fruchter is director of community building and spiritual engagement at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shalom Spira

"And in their statutes you shall not walk" (Leviticus 18:3). Rambam, *Hilchot Avodat Kochavim*, 11:1, elucidates this as a prohibition against Jews building an assembly hall that culturally emulates Noahide practice. Accordingly, Rabbi Yosef Zvi Dushinsky, Teshuvot Maharitz Dushinsky, 1:9, concludes that Leviticus, 18:3 represents a mitzvah for separate synagogue seating.

Rabbi Yitzchak Zilberstein in Chashukei Chemed al Mesechet Sukkah (52a), raises a tangential hypothetical question. Occasionally, Jews must flee to an air raid shelter where no partition is available. Can they nevertheless recite Psalms in communal unison?

Rabbi Zilberstein answers affirmatively based on Mordechai to Shabbat, no. 311, who posits an exception to the rabbinic Sabbath interdiction against constructing a mechitzah ha-materet (a temporary partition that orchestrates a legal permission, such as the third wall of a sukkah). Mordechai rules that one may interpose a curtain between ladies and gentlemen during a Sabbath lecture. Rabbi Zilberstein infers that a synagogue partition is a fungible requirement, so long as there is an empty spatial buffer.

However, others understand Mordechai quite differently. Rabbi Yehudah Herzl Henkin, Teshuvot Bnei Vanim, 1:1, interprets Mordechai to refer specifically to a lecture, where the partition represents an elective manifestation of piety, but not to communal prayer. Alternatively, Rabbi Eliezer Yehudah Waldenberg, Teshuvot Tzitz Eliezer, 7:8, concedes that Mordechai also addresses communal prayer, but claims that the synagogue partition exceeds the height of a sukkah wall, and so is not designated a mechitzah ha-materet, despite its obligatory nature.

According to either of the latter two stringent readings, the shelter-bound Jews in question must pray individually rather than communally. However whether or not this interpretation would also affect the recitation of Psalms is a question that requires further investigation. ■

Rabbi Spira is a research assistant at the McGill AIDS Centre in Montreal.

Rachael Turkienicz

This week's Torah reading, Acharei Mot, boggles our minds with nuances of life and death, sin and atonement and trying to understand the goat that is spared and the goat that turns into what we know as the scapegoat. It is important that the sacrificial rituals described are performed to the letter of the law. Shpritz only so many drops of blood, nothing more, and have the fat vapourize at precisely the right time. Just when you're about to throw your hands up in surrender, and just when the concepts and instructions have you ready to walk away, the Torah says two words that changes our view on everything: *v'chai bahem* – you shall live by them.

When referring to the commandments, the Torah concludes by saying "and you shall live by them" to which the Talmud adds, "and not die by them." We are to use all these commandments, all these details and nuances to enhance our lives and not diminish them. We are to suspend all but three of the commandments to secure life. We must never murder, worship other gods or commit a sexual crime. Only those three must be preserved in life and death situations.

In fact, by wording it the way the Torah does, living life is now seen as one of the commandments itself. We are to live life as a commandment. Sometimes it is an act of loving kindness, sometimes it is a ritual, while other times it is routine. Our life is a celebration of spirituality and God, yet it is also mundane and banal. It is the reflection of every commandment we learn and every commandment that confounds us.

In this week's portion, we are commanded to live our lives, in the nuance of its simplicity and the glory of its sophistication. ■

Rachael Turkienicz is executive director of Rachael's Centre in Toronto, rachaelscentre.org.

CLASSIFIED
416-391-1836

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC. + BROKERAGE

Village	416 488 2875	• Central	416 785 1900
Bayview	416 226 1987	• Yorkville	416 975 5588
Signature	416 929 4343	• Downtown	416 363 3473
Yonge St	905 709 1800	• Vaughan	905 695 6495

Muskoka 1 855 665 1200

CENTRAL PROPERTY

JUST SOLD! 321 HIDDEN TRAIL.
4+2 Bedroom masterpece D[illegible]me in the exclusive Ridgegate enclave of North York. 450k [illegible]sking! Call for more information Daniel Mistein! 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

1002-300 EGLINTON AVE E! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
$1,350/Mo! Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Spectacular Updated 1Br 18th South Facing Ste[illegible] Balcony + Panoramic Views! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2004-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$2,500/Mo! Spectacular 2Br, 2Bth North/East Corner Suite W/Panoramic Views! Fab [illegible] Entertaining! Move Right In! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

403-34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
$1,450/Mo! Spectacular Reno'd 2Br 2Bth West Facing Suite W/ Large Balcony + Panoramic [illegible] Views! This Won't Last! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
Seldom Available! Your Choice Of Several Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,375-$1,450 Plus Parking+Utilities! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Just Completed! Sensational Condo Style Complex W/Fab Amenities! 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,870! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

368 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,325-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

ESSIE SHER
416 464 5261

Bayview Sheppard
$419,000.00
Stunning Reno Condo 2 bdr+ 1 wr low rise building Fantastic open conc. kit. S/S app. Quarts counters . High end flooring. Stylish washroom, Storage Superb gardens + pool +parking A1 location

[illegible]
416 739 7200

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry. indoor plg., immed. 905-881-8360

Jerusalem Apartments for Sale!!! New, boutique bld. w/3 lrge apts. on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Jerusalem. Includes garden apt., 2-level, massive penthouse with private roof & 360 stunning view. High ceilings, ultra-luxe specs and finishes. For Sale By Owner, No Agents. +972.523.477.428 andrewNY613@gmail.com

WANTED! Apt. building or plaza (3 - 50 apts.) private buyer, no commission. Carlos@416-990-4412

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9844

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

SeeJN | Art heroine

Lilian Broca stands with two of the mosaics that will be featured at her latest exhibit, *Heroine of a Thousand Pieces: the Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca* which opens at the JD Carrier Art Gallery, 901 Lawrence Ave. W., in Toronto on May 5 and runs until July 4.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

Beautiful 100% pure virgin wool Indo-Oriental rug 9" x 12' manufactured by the Obeetee Private Ltd of India, ivory white w/center & edges beige & blue flowers design. $850.00. For more information and/or pics call or text: (647) 262-5410

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old, refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. Roman - 416-716-9084

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglung, Custom, reas. 416-930-6487.

Mercantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683. BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! Insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1361.

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant

Online Catering
www.cafesheli.com

7700 Bathurst St, Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905.762.0640
www.cafesheli.com

Rabbi Sally Priesand: 'I just wanted to be a rabbi'

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, North America's first female rabbi, who was ordained in 1972 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, will be the scholar in residence at Temple Kol Ami on May 6-7.

Rabbi Priesand, who served as spiritual leader of the Monmouth Reform Temple in New Jersey from 1981 until her retirement in 2006, plans to address the Thornhill, Ont., congregation three times. The lectures are titled "Reflections on My Life as a Rabbi," "Why I Am a Reform Jew," and "Remembering Rabbi Regina Jonas," the first female rabbi who was ordained in Germany in 1935 before dying in the Holocaust.

Rabbi Priesand spoke to *The CJN* in advance of her visit about pursuing her dream and how Jewish feminism has evolved.

Having paved the way for hundreds of other women who have since followed in your footsteps, in the 44 years since you were ordained, how have things evolved for women who dream of becoming Jewish leaders?

Things have definitely evolved. I'll talk about some of the things we've learned and how Jewish feminism has impacted the Jewish community. I'm happy to say that in the Reform movement, there are more than 700 female rabbis, and I would say, probably, in all of Judaism, all the movements, there are well over 1,000 throughout the world.

When I was in rabbinical school, there were 35 men in my class and me. I had no mentors per se, and I had no female mentors, so I had no role models, and that has changed drastically today. I think that's very positive.

Did you ever imagine at that time, having faced the challenges of being the only woman seeking ordination, that you'd see the day when Reform female rabbis barely raise an eyebrow anymore?

Well, I guess the honest answer is no. I didn't become a rabbi because I was trying to champion women's rights or be a pioneer or any of those things. I just wanted to be a rabbi. And I wanted to be a congregational rabbi, which I spent my whole career doing, but I'm a very lucky person, because my dream got to be fulfilled. However, I will say that for many years, I was quite conscious of the fact that people judged the idea of women in the rabbinate by me. So many of the decisions I made in my life, I made for what was best for women in the rabbinate, not necessarily for what was best for me. I did feel that responsibility. I think it comes with being the first, and I have always tried, after opening the door, to keep the door open for others to follow me.

Is the current controversy with Orthodox female rabbis and the Rabbinical Council of America's resolutions against them similar to what you faced more than four decades ago?

In coming to know Rabba Sara Hurwitz, [the first female modern Orthodox rabba, ordained in 2009,] who is really at the centre of all of that, I realize that much of what she is going through, I went through. I think one of the big differences today is that she has a lot of supporters from every movement of Judaism, and I really feel it is incumbent upon us, in particular Jewish women, to support her in her efforts. And I very much admire her and all she has accomplished. I'm pleased she is the dean of Yeshivat Maharat, and I was very honoured and pleased to attend their first graduation ceremony a few years ago. Every year since then, they have ordained three or four or five women in the modern Orthodox tradition, and what is so exciting about it is they all have jobs in the modern Orthodox tradition. Some of them are in Canada, I believe. I think that's very positive.

Rabbi Sally Priesand

When it comes to feminism, there has to be two kinds of people. There have to be the kind of people who are willing to be out there – and right now I'm thinking about the early days of feminism – who are out there protesting and speaking out, etc., but then there also has to be women who are willing to do whatever it is they are protesting about.

So in my role, I've always considered myself to be a feminist, which means to me simply that every person has the right to become all that he or she is capable of becoming. In the beginning, there are probably quotes from me, way back when, that didn't necessarily reflect that I was a feminist, but with that definition, I've always been a feminist. I focused my energy and attention on becoming a rabbi, not speaking about it. You need to have both.

What are your thoughts on work done by the Women of the Wall to force a recent decision by the Israeli cabinet to designate a prayer section at the Western Wall for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism, and for women who choose to pray with tfillin, prayer shawls and the Torah?

I have two problems with the decision. First, I do not consider separate to be equal, and secondly, I'm not convinced that they are actually going to move forward with the space. In the separate-but-equal part, I worry a little that our Orthodox sisters may feel abandoned by us, and secondly, I'll believe it when the government does what it says. I'll believe it when I see it.

Do you have a message for women who wish to pursue ordination, or to those who feel threatened by the idea of women taking on Jewish leadership roles?

Try it. You'll like it.

I spent the year before I was ordained and the year after travelling the country, speaking in various locations in order for people to see me – to see that I was human and that it really wasn't that crazy. From my own personal experience, I have found that once people experience it, they are quite willing to accept it.

I suspect that some people are looking for a father figure, I guess. Today, I don't honestly know, because women are making gains in every other area. I'm watching [U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful] Hillary Clinton, and I very much support her, but I see a lot of things that happen to her that would never happen if she were a man. I can empathize with her so much. We just have to keep trying to break through the barriers, and we will continue to make progress. ■

This interview was edited and condensed for style and clarity.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT?

Were you happy with the amount of income tax you paid for last year?

There is no limit to the amount of income tax that the government will accept from you.
Higher tax bracket payers will pay even more next year!

However, there are ways to pay less tax, *legally*, of course!

We can show you how to use dividend income or capital gains, which are taxed at a lower rate than interest income, or Return of Capital products, which incur little or no tax, to help you reduce the amount of tax you must pay.

Financial Planning is not a Do-It-Yourself Project!

Getting it right can increase your net worth by saving taxes and increasing the returns on your investment. We can also provide you with a Tax Free Saving Account (TFSA).

For a free consultation with no obligation, call (416) 221-0060

MUTUAL FUNDS PROVIDED BY GOLDSTEIN FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INC

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Reparations – from the shtetls to urban America

Backstory

DAVID WEINFELD

My father and I recognized the house immediately. We had seen it many times before in that black-and-white photograph, enlarged and framed, hanging in our house in Montreal. In that picture, my grandfather, Arnold Weinfeld, stood with his sister Gisella and his parents, Moshe and Brauna, by the front steps. It was the same spot where my father and I stood now.

That was in 2011. We went to Budaniv, Ukraine – formerly Budzanov, Poland – in search of memories and ghosts. Instead we found a home filled with people. Two Ukrainian families lived in the house where my grandfather grew up. I don't know how they got there. The Weinfelds never sold that house. The children made it out of eastern Europe; Gisella and her brother Abraham before the war, my grandfather Arnold after. Moshe and Brauna were not so lucky.

Nazis or their collaborators murdered all eight of my great-grandparents. My four grandparents were Holocaust survivors, but my upbringing was pleasant. I lived in a comfortable middle-class home filled with books, in a loving family with two parents with doctorates and two caring sisters. I went to good schools, took vacations to Florida and Israel, played street hockey in a safe neighbourhood, and benefited from the relatively robust Canadian welfare state.

But when I stood in front of that house in Budaniv, I felt the weight of history. "Doesn't the house belong to us? Aren't we, the descendants of Moshe and Brauna Weinfeld, somehow entitled to it? Did our slaughtered ancestors not deserve some measure of justice?" I asked my father.

We quickly realized that returning the house to our possession would not accomplish very much. We were not going to summer in western Ukraine, in a town with no running water. Nor did we want to displace the current occupants without compensation. Apparently, the present owner was trying to sell it, and only half-jokingly we discussed buying the house and converting it into some sort of shtetl museum. We still might do that.

Before encountering the house, I didn't think much about reparations. My only other major association with the concept was the summer of 2001, when I visited Berlin with a Jewish friend. We entered a chocolate shop, where there was a table with free samples. We each took one. Then I thought, "They owe me more than one!" I took as many as I could fit in my fists and shoved them into my bag. Reparations!

I thought about this again as the debate over reparations for African-American victims of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and other forms of racial discrimination returned to the media. Reparations in the form of targeted payments to individuals and communities will not by themselves solve the problems of black America. Massive social democratic reform, expansion of the welfare state, increased gun control, drug legalization, and other universal political, legal, and economic measures will be required to accelerate the healing process. Nonetheless, an official reparations program can and will have tremendous psychological value for the African-American community.

Jews who lived far from the horrors of the Holocaust, or far after, benefited psychologically from reparations payments made to their co-religionists. Reparations reinforced the German admission of guilt. They brought a small degree of closure to a wound that would never entirely heal. For future generations, the Holocaust became something we would never forget, but also something we would not let haunt us. The official recognition of our suffering will never make up for the individual lives lost and scarred, but it has eased our collective pain. That sentiment holds true from the graveyards of eastern Europe to the battered ghettos of urban America.

In Budaniv, there is an old Jewish cemetery, with most of the tombstones knocked down, moss growing over them. You can still make out some of the Hebrew writing, including a common epitaph, the opening line to the Book of Job, which described the titular character as "a man perfect and upright." Job loses his family and suffers greatly, only to be blessed with a new family in the end.

It does not make up for the earlier tragedy. It is partial justice, the only kind available in an imperfect world. ■

David Weinfeld teaches American studies at the University of Toronto.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Sabbah, Haim	March 16, 2016	Private
Feldman, Rina	April 17, 2016	Private
Pearlstein, Shirley Rose	April 19, 2016	Private
Kertesz, Kathleen	April 20, 2016	777 Steeles Ave W
Vodovozenko, Lilia	April 21, 2016	Private
Wilson, Bonnie	April 23, 2016	100 Yorkgate Blvd
Zacks, Stephen Michael	April 23, 2016	34 Fraser St
Verrall, Lesley	April 25, 2016	14 Blairville Rd
Abramovitz, Lorraine	April 25, 2016	Private

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Michael Raine	Apr 16/16	1500 Steeles Avenue, West
Phil Wyan / Weinzweig	Apr 18/16	3500 Bathurst Street
Thelma Roy	Apr 18/16	2065 Leanne Blvd.
Felipe Slinin	Apr 19/16	4200 Bathurst Street
Shirley Hazzof	Apr 20/16	2 Neptune Drive
Betty Rosen	Apr 21/16	131 Torredale Avenue
Arnie Winer	Apr 20/16	110 Promenade Circle
Marvin Zarnett	Apr 21/16	2121 Bathurst Street
Olga "Fanni" Bauman	Apr 20/16	340 Heath Street West
Michael Cooper	Apr 18/16	4088 Bayview Avenue

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE please call or email at least 5 DAYS prior to the date of the unveiling.
416-922-3605
or email

WHY BE JEWISH?

Edgar Bronfman's clarion call to a generation of secular, disaffected and unaffiliated Jews.

"This book is Edgar Bronfman's parting gift to his people—his legendary devotion in a new form. As he was with his deeds, so he is with his words: a prince of Jewish commitment." —LEON WIESELTIER

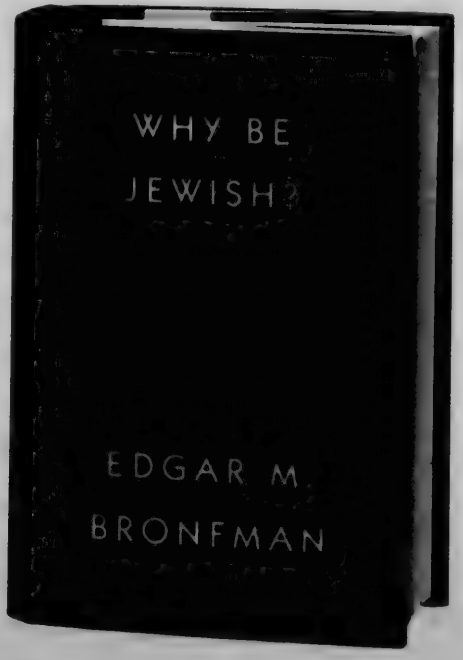
"I was blown away by the beauty of this book."
—BRUCE FEILER, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *WALKING THE BIBLE* AND *ABRAHAM*

"Edgar Bronfman...rightly points out that Judaism can be a powerful way to access the feeling of wonder about the universe, even for the most secular of us." —A. J. JACOBS

Throughout WHY BE JEWISH?, Edgar states that we must be the change we want to see in the world. And we cannot use guilt, threats, or even prayer to keep Judaism alive. We must make the case for why Judaism is worth preserving in our own time, in our own lives.

WHY BE JEWISH? is Edgar's strongest and most beautiful articulation of what it means to pursue this work. Throughout its pages, he pushes us to help repair our troubled world, armed with the strength, wisdom, and optimism of our Jewish tradition. Edgar Bronfman's impact on the Jewish world is beyond belief, and I am confident his message will reverberate for generations to come.

—Angela Warnick Buchdahl
from the foreword



Available in hardcover and ebook wherever books are sold

TwelveBooks.com
An imprint of Grand Central publishing

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MAY 12, 2016 • IYAR 4, 5776

$2.00 • 56 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
aeroplan

Yom Ha'atzmaut

The story of Israel's 68th year in pictures

PAGES 8, 9, 26, 27

PLUS: How to keep our ties with Israel strong: Rabbi2Rabbi **PAGE 4**

RABBI CHAIM STRAUCHLER: The four sons of Yom Ha'atzmaut **PAGE 7**

GIL TROY: Honour Israel by calling out irrational hatred **PAGE 10**

BERNIE FARBER: 'We'll see you soon, Israel. Lots of love' **PAGE 11**

MICHAEL DIAMOND: We need passion, not stagnation **PAGE 47**

KEDOSHIM

CANDLELIGHTING, HAVDALAH TIMES

Halifax	8:15 p.m.	9:27 p.m.
Montreal	7:58 p.m.	9:11 p.m.
Ottawa	8:06 p.m.	9:19 p.m.
Toronto	8:16 p.m.	9:26 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:47 p.m.	10:08 p.m.
Calgary	9:00 p.m.	10:23 p.m.
Vancouver	8:29 p.m.	9:48 p.m.

6 27843 39403 7

Mobilizing for Fort McMurray

Jewish organizations, IsraAid rush to help evacuees amid a ravaging wildfire. **PAGE 12**

Holding Iran to account in Ottawa

Tories urge governing Liberals to reconsider normalizing relations with Islamic Republic. **PAGE 15**

Canadian K-tel founder dies, and Little Steven tells off boycotters

But wait... there's no more...

Philip Kives, a Canadian marketing prodigy whose firm K-tel International pioneered the business of "as-seen-on-TV" infomercials, died April 27 in Winnipeg at age 87. The son of eastern European immigrants who settled in a Jewish agricultural colony in Saskatchewan, Kives launched what became K-tel in 1962. For decades, it saturated North American airwaves with ads for gadgets such as the Veg-O-Matic, the Miracle Brush, and the Bonsai Blade. K-tel also recorded and sold compilation music albums such as *25 Polka Greats* and the *Hooked on Classics* series, which featured disco versions of Mozart, Beethoven and Bach. K-Tel went bankrupt in 1984, but a successor company continues to license and sell its music library.

Springsteen guitarist flays BDSers

Guitarist Steven Van Zandt of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band didn't mince

Steven Van Zandt

words last week in a series of tweets in which he called Israel boycotters "politically ignorant obnoxious idiots" and urged one to "go f— yourself." Springsteen and his band have come under fire from supporters of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement amid rumours they'll play Tel Aviv this summer. The Boss and other band members have been assailed before on Twitter, but Van Zandt's May 2 row with critics grew out of an exchange with a fan who was upset the band had cancelled a show in North Carolina to boycott the state's new anti-transgender bathroom law. That led another fan to wonder why the band won't boycott Israel as well.

Leave me alone, God!

An Israeli man petitioned the Haifa Magistrate's Court last week for a restraining order against God, claiming the Almighty has been particularly unkind to him. The resident of the northern port city represented himself in court. God apparently chose not to attend the proceedings, though it's possible the Omnipresent was indeed there and chose to stay silent. The man argued that God had shown a negative attitude toward him over a three-year period. Judge Ahsan Canaan called the request ludicrous and said the applicant needed psychiatric help. ■

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 31	Parshah 43
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 40	Q&A 46
Cover Story 8	International 28	Social Scene 42	Backstory 47

Gematria

27%

Some 27 per cent of U.S. millennials say they're more sympathetic to the Palestinians than Israel, a new Pew poll says. In 2006, the figure was nine per cent. Those favouring Israel has held steady at about 43 per cent.

2

The number of recent hidden videos showing a chassidic man abusing boys inside a Satmar yeshiva in Kiryas Joel, N.Y.

Quotable

There's no map telling you how to give money in a crisis, so we need to figure out who to work with.

— Va'ahavta's Avrum Rosensweig on raising money for Fort McMurray. See p. 12.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Mark Mietkiewicz looks at lesser-known symbols of Israel.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists in a no-pressure, non-commissioned sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein
Certified Financial Planner
416-221-0060
Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Certified Member of Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Not a subject for debate

Jonathan Kay engages in intellectual jousting with his mother, Barbara Kay, on an issue that is far too serious to be viewed as a proposition to be argued in some debate society ("Kay vs. Kay," April 21).

The words he uses to contend that Jews who stand in line with the enemies of Israel are not malicious or dangerous do not diminish the anxiety that many of us feel for the future of our children, grandchildren and our brothers and sisters in Israel.

He is either too naive or too wishfully hopeful that the crescendo of the anti-Semitic symphony we are hearing will not lead to the same tragic consequences which have plagued the Jewish People. The fact that Jews are performers in this orchestra betrays a monumental historical amnesia.

Steve Samuel
Toronto

The state of the Jewish family

I enjoyed reading Marilyn Lazar's "Modern seder raises more than four questions," (April 21).

It was a beautifully written piece, except for one thing: her underlying thesis. Is the familial dismemberment plaguing the modern Jewish family, mirroring the faltering footsteps of the non-Jewish world, a light unto that world or a reflection of its failings? Is it something we should "lovingly" embrace or honestly question?

The more we embrace, the less true, I suggest, we are to ourselves and the less demanding we become of ourselves.

When familial disarray is made the new family norm, Jewish decline becomes a self-realizing and self-justifying social phenomenon. Broken families become "blended" families. Disarray equals diversity, conflict pretends to be harmony, and judgment is confused with the judgmental. Self-deception is seductive and self-soothing.

Stefan Braun
Thornhill, Ont.

A warning for parents

Kudos to Lauren Kramer "We owe it to our kids to expose sexual predators," (April 28).

As a high school student, I used to go to Hillel hoping to attract a Jewish boyfriend. I used the library during these visits.

Once the rabbi came into the library, shut the door and asked me to sit beside him. He then proceeded to rub my legs. I was shocked and probably my face showed it. He said," I won't hurt you dear."

Just then laughing voices coming up the stairs became audible. The rabbi opened the door.

My friend wanted me to report it. I did not want to, envisioning having to meet with staff and the rabbi, and I did not want to go through the trouble. I told my friend not to report it. I felt thankful that the rabbi's approach was limited to a touch.

I am writing to warn parents to discuss this possibility with both their sons and their daughters. Just because someone holds an official position in Judaism, or any other religion, is no guarantee they won't be an abuser.

Name withheld on request
Toronto

No haven in Israel

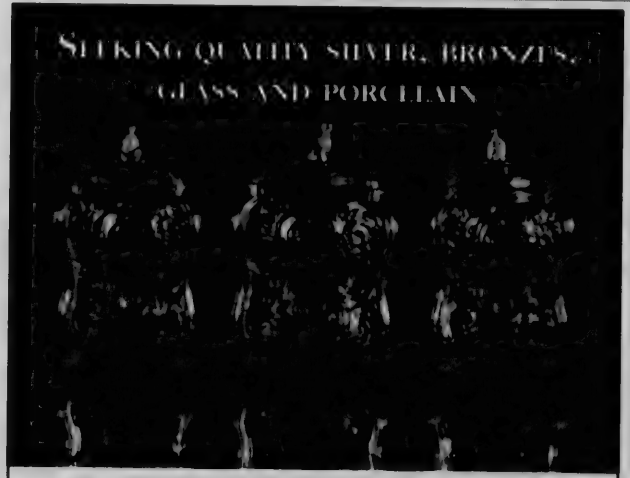
Maya Fennig's op-ed is remarkable for its insight, clarity and understanding of Jewish values and social justice ("Let's remember Israel's refugees from Sudan and Eritrea," April 28).

It's a breath of fresh air amid the foul manoeuverings of the Israeli government against the African asylum seekers in Israel. They are refugee claimants under international law. Their lives are being made intolerable by bigoted politicians fomenting vicious public animosity against them, while Israel incarcerates them as "infiltrators" instead of hearing their cases in a compassionate and timely manner.

Canadian immigration law permits a group of people to sponsor a refugee or refugee family and to assist with their integration into Canadian society. We are proud that Canada has this unique path for refugees to come here. As Jews, we are ashamed that Israel, calling itself a "Jewish state," denies one of the most fundamental characteristics of Judaism and menschlichkeit.

Gilda and Bernard Katz, Sylvia Lustgarten, Harriet and Andrew Lyons, Shlomit Segal and Lev Jaeger, Max Wallace
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL 2016
SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM $[illegible]
(including taxes)
May 12 - June 19, 2016/Sep 1-27, 2016
Valid for specific dates only & subject to availability

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

Summer	Winter Break
July 03-14	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 - Aug. 04	March Break
Aug. 07-18	Mar. 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 - Sep. 01	

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide - a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE - Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

www.peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"He wanted to keep it simple."

My father didn't want an elaborate funeral. He wanted it to be simple and heartfelt. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged the kind of service my father would have appreciated. It was respectful and meaningful for our whole family.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI-2-RABBI

Keeping ties with Israel strong

Rabbis and synagogues have a role to play in connecting their communities with the Jewish state, and increasing the depth of that engagement

RABBI ADAM CUTLER
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, TORONTO

RABBI ADAM SCHEIER
CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM, MONTREAL

Rabbi Scheier: A wise senior rabbi once told me that when hiring a new rabbi, a congregation should ask the candidate if he or she plans, at some point in the future, on making aliyah to Israel. If the candidate does not aspire to live in Israel, the rabbi told me, then the candidate is unfit to lead a congregation of Diaspora Jews. While this position might seem extreme to some, the underlying point resonates with me. Even as our feet are firmly planted in Canada, our hearts yearn for Israel.

This message, however, becomes increasingly challenging to convey as the Jewish community's attitude to Israel becomes more complex. We see that more and more North American Jews are feeling alienated from Israel, and as the community becomes less observant and weaker in Jewish identity, support for Israel inevitably suffers.

I see that as a core problem and a challenge to our communal values. What, if anything, can we do to ensure that identifying with Israel remains a central part of our community's identity?

Rabbi Cutler: It is imperative for all Diaspora synagogues to build relationships between its constituents and the land, people and State of Israel.

I am proud to say that my shul is highly Israel-engaged. For the last eight years, we have participated in the shinshinim program, in which two post-high school Israelis spend a year with our community. Israel is addressed from the bimah and visited on synagogue trips. The more points we can connect with Israel, the more likely the relationship will grow strong.

It's important to note that all of the above is independent of politics. While I hold personal political leanings, and as appropriate I do share them, I don't see my objective as getting others to agree with me. Rather, I think it is the role of the rabbi to engage people with Israel and then increase the depth of that connection.

Rabbi Scheier: I, too, am blessed to serve a congregation with a long history of supporting, visiting and championing Israel. I am proud that our love for Israel is a central part of my community's identity. And I agree with your approach to Israeli politics, in terms of engaging people in the Israel conversation.

However, I return to my original question about maintaining Israel's relevance to the Jewish People, and allow me to ask the question differently. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes about the difference between history and memory. He writes that history is "his story" – the story of another – while memory is "my story." The Jewish approach requires us to engage history as personal memory. For those of us born after the struggles and wonders of the Jewish State's birth, we are challenged to translate Israel's history into shared memory.

How do we turn the identity-forming experiences of a Zionist creation of a state into a memory that will sustain a new generation of Israel supporters?

Rabbi Cutler: With respect, I don't believe you're asking the right question.

Certainly, the conversion of history into memory has enabled the Jewish People to forge deep bonds with one another and with the past. Israel, though, is not something that was. Israel is something that *is*. Our task as community leaders is to connect our communities with Israel and, in so doing, ensure that Israel continues to be.

But self-preservation cannot be an end unto itself. As the homeland of the Jewish People, the State of Israel must intentionally foster a vibrant contemporary Jewish life. It is not only a place for Jews to go to be safe. It is a place where Judaism, in all of its manifestations, should thrive. And despite its difficult neighbourhood, Israel must exemplify Jewish values in the international arena and through its domestic policies.

Connection grows from the heart, not the head. At the same time, as educational institutions, our synagogues must create frameworks wherein all Jews – young and old, hardened Zionists and disenchanted community members – can discuss Israel in a values-based, Jewish-sources-rich, passionate and respectful conversation. Such a framework engages all Jews with Israel. That conversation also builds relationships between our community here and the land, people and state over there. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 19 (2,245)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949
Editorial e-mail: cjninfo@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3505

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation
March 29, 2016

Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

Postmaster: Please return 2981 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

UJA's WALK with Israel

RIOCAN

On Sunday, May 29th, join us - rain or shine - at Coronation Park for UJA's Walk with Israel.

By participating you and your family will become part of the Diaspora's largest single-day Israel solidarity walk.

At a time when Israelis live with the constant fear of attack and the country is under siege by a global BDS movement, more than ever we must stand with the people of Israel and show our support.

Register today at **walkwithisrael.com**

Sunday, May 29

Registration: 9am
Walk Start: 10am
Coronation Park

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival including Kosher BBQ, rides, games and live music

walkwithisrael

@ujawalk

@ujawalk

Thanks to Circle of Care and Dignity Transportation, shuttle buses are available along the Walk Route.

UJA's WALK with Israel

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Sergio **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scholer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus.
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Rubin Zimmerman

From the Archives | Study mission

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

Members of United Jewish Appeal Hamilton are seen in Haifa on a study mission to Israel in November 1962.

SeeJN | Meeting the minister

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs organized a fly-in last week for Jewish social services agencies to meet government representatives in Ottawa, including Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship John McCallum, centre, and Jewish MPs Anthony Housefather and Michael Levitt. Pictured with McCallum, from left, are Mark Zarecki, executive director of Jewish Family Services Ottawa; Al Benarroche, executive director of Jewish Child and Family Service Winnipeg; Janis Roth, executive director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services; Gail Small, CEO at Ometz Montreal; Linda Kislowicz, president and CEO of Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA; and Brian Prousky, executive director of Jewish Family and Child Toronto.

From Yoni's Desk

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, gazing back and looking forward

Israel's 68th year will be remembered first and foremost for the wave of stabbing attacks that terrorized the Jewish state from October 2015 through March of this year.

When the so-called "knife intifadah" began, Israelis were at first unsure how to respond, given that there appeared to be no way of anticipating when or where the next assault might take place. Faced with an unpredictable terror, Israel's security and military establishment initially struggled before developing a working solution to the violence, but it now appears the attacks have been effectively quelled. Once again, Israel's enemies have been thwarted.

But just when the knife attacks ended, a familiar foe returned to the fore, as the Israel Defence Forces uncovered two Hamas-erected tunnels stretching from Gaza into Israel. And while Israeli forces searched for more tunnels last week, Hamas rained mortars across the Gaza border into Israel.

The renewed violence was a stark reminder of the 2014 war that saw Hamas employ a sophisticated network of tunnels to wage attacks inside Israel and launch an unprecedented rocket barrage that forced Israelis into bomb shelters and led to a tragic loss of life on both sides. Most analysts seem to agree Hamas is in no position to start a new round of fighting right now, but there is always the risk that border skirmishes could escalate into something much more dangerous.

The knife attacks and the still-fresh memories of the 2014 war were certainly top-of-mind for Diaspora Jews during the past 12 months, too, but the year also saw a noteworthy evolution in intra-Jewish debate about Israel. Some voices in the Jewish community began to wonder out loud whether Israel could in fact be a home for the Jewish People and a democracy at the same time, and even sought to pressure the Israeli government publicly. This led to questions about the critics' motivations and dedication to the Jewish state. Online conversations devolved into personal attacks, name-calling and vilification.

It's hard to see how any of that benefits the Jewish community, let alone Israel. And it certainly contradicts our people's ethos of refined debate. With that in mind, we mark Yom Ha'atzmaut in this week's *CJN* with two essays on the topic of civil discourse.

Michael Diamond challenges Jewish community leaders "to demonstrate the humility that comes from recognizing that the 'truth' is seldom static, that answers constantly evolve and that we can be the best we can be only if we are open to listen to others" (see page 47). And Rabbi Chaim Strauchler extends the Passover parable of the Four Sons to Yom Ha'atzmaut, arguing that "every generation must… confront the challenges of Jewish nationhood in its day" (see page 7).

As we mark the beginning of a new year in Israel, we hope for its continued success, for peace and understanding, and for the cessation of terror and violence. In the Diaspora, we could also challenge ourselves to be more courteous and open in our conversations during the Jewish state's 69th year. If we can do so, we might be able to look back with more optimism and less trepidation when Yom Ha'atzmaut comes around again. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

The Four Sons of Yom Ha'atzmaut

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler

During Passover, a child shared with me a powerful insight about the "Four Sons." She said that the four sons aren't four different people – rather, all of us can, at times, become each of these children. We all have a bit of the *chacham* (wise), *rasha* (evil), *tam* (simple) and *she'eino yodea l'shol* (unquestioning) within us.

This insight reminded me of the 15th-century Spanish commentator Rabbi Don Isaac Abarbanel, who explained that the *rasha* and *chacham* have the same intellect. The lesson is that the very same tools can be used for good or ill. The *chacham* uses his knowledge to commit himself to tradition, the *rasha* uses his brainpower to flee from our community.

Extending Abarbanel's idea, we can look at the four sons along two axes. There is the axis of positive or negative disposition and the axis of intellectual commitment. The *chacham* has both intellect and goodness. The *rasha* has intellect but no goodness. The *tam* has goodness but no intellect. The *sheino yodea l'shol* lacks both intellect and goodness. This four sons graph can help us understand many problems. Intellect is not enough to solve problems – good motivation is just as important. But while goodness is necessary, it is insufficient. If you want to do great things, you will need talents of the mind and the body.

Oftentimes, we school our children along the axis of intellect and talent. Yet, the world of moral improvement – the distance that separates the *chacham* from the *rasha* – is ignored. The truth is that we must seek not just to raise talented and successful children, we must raise moral and good adults. We must judge our own lives not just by our physical and material accomplishments, but also by our character development and moral virtues. The *rasha* thinks only about what is written in his resume; the *chacham* thinks also about what will be said in his eulogy.

Israelis, young and old, enjoy the fireworks display at a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. If we teach our children to invest their time in Israel, they will come to develop deeper connections to it, writes Rabbi Chaim Strauchler. FLASH 90 PHOTO

While we generally think of the four sons as being specific to Passover, the lesson that each of our children thinks in unique ways is relevant year round. This year, the ever-hot debate about what it means to be pro-Israel in Canada makes speaking about the four sons especially important on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

The four sons graph can help us understand our relationship to the State of Israel. During its early years, we, as North American Jews, could support the state of Israel as a *tam*, rallying behind Israel with the simple faith that the Jewish state was good and its enemies bad. This unflinching and often unsophisticated support united our community. We loved to hear over and over again about the mighty arm of the Israel Defence Forces and its moral perfection.

But now a new child has been born who has heard other stories about Israel. This child is sophisticated and smart, and finds simple arguments about moral perfection off-putting. She asks, "Why should I support a state in which Arabs are second-class citizens, where Ashkenazim hate Sephardim, where the ultra-Orthodox avoid serving the state, and where the rabbinate controls issues of Jewish status?"

She goes to university and joins the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. "Your state is illegitimate," she says to the community from which she was born.

This child looks at what is wrong with the State of Israel, and asks, "What is all of this to you?"

And the reality is: this child is a growing part of our community. Yet, as problematic as this child's statements and opinions may be, at least she is engaged in questioning. She is a part of the Jewish quest for truth.

Meanwhile, this child has a sibling who does not care about the story of Jewish destiny and Israel, at all. She is not interested in visiting Israel or reading about the Jewish state. Questions of Jewish identity and survival are irrelevant. She won't even waste her time to ask the question, "Why should a small country thousands of miles away concern me?"

That leaves one last child: the *chacham*. Who is the *chacham*? She is both smart and committed to Israel, but her commitment is not simplistic. She recognizes that Israel is composed of human beings who make mistakes. She understands that Israel has police officers for a reason – there are criminals in Israel like in any other state. There are criminals on the streets and in business offices, and sometimes even in army uniforms. Yet, she knows that with all its faults Israel is our greatest hope, and that Israel's foundations are built upon principles of nationhood that are as legitimate as those of any other state.

The lesson here is that we cannot love Israel if we do not know Israel. We often speak about the centrality of Jewish education. Now, we must also speak about the importance of Israel education. If we teach our children to invest their time and their resources in Israel, they will come to develop deeper connections to it.

Jewish nationalism began around seder tables in Egypt, thousands of years ago. Every generation must sit at its own seder table and confront the challenges of Jewish nationhood in its day. The Zionism that we received from our parents was simple and wholesome, but the Zionism that we pass on to our children must be sophisticated and noble. ■

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler is the spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

FOREMOST FOR OVER 29 YEARS

6.5%*
OVER LAST 12 MONTHS

TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN FOREMOST MORTGAGE TRUST PLEASE CALL:

EVAN COOPERMAN
evan@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 266

RICKY DOGON
ricky@foremost-financial.com • (416) 488-5300 EXT 269

*This material is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell a security. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Foremost Mortgage Trust (the "Trust") is available only to qualified investors in Ontario. The return represents the net compounded (geometric) return for investors who reinvested their distributions from April 1/15 to March 31/16. Foremost Financial Corporation is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer in Ontario. This information is inherently limited in scope and potential. Qualified investors should read the Trust's offering memorandum carefully prior to investing. Lic. #13342/#11864

FOREMOST
FINANCIAL

Israel's year in pictures

1

2

3

4

5

1. A young woman mourns murdered Israeli couple Naama and Eitam Henkin in October.
2. Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, the Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, lights the Chanukah candles on the large menorah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem Dec. 13.
3. Holocaust survivor Rita Berkowitz, 83 celebrated winning the third annual Holocaust survivors beauty pageant contest in Haifa, Nov. 24.
4. Young women in Jerusalem's Old City wear face masks Sept. 8 to shield themselves from a sandstorm that blanketed Israel for several days.
5. Rescue workers at the scene of an attack at the Central Bus Station in Be'er Sheva, on Oct.18. One Israeli soldier died and many were injured.

COVER PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Paris while attending the UN conference on Nov. 30.
Members of Women of the Wall pray with tfillin, on Feb. 7., after a controversial compromise that allowed women to pray at the extension of the Western Wall.
Young Jewish boys light candles in the shape of a Star of David Oct. 6 at the spot where a Palestinian man killed two Jewish men in a terror attack in Jerusalem.

Helping our clients
focus on what really matters

Allan Newman
H.B.A., LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Greg Newman
B.Comm, LL.B., C.I.M
Director, Wealth Management
Associate Portfolio Manager
and Senior Wealth Advisor

Discretionary Asset Management can be an ideal solution for busy professionals, business owners, retirees, frequent travellers, or those who simply do not wish to deal with the **day to day demands** of portfolio management. Allowing you to take a hands-off approach, this full service program ensures that your financial goals are met with expertise, **convenience and peace of mind**.

www.NewmanGroup.ca

416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod com

The Newman Group

ScotiaMcLeod®

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod. ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI") SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

6. In July, Israelis enjoyed a film screened in Jerusalem's Old City.
7. A 2,000-year-old mikvah was discovered below a living room floor during renovations carried out in a private home in Jerusalem in June.
8 The new Israeli cabinet was sworn in on March 31, 2015.
9. Israeli protesters at the SlutWalk in central Jerusalem, on May 29.
10. Approximately 2,500 Israelis gathered in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square on Nov. 14 to express solidarity with the people of France after a terrorist attack in Paris.
11 Children play in a water fountain on a hot summer day near the Tower of David Jerusalem on Aug. 16.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 26 AND 27

THE BETH CHABAD ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTRE
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 13TH ANNUAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016
TERRACE BANQUET CENTRE - 1680 CREDITSTONE RD.
RECEPTION 6 PM DINNER 7 PM
ENTERTAINMENT • LIVE AUCTION

LOCAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

EDUCATIONAL LEADER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BETH CHABAD ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 905.709.7770
OR EMAIL EYNAT KATZ, EVENT COORDINATOR,
AT EKATZ1818@GMAIL.COM

Let's honour Israel by calling out irrational hatred

Gil Troy

As Israel celebrates its 68th birthday, too many enemies still regret its birth, and desire its death. The fight against Israel all too often transcends rational discussion about historical facts or current events. Israel-bashing has become an industry and an identity.

On campus, Israeli Apartheid Weeks and boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) resolutions pop up regularly and repeatedly, no matter how few students might be interested. A loud minority pushes this anti-Israel crusade fanatically. And despite the anti-Israel movement's many failures on campuses, more and more outsiders speak about "campuses" as being not just anti-Israel, but anti-Semitic.

Modern anti-Zionism is anti-Semitic because of its disproportionate targeting of one country, Israel, the only Jewish state. Modern anti-Zionism is anti-Semitic because its anti-Israel hysteria echoes traditional anti-Jewish hysteria, with extreme accusations about Jewish power, Jewish evil and innocent, Jesus-like Palestinian victims, with their suffering exaggerated and any responsibility Palestinians might have for the conflict excused. And, less abstractly, modern anti-Zionism is anti-Semitic because when campuses erupt with Israeli Apartheid Weeks and BDS fights, the bullying, demonization, and slander often bubbles over into harassment of Jews on campus – and even occasional violence.

It's easy to despair amid this irrational, seemingly unstoppable hatred. But Israel's triumphal story teaches that individuals can change history. Zionism launched a revolution against far more lethal forms of Jew hatred and far more paralyzing forms of Jewish despondency.

To honour this Israel Independence Day, Jews and non-Jews, especially on campus, should stand up and say "enough." At minimum, students, professors and alumni should start signing letters and petitions denouncing the anti-Israel obsession on campus and championing academic freedom.

This year at McGill University, anti-Israel boycott forces launched a third attempt in 18 months to pass a pro-BDS resolution. After the motion passed in student council, but failed an online ratification vote, McGill principal Suzanne Fortier took a stand. Defending "academic freedom, equity, inclusiveness and the exchange of views and ideas in responsible, open discourse," she issued a statement affirming "the core principles of McGill" and reminding everyone that McGill's "mission" remains "to advance learning and create and disseminate knowledge by offering the best possible education, by carrying out research and scholarly activities judged to be excellent by the highest international standards, and by providing service to society."

Unfortunately, 43 professors denounced Fortier's support of academic freedom. Surprisingly – because McGill's faculty tends to be apolitical – 158 professors then responded with our own letter supporting the principal's "courageous stance." The letter proclaimed: "Boycotts and intellectual bullying have no place at McGill or at any other institution of higher learning," noting that "in its disproportionate focus on Israel, in its founding declaration, and in many statements by key members of the movement, the BDS movement tries to squelch speech and intimidate those who support Israel's right to exist."

The letter, which I proudly signed and helped circulate, also addressed our students' distress, saying: "We fail when our students don't feel genuinely safe in our university – and the BDS movement has made McGill students feel unsafe, unsupported and unwelcome in their and our academic home."

The only documents so many McGill professors have likely signed simultaneously are tax returns and grading sheets. They have shown colleagues throughout North America what to do. Don't wait for a BDS resolution or a pro-BDS statement from others. This month, celebrate Israel's independence by championing academic freedom. Let's see professors, students, and alumni, left and right, issuing broad denunciations of boycotts and academic bullying. This is not for Israel's sake – Israel will survive. This is a test of our values, our universities, our integrity and our souls. ■

Phoning home from Jerusalem, then and now

Sara Horowitz

A colleague returning from a sabbatical in Jerusalem waxed enthusiastic about phone service in Israel. Everyone, he said, had at least one cellphone, and most homes had Internet phone lines, all at a fraction of Canadian rates. Israel, he said, is phone heaven, and we're light years behind.

You might say the advances in phone technology and phoning habits are one measure of changing economic and social practices, national character and ideas of community. Some phone memories give a sense of that evolution.

• • •

When I was a student in Jerusalem, decades before the advent of mobile technology, hardly anyone had landlines. Rates were impossibly high, and wait times for installation were two to three years. Social habits reflected the absence of phones. It was common to pop in to visit people without warning. North America students made "phone dates" to speak to parents thousands of miles away – a specific time we'd wait by a designated public phone, or they'd wait for us to place a call from the post office. Long distance conversations were hurried and breathless.

Public phones required an *asimon*, a special token roughly the size of a Canadian nickel, shaped like a flat doughnut, with a hole in the centre. The longer the conversation, the more *asimonim* needed. Many Israeli students knew how to tie a thread through the hole, to hold onto the *asimon* as it slid down the coin chute. That way, the token wouldn't fully drop, but would register as new as time passed, so that even the lengthiest call would cost only one *asimon*. The truly adept could tug on the thread just as they replaced the receiver and retrieve the *asimon* for future calls.

My husband remembers queuing at the only working public phone at his Hebrew University dorm while another student made call after endless call. Finally, the other student finished and deftly yanked the thread to reclaim his token, but his timing was a shade off, and he lost it. Furious, he kicked the phone and broke it.

• • •

Several weeks before my husband and I were married, a ringing phone woke me up in the middle of the night. It was Bilal, a merchant whose tiny shop in the Jerusalem's Old City held a dazzling array of stunning fabrics. A Jerusalem friend and colleague had introduced me to Bilal and his wares years earlier, and between rounds of mint tea and Turkish coffee and conversations about family, many of his fabrics found their way to my home in North America.

For our wedding, my husband and I decided on a chupah made of fabric from Jerusalem. I asked my friend to purchase the fabric on my behalf and send it to me. But as it turned out, my emissary and the merchant couldn't agree on the fabric. Hence, the call, on a newly installed, crackly phone, at 3 a.m. (my time). She described her choice, he described his. With today's technology, I would be able to see both fabrics. But we had no such options then, only their descriptions of the colours, patterns and sheen of the two fabrics.

They hung up, and I waited for my "surprise purchase" to arrive. In time for the wedding, I received a package containing two bolts of fabric – one, a wedding gift from my friend and the other a wedding gift from Bilal.

I sometimes think back on that late-night call and to the lines of community drawing together an Israeli Jewish ethnographer of Yiddish culture, an Israeli Palestinian fabric merchant and a sleepy-eyed Jewish woman in faraway *galut*.

• • •

I'm not nostalgic for the technologies of yesteryear. The rapid changes in Israeli phone culture are less precious to me than the tightness of social networks that operate without, through or despite technology. ■

The state of Canada-Israel relations on Yom Ha'atzmaut

Michael Taube

May 12 is Yom Ha'atzmaut, or Israeli Independence Day. It's traditionally held on the fifth day of Iyar, although it can be moved forward or back a few days.

I don't have any personal tales or words of wisdom to pass on. I've never celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, and I've never visited Israel.

Even so, I would assume some *CJN* readers have travelled to Israel to be a part of this important national day. If not, perhaps they've celebrated at home, a friend's house, restaurant, synagogue, grand hall, and so on.

The federal Liberals, like most other governments in democratic societies, will likely mark the occasion with a press release. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his MPs may also opt to attend one of the functions held in various Canadian cities.

I can't speak for the Liberal government, since I have nothing to do with it. But I can provide some insights into the previous Tory government's views about the commemoration of Israel's Declaration of Independence.

Former prime minister Stephen Harper, my old friend and boss, has always held Canadian Jews in the highest regard. I, and many others, have written about what this community meant (and still means) to him. His admiration has always been real, genuine, principled and deeply personal. Anyone who thinks otherwise is dead wrong.

Harper holds a similar position about Israel.

In his Jan. 20, 2014, speech to the Knesset, he said the friendship between our two nations "is rooted in history, nourished by shared values, and it is intentionally reinforced at the highest levels of commerce and government as an outward expression of strongly held inner convictions."

Moreover, he's always regarded Israel as a "beacon of light" in a part of the world where, I think it's fair to say, darkness regularly needs to be combated.

In terms of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Harper recognized the importance of this national day (as he did with other days and celebrations for different countries). He knew that many Canadians, Jewish and non-Jewish, wanted to take part in these celebrations, and he was pleased that our country showed solidarity with Israel.

The Tory government's 2010 press release has always struck me as the perfect template to honour this national day. In particular, these two paragraphs truly stand out:

"The creation of the State of Israel is a testament to the triumph of faith and perseverance over tragedy and adversity. Israel is an enduring symbol for the world and a source of great inspiration. The courage, resilience and determination that built this formidable, democratic nation continue to hearten Jewish communities around the globe.

"This proud celebration affords us the opportunity to reflect on the events that forged Israel's history, as well as the shared history and values between our two great nations. We count ourselves among Israel's closest friends and allies. Since its founding in 1948, Canada has supported Israel and its right to live in peace and security with its neighbours. We remain strong and steadfast friends."

If you ever wanted to understand what the Harper Tories thought about the State of Israel and Canada-Israel relations, this is the perfect summary. And if you ever wondered why I used to write that Canada was Israel's greatest friend and ally, look no further.

I can't write the same thing about the Trudeau Liberals, however.

While there's no question the current prime minister supports Israel in his own way, he's not nearly as strong a supporter as his predecessor. Early indications – from the federal government's position of being an "honest broker" with Israel to its soft-on-terrorism approach à la U.S. President Barack Obama – also seem to indicate that things won't change anytime soon.

For now, let's be thankful that Israel remains the most important voice for democracy, liberty and freedom in the Middle East. And let's hope that Trudeau's Canada never shifts away from this philosophy. ■

'We'll see you soon, Israel. Lots of love'

Bernie Farber

In July 2003, my wife, Karyn, and I brought our children to Israel for the first time. Gillian was 16, Zachary 14 and Max 10. It was a UJA family mission with a couple of weeks tagged on at the end so that we could spend extra time with family in Givat Ze'ev.

And while there had been a temporary ceasefire proclaimed at the end of June 2003, there were nonetheless suicide bombings and retaliations, as sadly seemed to be the norm. Our children were resistant to going at first, understandably frightened, but mustered their courage, and with high spirits, embarked on a trip we have never forgotten.

I reference our 2003 family journey on this Yom Ha'atzmaut to better personally understand my connection to this tiny strip of land fought over by Jews, Muslims and Christians for over 2,000 years.

It is for me a land of emotional contrasts.

I love the country, but I regularly find many of the policies of the government, especially those that hurt and discriminate against Ethiopian Jews, Eritreans, Arab Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories, abhorrent.

I admire the courage of Israeli soldiers and their commitment to the Israel Defence Forces' "purity of arms." I detest those soldiers who, as we have seen only recently, abuse this code and even commit murder against unarmed Palestinians. Yes, I know he was an alleged terrorist, but killing a subdued terrorist just "because" is despicable.

I love the people of Israel but detest those ultra-Orthodox who demand that I adhere to their way of life, those who cursed my wife and children because of the way they dressed, those who through their evil words created a time and place where the assassination of an Israeli prime minister became "halachically" possible.

And most especially, I love the Israel that was founded on the concept of democracy, but I question what it may become if we choose not to work toward peace.

Earlier this month, I agreed to be interviewed by a student who was working on his doctoral thesis at the University of Toronto. His thesis centred around exploring and understanding historical collective memories. He was interviewing activists from both the Arab and the Jewish communities of Canada. We spent quite a few hours together dissecting my personal story. It was at once exhilarating and exhausting. It forced me to confront my feelings, even some long-held demons.

> *Israel remains the only safe place for Jews, in view of human history.*

At the end, the interviewer asked me the following: despite your reservations about the State of Israel you are still deeply connected and supportive. Why?

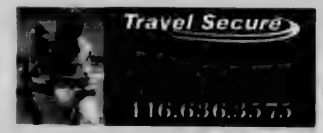
This was surprisingly the easiest question for me to answer. For me, Israel remains the only safe place for Jews, in view of human history. As a child of Holocaust survivors, I viscerally understand how fragile we are as a people. Yes, life in Canada is free of the anti-Semitism and genocidal behaviour faced by my parents and grandparents. Nonetheless, with the Shoah as a backdrop for humanity's possibilities, there can never again be no place for Jews to seek refuge.

And yes, we must rage against Israeli policy that leans more and more away from peace. Progressive Jews must find their voice. Through organizations like JSpace, the New Israel Fund and others this is becoming more of a reality.

Two weeks ago, my daughter, Gillian, and son-in-law, Adam, returned from a two-week visit to Israel. On her Facebook site, Gillian wrote: "Israel – your beauty literally astounds me. The gorgeous landscapes, stunning beaches, delicious humus and brave soldiers help make this small country so special. And even though on our very last night in Jerusalem, walking aimlessly around the shuk, we stood just five minutes away from another terrorist attack, it only encourages us to be better people. To love, to explore, to support one another and to not live in fear. So it's not really goodbye, we'll see you soon, Israel. Lots of love."

Chag Samayach on this Yom Ha'atzmaut. ■

News



Jewish groups rush to help Fort McMurray evacuees

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Jewish organizations are rallying to help support the tens of thousands of displaced residents of Fort McMurray, Alta., who have been forced to evacuate the area due to a ravaging wildfire.

The Alberta government declared a state of emergency May 4 as a result of the catastrophic fires sweeping through Fort McMurray and the surrounding area, and 90,000 people have been evacuated.

On May 4, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton set up a PayPal account to collect donations for evacuees staying in and around Edmonton.

Community relations director Tal Toubiana said the federation has been publicizing the campaign through its website and on Facebook, in the hope of reaching the city's Jewish community of roughly 5,000 people and the wider Edmonton community.

He said it hasn't been decided where federation will donate the money it raises, though it will likely go to an organization such as the Canadian Red Cross.

Ve'ahavta, a Toronto-based social service organization whose programs include international crisis response, also launched a Fort McMurray relief fund May 4, and Ve'ahavta CEO Avrum Rosensweig said it was able to raise more than $6,000 overnight.

He said Ve'ahavta is in discussions with other organizations to determine how best to allocate the funds, which were mostly donated by people in Toronto.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Jewish federations and Ve'ahavta are raising funds. YOUTUBE SCREENSHOTS

TD Wealth

Discover "Tax-Smart Investing"

"Before meeting Michael I was paying too much in tax. Michael used his special knowledge and experience as an investment advisor with a tax legal background to arrange my portfolio so that I paid much less tax and kept more in my pocket. Thank you Michael for all of your help." – Gary Teicht

Most investors worry about the total return on their retirement portfolio. But the biggest cost of a portfolio is usually the tax bill. In fact, at the highest tax bracket, every tax dollar you save is equivalent to more than two dollars earned by you. That's why we urge you to contact Michael and his team today at **416 308 9084** or **Michael.Marcovitz@td.com** to see whether you qualify for a free, no obligation tax smart-evaluation of your retirement plan.

Michael Marcovitz MBA, LL.B.
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
michaelmarcovitz.com

The Marcovitz Group

TD

The Marcovitz Group consists of Michael Marcovitz, Senior Vice President and Investment Advisor, Jason Edmunds, Client Service Associate, Jana Ly, Assistant Investment Advisor, and Laura Cowle, Client Service Associate. The Marcovitz Group is a part of TD Wealth Private Investment Advice. TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. – Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund. ® The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. 160324.30PC

"There's no map telling you how to give money in a crisis, so we need to figure out who to work with. We've put the word out to the Jewish community in Edmonton and people from Fort McMurray to figure out how best to distribute the money... We're mandated to give it to a larger organization like the Red Cross or United Way," Rosensweig said.

He stressed the Jewish community's responsibility to help those affected by the fire, which may be the worst in Western Canadian history.

"The needs are tremendous in terms of immediate crisis [supplies] like blankets, food and shelter, not all of which are being taken care of by the government and certainly not by insurance companies. It seemed pretty clear to us that there should be a Jewish communal response to this crisis," he said.

> *It seemed pretty clear to us that there should be a Jewish communal response to this crisis*
>
> **Avrum Rosensweig**
> **Va'ahavta CEO**

IsraAid, an Israel-based non-profit that provides life-saving disaster relief and long-term support in crisis areas all over the world, has also rushed to help, making it the first time the organization will be deploying a team in Canada.

Shachar Zahavi, IsraAid's founding director, told *The CJN* by phone from Tel Aviv that his group already has a volunteer on the ground in Alberta assessing the situation in evacuation areas set up near Fort McMurray.

"The minute we have a better sense of what's happening, we'll decide how to act," he said, emphasizing that IsraAid will definitely be sending more volunteers over the next few days.

Their aim is to focus first on "psycho-social interventions" to deal with the needs and responses of the evacuees staying in temporary shelters, something he stressed Israel is a leader in. Once the fire stops burning, they'll send a team to help clean up the debris.

"We're usually working in developing countries, although we've been to the United States about 10 times to help with things like hurricanes and tornadoes... We help fill in the gaps [of existing relief work]... Often, in disaster areas, many volunteers will come help for a week or so but then need to go back to work. But we come specially and we stay for two or three weeks, so that's an advantage other groups don't have," he said.

Zahavi added that IsraAid often partners with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and other Canadian Jewish federations.

Some synagogues in Edmonton are also pitching in.

Temple Beth Ora Synagogue, for example, a Reform shul, held a Shabbaton for congregants this past weekend, and rather than have them pay the Shabbaton fee, they've asked participants to donate money to the Canadian Red Cross and bring goods such as water bottles or diapers that the shul can donate.

Beth Israel Synagogue, a modern Orthodox shul in Edmonton, is assisting federation's campaign to collect clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items and is also organizing its own diaper drive, with a goal of donating 10,000 diapers to the fire victims. It's also organizing a board game drive to donate games to the children of families staying in temporary shelters, to help keep them occupied and entertained.

Dan Horowitz, director of communications for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, said a number of Canadian federations, including Edmonton's, spoke by phone May 6 to assess the needs on the ground and figure out how to best provide support.

"Unfortunately, it looks like this is going to be a long-term situation rather than a quick fix," Horowitz said. ■

ISRAEL ON THE TABLE
May 12-15, 2016
A brand new way to mark Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, and connect with Israel.
Pick a day. Arrange a meal. Join the conversation.
Register at IsraelOnTheTable.ca.
Got a question? E-mail us at info@israelonthetable.ca
HAPPENING NOW!
Tell us how your conversation goes and you could win a trip for two to Israel with El Al!
3000+ participants already signed up!

Jews should stop 'whining' about York U, benefactor says

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

In a mass email addressed "to the tribe" that has been making the rounds in the Jewish community, entrepreneur and philanthropist Seymour Schulich said he's "sick and tired" of Jews complaining about anti-Semitism in Canada in general and at York University in particular.

"I grew up in Montreal, Quebec, where the school system was predominantly Catholic and Protestant. Real anti-Semitism was rife!" wrote Schulich, a York benefactor after whom the university's acclaimed Schulich School of Business is named.

"Yet in my entire life I have never experienced one iota of anti-Semitism. WHY? THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS BECAUSE I FIT IN WITH THE MAJORITIES! There was a Catholic school across the street from my Grade 8 Protestant school in Montreal. If you wore a yamulka or a talis [sic] under your shirt, the odds were pretty good you could collect a lot of rocks thrown from the Catholic schoolyard."

In an interview with *The CJN*, Schulich acknowledged that people have taken "great umbrage" at his email, part of which says that people shouldn't advertise their Jewishness by wearing religious garb.

"People are going to take great umbrage on that. 'Oh, I shouldn't have to do that.' Well, you should know that if you don't do it, you're asking for it. And you might get it. If I was in Quebec and I marched around the old days like that… I think I would get a few rocks thrown at me."

In the April 30 email, which was initially sent to about 70 people, and likely forwarded to many more, Schulich praised York president Mamdouh Shoukri as a "personnel [sic] friend and one of the most secular folks I know." He also suggests that all religious clubs be banned from university campuses, scoffs at the perceived success of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign, and says tensions at York relating to Israel have arisen because arts students, who make up a majority of York's student body, have too much time on their hands.

"All the problems, when you analyze them, are coming from the people studying arts. And why? They have too much time. It's very simple… I was studying chemistry. I had no time for this non-

Seymour Schulich

sense… I had no time to demonstrate and run around the campus raising hell about anything. The real problem at York is that we have 70 per cent arts people. The trouble starts there," Schulich told *The CJN*.

"And as far as York goes, I don't think York is any better or any worse than anywhere else, OK?… I don't think these boycotts amount to a hill of beans… Israel can take care of itself. I'm not worried about that for two seconds."

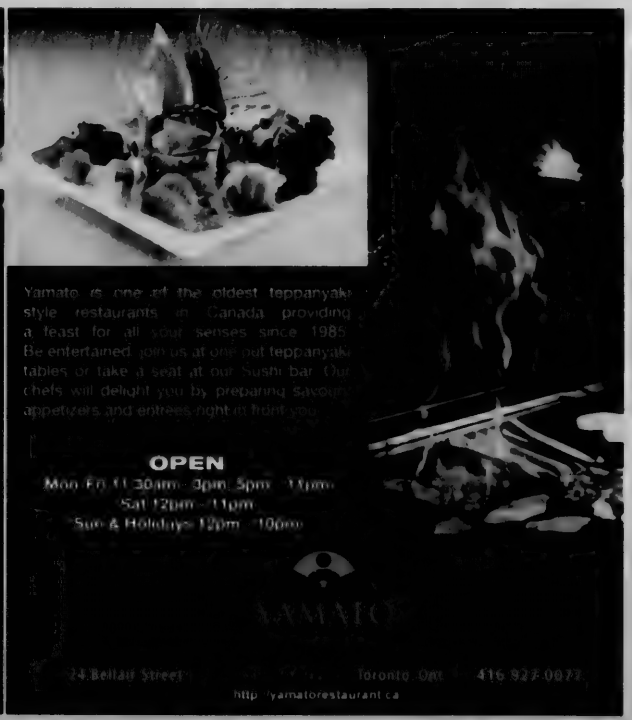
Schulich, 76, insisted that he's a strong supporter of Israel, both financially and ideologically.

"You've got a guy who has given $80 million to Israel in 10 years. I'm not anti-Israeli. I'm not anti-Semitic. I'm not a 'White Jew.' I'm just saying man up already! Stop whining and bitching about York University. You've got a good president – you don't want to go to York? Hey! Don't go!"

In a reply to Schulich's email, former federal finance minister Joe Oliver wrote that the issues facing Jewish students at York won't be solved by them hiding their Jewishness.

"I do agree Jewish students should always try to fit in with the majority… That of course does not mean compromising their core beliefs or principles, which the hard left wants them to do," Oliver wrote.

"We need to develop strategies to deal with the situation rather than pretend it does not exist and that things were worse before… the problem is not just going to go away on its own." ■



Tories urge government to reconsider relations with Iran

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Opposition Conservatives slammed the governing Liberals for failing to fully hold Iran accountable during Iran Accountability Week.

As parliamentarians marked the annual event, hosted by the Conservative caucus, Tory spokespeople said the government is moving too fast to normalize relations with Iran.

"The government should stop what it is doing," foreign affairs critic Tony Clement told *The CJN*, referring to reports the government is in discussions with Iran about restoring diplomatic relations. Not only would it be impossible to protect diplomatic offices in Iran – some have been firebombed by government-supported thugs – but Iran continues to pose a danger to its people and those in the region, he said.

It continues to oppress its own population, is "a disruptive force in the Middle East," continues to sponsor terrorism and "it is state policy to seek the destruction of Israel," Clement said.

Iran Accountability Week was held on Parliament Hill from May 2 to 6 to highlight human rights abuses in the Islamic state. An initiative of former Liberal MP and justice minister Irwin Cotler, the all-party program aims to draw attention to the human rights situation in Iran.

Canada severed diplomatic ties with Iran in 2012 over safety and security concerns.

Disagreement over Iran policy surfaced in Parliament last week, when Clement asked Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion how Canada could negotiate with a state sponsor of terror.

"Under the former government, Canada was alone in having an empty chair with a lot of countries when it disliked the regimes, which was the wrong approach. All our allies are asking us to stop this wrong approach, and it is what we will do with Iran," Dion said.

"In order to see progress on human rights and progress on the protection of Canada's interests and the interests of our allies, including Israel, Canada will engage with Iran with open eyes, step by step," he added.

Tory MP Peter Kent then asked Dion how Canada could negotiate improved trade relationship even while maintaining Iran on a list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Dion replied: "Every day, every week, we have different businesspeople, governments, that are going to Iran. They are

Tony Clement

negotiating for their national interests in Iran with open eyes, to make sure that the nuclear program of Iran will not be militarized. I think it is the right approach. Our allies were right to do so, and Canada will join them."

A day later, interim Tory Leader Rona Ambrose asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau why Canada was "warming up relations" with Iran even though it sponsors terrorism and oppresses its people.

"It is important that Canada keep its eyes wide open as we cautiously re-engage with Iran alongside our allies," Trudeau replied.

"The fact is that the P5+1 deal showed significant movement in removing the nuclear ambitions from Iran's capabilities. At the same time, we recognize there continues to be state sponsorship of terrorism and violations of human rights and oppression of people within Iran linked to Iranian terrorism.

"We need to continue to engage constructively in ensuring that Iran and the Iranian people do better in the world, while holding them to account," Trudeau added.

Shimon Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), participated in a panel discussion during Iran Accountability Week. He noted the two major parties diverge in their policies towards Iran, but "one approach is not better than the other. They're different," he said.

CIJA believes that any change in Canadian policy should be conditional on changes in Iranian behaviour, including action on human rights abuses, the absence of religious freedom and the country's sponsorship of terrorism, he said.

Fogel believes the way Iran treats its religious minorities, including the persecuted Baha'i, should be "a litmus test" for whether the country can join the community of nations. ■

Why roll the dice with your investment returns?

Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.

PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning
Discover Mortgage Investments.
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

My father has Alzheimer's and needs to be cared for, so we cancelled our holiday plans...again.

One Kenton Place offers 2 week respite stays.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care, it's the One.

• Activity based programming
• Personalized care plans for every need
• New state-of-the-art dedicated residence

Call or book a tour today.
647-932-7913 • onekentonplace.ca
1 Kenton Drive, Toronto

Anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism, film producer says

SHLOMO KAPUSTIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Last month's disclosure of social media posts by British Labour MP Naz Shah has clarified the battle lines of Middle East discourse, says one of Canada's most prolific film and TV producers.

"Through her toxic rants, in which she urges her Facebook minions to get organized because, 'the Jews are rallying,' she lays to rest the pretense that there is any difference between Jew hatred and anti-Zionism," Robert Lantos said.

"Her proposal to ethnically cleanse Israel of its entire Jewish population, enthusiastically seconded by celebrity politician Ken Livingstone, helps to crystallize the true intent of the BDS [boycott, divestment and sanctions] brigade, an intent which has nothing to do with peace or a two-state solution."

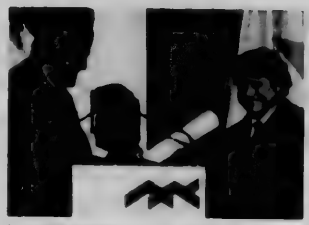
Lantos' remarks came at the May 1 Mount Carmel dinner, an annual fundraiser hosted by Canadian Friends of Haifa University, where he received an honorary doctorate. Proceeds from this year's event will generate about 100 scholarships in the university's Ambassadors Online program, a new-media course in Israel advocacy. Almost 550 people attended the event at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York hotel.

A skilled promoter for much of his career, the media mogul has leveraged his profile repeatedly to support Israel. In February, he wrote an open letter criticizing York University for allowing a pro-Palestinian mural in its student centre that some argue promotes violence against Israel.

At the dinner, he drew a line from pre-war Hungary – where he was born after the Holocaust – to modern-day "Jew hatred."

"The majority of Hungary's Jewish population was murdered in a few months," he said. "But it didn't start with violence. It began with words – and the words set the stage, which then legitimized the violence that followed… The war of words has been fought against Jews for many centuries, in many lands. After the Holocaust, we thought that this was over, once and for all. But the cycle has begun again. It is now firing on all cylinders across Europe. In France, in Belgium, in Holland, it has already led to acts of brutal violence."

Along the way, Israel and – to a lesser extent – the Jewish community has lost the progressive narrative, and even for many liberal Jews, Israel has become a sticky proposition, he said.



U of Haifa president Amos Shapira, presents Robert Lantos with an honorary doctorate.

"To defeat BDS, we must reclaim the liberal, socially engaged hearts and minds, and in particular, Jewish youth," Lantos argued. "From [U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful] Bernie Sanders to J Street and Jews for Peace, liberal Jews have come to believe that they must distance themselves from Israel in order to burnish their progressive credentials. In so doing, they march with those who would eliminate the Jewish state."

In fact, he said, BDS is "the propaganda arm of a terrorist organization intent on the destruction of the Jewish state." Activists need to highlight its connections with organizations such as Hamas.

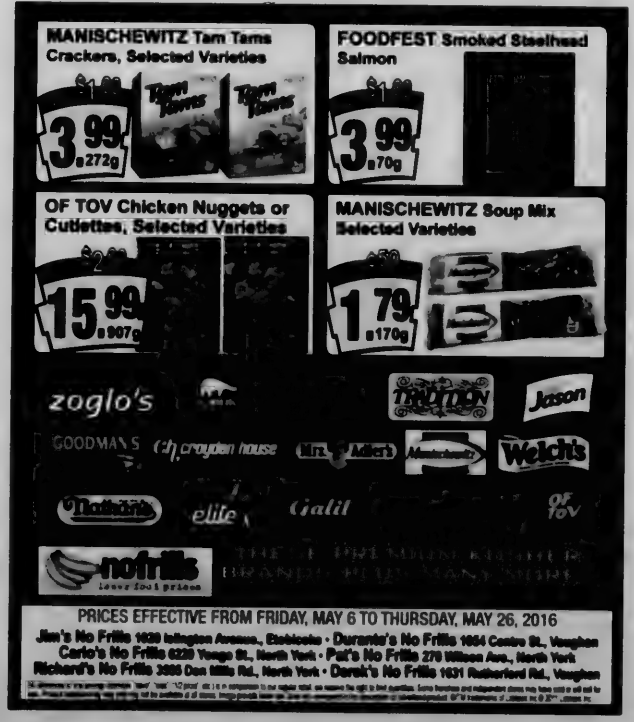
"Israel has many warts and flaws, all of which should be and are criticized," he said. "Some of her political leaders are definitely not my own cup of tea. But it is a travesty to link arms with those who are supported by regimes which deny women's rights, torture and incarcerate dissenters, censor freedom of expression and are intent on the genocide of the Jewish state… To vanquish BDS, we must shine a light on what its true objectives are, who its allies are and who its financiers are."

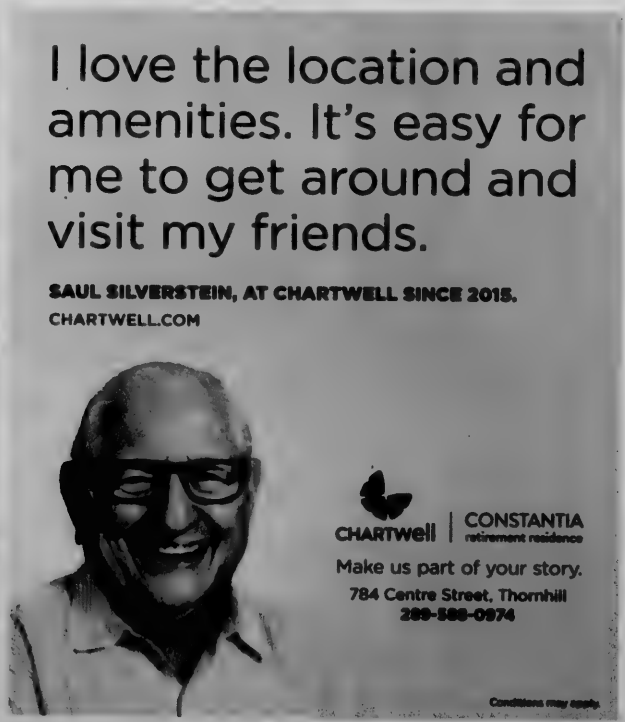
After first achieving fame in 1978 with *In Praise of Older Women*, Lantos has produced such critically acclaimed films as *Being Julia*, *Eastern Promises* and *The Sweet Hereafter*.

Jewish themes pepper his work, such as in *Joshua Then and Now* and *Barney's Version*, adaptations of Mordecai Richler novels; *Sword of Gideon*, about the Mossad hit team assembled after the Munich Olympics massacre; and *Sunshine*, a multi-generational saga of a family in 20th-century Hungary.

This dinner was the last for school president Amos Shapira, who steps down in September after four years. Ron Robin, formerly of New York University, will replace him. ■

To read Lantos' speech, see "Robert Lantos: BDS has hijacked the progressive narrative," at cjnews.com.


MANISCHEWITZ Tam Tams Crackers, Selected Varieties
3.99 ea 272g
FOODFEST Smoked Steelhead Salmon
3.99 ea 70g
OF TOV Chicken Nuggets or Cutlettes, Selected Varieties
15.99 ea 907g
MANISCHEWITZ Soup Mix Selected Varieties
1.79 ea 170g
zoglo's
GOODMANS
Jason
Welch's
elite
Galil
PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM FRIDAY, MAY 6 TO THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016
Jim's No Frills 1020 Islington Avenue., Etobicoke • Duranto's No Frills 1004 Centre St., Vaughan
Carlo's No Frills 6220 Yonge St., North York • Pat's No Frills 270 Wilson Ave., North York
Richard's No Frills 2000 Don Mills Rd., North York • Derek's No Frills 1031 Rutherford Rd., Vaughan


I love the location and amenities. It's easy for me to get around and visit my friends.
SAUL SILVERSTEIN, AT CHARTWELL SINCE 2015.
CHARTWELL.COM
CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence
Make us part of your story.
784 Centre Street, Thornhill
289-588-0974
Conditions may apply.

Talk to kids about abuse, Orthodox psychologist urges

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

There are two questions New York-based child psychologist David Pelcovitz is often asked by child protective service professionals about the Orthodox community that makes him cringe.

"The first question they usually ask me, is, 'What is it about you guys that you care more about the perpetrator than the victim?… This is when I want to take my yarmulke off," said Pelcovitz, who spoke Sunday to roughly 100 educators and concerned parents at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation about the impact of sexual abuse on children and how to protect them from it.

"The second question they ask… is, 'What is it about you guys that you seem to have a higher rate of sibling sexual abuse? Older brothers with younger sisters? We're seeing this as an epidemic in the New York community, and I know it happens here… we have to be aware of that. Part of it is that we need to do better sexual education with our kids. We don't talk to our kids about sexuality."

The presentation by Pelcovitz, a highly regarded clinical psychologist who specializes in childhood trauma and abuse, and is co-editor of *Breaking the Silence: Child Abuse in the Jewish Community*, came just a few months after Stephen Joseph Schacter, who taught at Eitz Chaim Schools between 1986 and 2004 and what is now Robbins Hebrew Academy from 2004 to 2006, was charged with possession of child pornography, gross indecency, sexual interference, sexual exploitation and sexual assault.

In addition, David Prashker, a former director of Leo Baeck Day School, pleaded guilty in California last month to possession of child pornography and served 100 days in jail. In 2008, Prashker wrote and posted sexually explicit poetry online, which led to his resignation from Leo Baeck.

Offering tips on prevention, Pelcovitz said it's important to educate children about the dangers of sexual abuse in the same way parents would teach children about what to do in the event of fire or how to cross a busy intersection.

"Don't scare your kids… Research shows that you want there to be a little bit of anxiety so that they take it seriously, but not so much that the anxiety becomes incapacitating. The guiding force in these situations is to set it up in a way that is no different from the way that we teach children about fire safety at Chanukah or water safety in the summer," he said.

David Pelcovitz SHERI SHEFA PHOTO

Pelcovitz said speaking to kids about abuse can't be a "one-shot" lecture, adding that the lesson will be most effective if parents give them scenarios to consider, such as "What happens if your uncle tickles you past the point of comfort?"

Pelcovitz offered a script to help broach the subjects with children. "Your body belongs to you… you have a right to say who touches you and how. If someone touches you in a way that makes you feel funny, it is OK to say no," he said.

BAYT spiritual leader Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, who introduced Pelcovitz, addressed arguments often heard in the frum community that perpetrators shouldn't be reported, because that's an act of *mesira*, which refers to handing a Jew over to outside authorities.

"I want to make it very clear that this is not a correct position to take. When there is a fire, you call the fire department. When there is a medical emergency, you call the hospital. When a person is sexually abusing a child, you call the Canadian authorities. There are no ifs, ands or buts. There is no Halachah of *mesira* involved. And I am prepared… to challenge any rosh yeshiva, and argue from the halachic standpoint, that they are absolutely mistaken, 100 per cent," Rabbi Korobkin said.

"We have to err on the side of caution for the sake of these innocent *neshamahs* [souls] and not worry about the perpetrators, no matter who they are in the community, no matter how highly regarded they are in the community." ■

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Congratulations and yashar koach to

Joseph Lebovic

Upon receiving an Honourary Doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
at the University's 79th Board of Governors Meeting

May you continue to go from strength to strength

President
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

National Chair
CFHU

President & CEO
CFHU

New Hebrew U programs target disability, haredi issues

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Developments at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's school of social work will help address Israel's emerging social needs when it comes to people with disabilities, the haredi community and those who hold leadership positions in civil society organizations.

Mimi Ajzenstadt, dean of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at Hebrew U, was in Toronto last month to meet with potential academic partners and donors and inform the community about the developments and expansions at the school.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Ajzenstadt explained that in an effort to better serve Israeli people with disabilities, the school is establishing the Centre for the Study of Disabilities to examine the issue beyond a medical and psychological lens. Through the centre and the disability studies program, students will help people with disabilities integrate better into Israeli society by learning to focus on individuals and consider their family, community and policies.

"There are some really good laws and regulations, but the people who have to administer them and work with them are only now starting to understand what it means – not only the disability, not only the causes, but the social impact, or the social framework, or the social context. What does it mean to live with the stigma? How does it impact your family members?" Ajzenstadt said.

"Israel is now moving into a stage that is starting to acknowledge that people with disabilities are regular citizens and deserve all the same rights, of course, but at the same time, they deserve that many obstacles will be removed so they can be part of society… They will join the army, go to school, to university, and be part of the labour market."

Another initiative Ajzenstadt is promoting is the inauguration of a social entrepreneurship teaching program for graduate students holding leadership positions in civil society organizations and NGOs.

"There are a lot of organizations in the private or NGO market that take care of people with disabilities, but there is no solid program that teaches students what to do… about all the social, cultural and political issues [involved]."

The teaching program will incorporate a social entrepreneurship accelerator

Mimi Ajzenstadt

that will foster academic co-operation between students from the social entrepreneurship program and students from other disciplines across the university.

Ajzenstadt said the social work school is a microcosm of Israeli society in itself – with a student body that's represented by the immigrant community and the Arab community – and it's gaining popularity with the haredi community as well.

With about 30 haredi students currently enrolled in social work, she's confident their involvement in the field will help address social challenges in that community.

"It was very difficult to get to this community, because it is a closed community. They have their rabbis and their own regulations for the practice of life; and to seek professional advice, [that] didn't happen on a regular basis," she said, adding that having haredi professionals working in the field can be a "good linkage or bridge between our school and the haredi community."

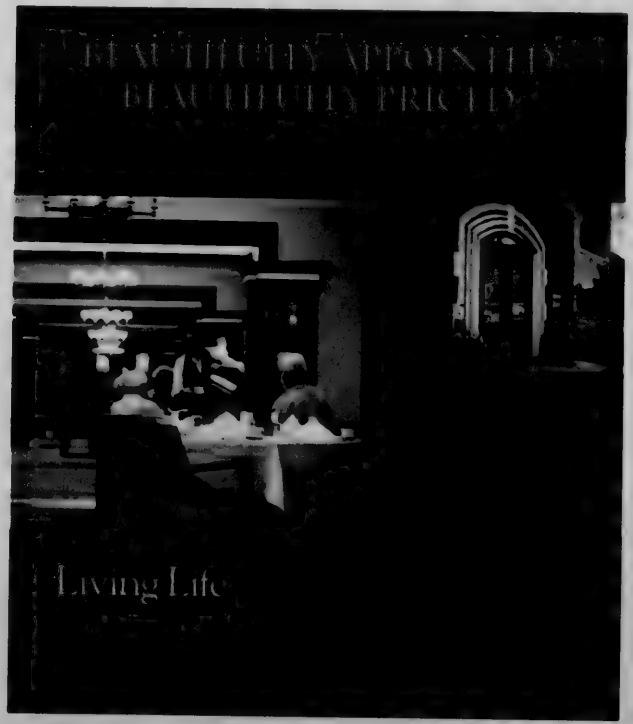
She said one of the purposes of her Toronto visit was to meet with members of the haredi community to gain some insight into how to better serve Israel's community.

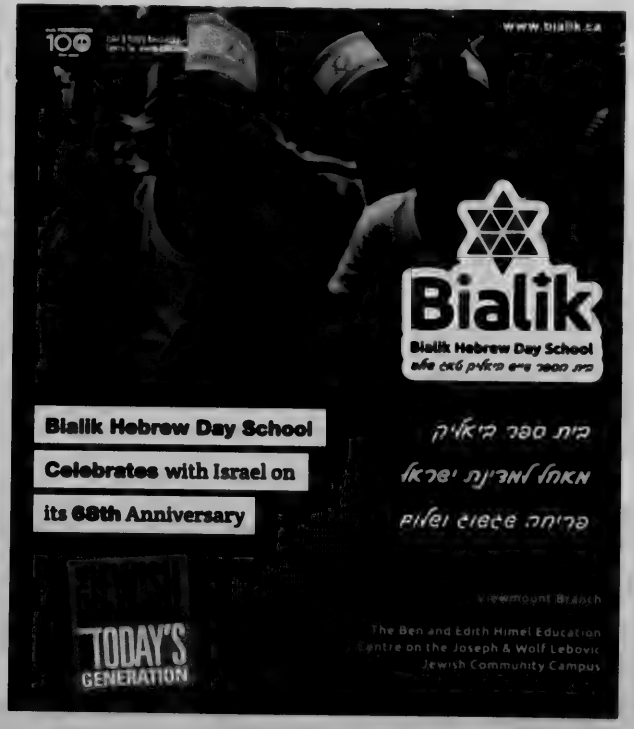
"We need to do more research, we need to give special courses that actually speak about the haredi community and their needs and how to adjust the social work practices to their community… When it comes to disability studies, I can see what other schools are doing throughout the world. But here, this is something new."

Another of her aims during her visit was to further "internationalize" the school by partnering with the University of Toronto.

"It's not surprising that we want to establish good collaborations with them because we are both leading social work schools and we share many ideas… we look at social justice and human rights through social work," she said.

"This time, we formally signed a student exchange agreement between both faculties. It has to be finalized by the university authorities, but we already got the green light, so it is only a formality." ■





Israeli analyst sees no end of conflict

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Author and analyst Yossi Alpher has a fond spot in his heart for the work done by Peace Now and its international affiliates. At the same time, he has a tough message for the organization: there is, at this time, no hope for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict resulting in a two-state solution.

At the same time, he has a message for the right-wing nationalist camp as well, which might otherwise feel vindicated in its skepticism of the peace process. We are on route to a place no one wants to go to: a bi-national state that will either be undemocratic, or not Jewish.

"We are on a slippery slope to an ugly, one-state reality," he said.

Alpher, author of *No End of Conflict: Rethinking Israel-Palestine*, was in Toronto last week as part of a three-city Canadian tour organized by Canadian Friends of Peace Now, which took him to Montreal and Ottawa as well. After speaking at Congregation Darchei Noam in Toronto, he flew to New Zealand, to discuss his latest book at the Auckland Writers Festival.

Alpher's bona fides as an advocate of a peaceful resolution to the conflict are long and distinguished. He served as a special adviser to prime minister Ehud Barak at Camp David during negotiations with Yasser Arafat. He co-edited Bitterlemons, a website dedicated to fostering mutual dialogue, with Ghassan Khatib, a former minister in the Palestinian Authority government. He served with Israeli military intelligence and later in Mossad before becoming director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

So it is with a measure of reluctance that he has come to his conclusion. But it's one born of experience and recognition of political realities, he explained.

In some ways, Alpher acknowledges, he's repeating the nationalist critique of the peace process – that the other side will never agree to a final settlement unless all its demands are met, including the right of return of millions of Palestinian refugees to Israel, spelling an end to the Zionist endeavour.

But, he continues, the nationalist Israeli camp, by expanding its settlements and gobbling up land, is making it impossible for any arrangement that will be palatable to the Palestinian side.

And he rejects as "dreaming" the views of some in the government that the Palestinians will ever accept the status quo if their economic condition improves or that they will ever be satisfied with autonomy.

In all, Alpher's analysis presented a rather bleak view of the prospects for peace. And as far as he is concerned, there is plenty of blame to go around.

"I wrote the book because I was fed up with the approach of the international community, like statements from Leon Panetta, [the former U.S.] secretary of defence, to just get back to the damn table, from [former British prime minister Tony] Blair and [U.S. Secretary of State John] Kerry, that the outline of the solution is there.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said.

Based on his experience and from examining the offer presented in 2008 by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, which "went way beyond Camp David," Alpher believes "the Oslo process has run its course."

As far as he is concerned, issues pertaining to the post-1967 conflict are resolvable (borders, settlements, a capital in Jerusalem), but those connected to pre-1967 are not. These include the return of millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to Israel.

Yossi Alpher

Furthermore, how can you come to an agreement when Abbas denies there ever was a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem? In saying that, he rejects the Jewish connection to the land and the notion that the Jews are the native people coming back to their country, he said.

"The two parties are not close to agreement," he added.

Alpher acknowledges he doesn't have a solution to the conflict, but he advises North American Jews to accept reality and prepare for a difficult future in which Israel is bound to become a unitary state with a Palestinian majority, or even a strong minority.

The Diaspora Jewish communities will have to manage a relationship in which Israel "is no longer a Jewish state or the state of the Jewish people," he warned. ■

Members of the Ontario Liberal Caucus celebrate

Jewish Heritage Month & Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Michael Chan
Markham-Unionville
905.305.1935

Mike Colle
Eglinton-Lawrence
416.781.2395

Steven Del Duca
Vaughan
905.832.6630

Dr. Eric Hoskins
St. Paul's
416.656.0943

Mitzie Hunter
Scarborough-Guildwood
416.281.2787

Monte Kwinter
York Centre
416.610.0080

Tracy MacCharles
Pickering-Scarborough East
905.509.0336

Cristina Martins
Davenport
416.535.3158

Reza Moridi
Richmond Hill
905.884.8080

Arthur Potts
Beaches-East York
416.690.1032

Glenn Thibeault
Sudbury
705.675.1914

David Zimmer
Willowdale
416.733.7878

In Conversation with Writer
ASSAF GAVRON
WITH SPECIAL GUEST DAVID BEZMOZGIS
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016 @ 7PM
Bram and Bluma Appel Salon
Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street

With a string of international literary awards and bestselling novels to his credit, Assaf Gavron has earned his place as a foremost Israeli author under 50.

"His clear and honest writing blasts right through the clichés and the politically correct surface to touch the chaotic, ambiguous core of the Israeli identity." (Etgar Keret)

Event is free. Registration required. 416.781.4322. www.nfcan.org

Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University
מרכז יעקובי לחקר הארץ
Education. Culture. Community.

TRUDEAU:
Good for the Jews?

Introduced by DAVID KOFFMAN, Assistant Professor, Department of History
Moderated by YONI GOLDSTEIN, Editor "The Canadian Jewish News"

Jonathan Kay
Journalist, author and editor-in-chief of The Walrus, and the editorial assistant on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2015 memoir

Karen Mock
Community activist, former National Director of the League of Human Rights of B'nai Brith, and the Liberal candidate for Thornhill in the 2011 federal election

Michael Taube
Troy Media syndicated columnist, Washington Times contributor, and speechwriter for former Prime Minister Stephen Harper

SUNDAY MAY 15, 2016
2-4 PM

Followed by a reception

Tribute Communities Recital Hall
Accolade East Building
York University, Keele Campus

FREE PARKING PASSES FOR STUDENT SERVICES PARKING STRUCTURE AVAILABLE AT VENUE

Live Streaming at thewalrus.ca/trudeau-and-the-jews

REGISTER at:
https://trudeau-good-for-the-jews.eventbrite.ca
Tel: 416-736-5823

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

Commonwealth Jewish group seeks support

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Clive Lawton

Not long ago, the Maccabi World Union (MWU) called on Clive Lawton for help. The MWU, which puts together the Maccabiah Games in Israel every four years, was looking to be more inclusive, so they were curious about whether he knew of Jewish communities around the world who could send athletes to the Games.

As it happens, Lawton did. As CEO of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, he was familiar with tiny Jewish communities around the world not usually associated with Jewish life, such as Lesotho and Mauritius in Africa, Singapore and Sri Lanka in Australasia, St. Lucia and Antigua in the Caribbean, and the island of Jersey in Europe.

Lesotho and Sri Lanka each have only two or three families. "There are tiny flags being flown all around the world," Lawton said.

Each of those communities is part of the 33-member Commonwealth Jewish Council, which was founded in 1983 and whose membership largely parallels that of the British Commonwealth. The council is now "restructuring its operations to provide a more effective global reach."

Lawton was in Toronto recently to make the case for the Canadian Jewish community to consider becoming one of four "hubs" in the revamped organization.

Canada would join the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa as a council hub, each with responsibility to foster good relations and to aid with development of small local communities in their region. The U.K., for example, would maintain regular contacts with communities in Gibraltar, Malta, Jersey and Cyprus; Australia with New Zealand, India, Singapore and Sri Lanka; South Africa with Lesotho, Zimbabwe and others; and Canada with Belize, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia and other Caribbean communities.

Lawton met with representative of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the UIA and rabbinic groups. His message was simple: the Commonwealth represents states once settled by Britain who now share common values such as democracy, human rights, freedom and the rule of law.

"The Jews are a cross-Commonwealth reality with a relationship with each other, and we espouse the values that the Commonwealth espouses," Lawton said.

The larger communities, with their infrastructure and expertise, can play an important role – at little or no cost – in helping smaller communities address issues such as anti-Semitism, anti-Israel agitation and other issues, Lawton said.

He pointed to New Zealand Jews being assisted from abroad when that country considered banning the practice of shchitah.

"The capacity [of New Zealand Jews] to say that the world's Jews are behind them must have strengthened their hand," Lawton contends.

In Asia, he added, a Commonwealth Jewish group would provide the "context in which Jews can talk to Pakistan and Malaysian government and leaders of civil society."

The benefits of such an interaction played out in November 2015 in Malta during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting when Lawton met representatives of Pakistan. They discussed the Jewish connection to Israel and myths held about the Jews.

"We had a couple of very frank meetings where we exchanged views. I'd like to say the stuff they heard from me is stuff they never heard before," he said.

Lawton said the Commonwealth organization isn't asking much of the hub nations, only to lend support in advocacy issues when they arise and help with community development, which he suggested could be as simple as linking the Jamaican community to the Birthright program.

Canada's Jewish community is receptive to Lawton's proposal, CIJA CEO Shimon Fogel said. There are within the Commonwealth "very small… communities with Jewish life hanging by a thread that could use support." He said CIJA would seek the support of its stakeholders – Canada's federated communities – and, assuming they approve, will partner with the council.

The council was created about 30 years ago by the late British MP Greville Janner and the British Board of Deputies. At the time, Janner called upon his contacts around the world, including Dorothy Reitman, former president of Canadian Jewish Congress, to get the organization off the ground. For years, the council was virtually a one-man show run by Janner, and "as he faded, so did the council," Lawton said.

Lawton, an educator by profession and one of founders in Britain of Limmud, an adult learning program, said a revived council would be a more collaborative and open organization than it had been in the past. ■

Councillor apologizes to Jews, but not Chabad

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Jeremy Searle

Cote des Neiges-Notre Dame de Grâce councillor Jeremy Searle issued a qualified apology for his accusation that a Chabad rabbi and certain councillors who supported a proposed housing development for the site of a former church were using "Jewish guilt" to deter area residents who opposed the project.

At the May 2 borough meeting, Searle read a statement that made it clear he was not apologizing to those individuals, but rather to the Jewish community. At a previous borough meeting on April 4, the independent councillor lashed out at those who, he said, accused opponents of the project of being motivated by anti-Semitism.

At that meeting, the council voted to withdraw its support for the demolition of the former St. Columba Church and the construction of seven attached houses, after two years of contentious public consultation. Searle was against the development from the outset.

"I want to begin by apologizing to all those I inadvertently offended with my comments," Searle stated. "I realize that I painted the whole Jewish community with the same brush, which is unfair, offensive and was never my intention... Please hear me when I state emphatically that I am in no way anti-Jewish. The mother of my [two] children is Jewish and Judaism is the heritage my children identify with."

Searle said that what he wanted to do in his April 4 remarks was to "draw a connection between Chabad NDG's vested interest in pushing for the development project and the suspicious timing of the unfounded accusations against the neighbours living on Hingston [Avenue]."

At the April 4 meeting, Chabad NDG director Rabbi Yisroel Bernath said users of the centre, which has been located for almost three years in the former hall adjacent to the church, have been the targets of "harassment, demonization and bigotry," that they have been "bullied" and "watched, photographed and held to unreasonable scrutiny." Chabad received numerous complaints of noise and other nuisances from neighbours, he said.

The developers' plan was to maintain that hall, where Chabad is a rent-free tenant.

Searle insisted May 2 that he wants Chabad to continue to operate in that location.

"I want Chabad to make a permanent home in NDG, and if their serious allegations of anti-Semitic harassment are valid, then I want these alleged crimes dealt with by the police without delay," he said.

"What I don't want is the opposition of the neighbours and myself to be taken out of context and twisted into something it is not."

He deplored that "some" used the charge of anti-Semitism to "derail the real conversation about the pros and cons" of the now-abandoned project. Besides Rabbi Bernath, he later identified borough mayor Russell Copeman and councillors Lionel Perez and Marvin Rotrand as those for whom he intended his April 4 charges.

In March, 224 area residents signed a public registry against the project, well above the minimum of 166 that would have forced a referendum on the issue under Quebec law.

The century-old church property was bought from the Anglican diocese by a development group, headed by Robert Blatt and David Kakon, in 2013. Blatt himself told *The CJN* in March that he found it "very upsetting" that "the Jewish element" was brought up by opponents he had heard.

Searle looks at it differently. He said of the registry results: "This exercise in grassroots democracy against an insensitive, tone-deaf council is a total victory for the community."

People were opposed primarily because they want the church preserved and used for some kind of social or recreational purpose, Searle told *The CJN*. He favours the property being bought by the city.

The neighbours might have accepted a residential project if the design was appropriate to this historic area, he said.

Chabad launched a fundraising campaign last month to buy the hall, saying it must come up with the money by the end of May. Rabbi Bernath said the goal was at least $800,000, which with the $500,000 Chabad has in the bank, would be enough to make a down payment and support a mortgage.

Chabad spokesperson Noah Sidel said May 3 that the campaign is proceeding.

Searle, who said he's been the subject of hateful social media messages, regretted that Rabbi Bernath didn't attend the borough meeting. "The cowardly rabbi has demonized me successfully to raise funds for his faith community. Now he lacks the courage to face me in public," he said.

Rabbi Bernath responded: "I have publicly invited Mr. Searle a number of times to discuss the issue and continue to extend an open invitation." ■

Announcement

Jess Landry, Branch Manager and Director, Wealth Management is pleased to welcome **Corrine Spiegel, Senior Wealth Advisor and Director, Wealth Management to the Rosedale Office in Toronto.**

Corrine brings more than 30 years of wealth management experience and is joined by her team **Michael Kane, Investment Associate and David Chaim, Business Development Associate.**

Corrine and the Forest Hill Financial Advisory Group have an innovative approach that complements the depth of services offered through Scotia Wealth Management.

(647) 777-7139
corrinespiegel.com

FOREST HILL
FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod,* a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management™

* Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. ™ Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. For more information visit www.scotiawealthmanagement.com

THE SAM & SARAH KERZNER AND JOSEPH KERZNER MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST LECTURES

Professor Stephen Berk

From Past to Future

THURSDAY, MAY 26 AT 7:30 PM
Churchill and the Jews
The lecture is presented in partnership with Beth Emeth and the Canadian Council of Conservative Synagogues, and will be held at Adath Israel (27 Southbourne Avenue).

FRIDAY, MAY 27 BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Lecture and Dinner
Islam and the Holocaust
Cost: $36 adults; $18 youth (ages 5 to 14); $6 children (ages 1 to 4). Dinner by advance reservation only by **Friday, May 20.**

SHABBAT, MAY 28—SERVICES AT 8:45 AM
Pulpit Address with Question & Answer session following Kiddush
Aftermath: 1946 in Europe, North America and Eretz Yisrael

SUNDAY, MAY 29 AT 10:00 AM
Into the Future: 2016 (America, Europe, Israel and the Middle East)

For information or reservations, contact the Synagogue office at 416-781-3511 or reserve online at www.beth-tzedec.org/login.

B'nai Brith audit finds anti-Semitism moving online

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

For the past 34 years, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada has monitored a nearly constant upward trend in the incidents of anti-Semitism, though the trend seems to have plateaued in the last five years. At the same time, the organization has also noted a trend within the trend.

As the level of anti-Semitism continues to remain constant, the nature of the events has changed, moving increasingly into the digital and online sphere.

"It is now clear that the landscape of anti-Semitism has become one of social media and online message boards, rather than spray paint and swastikas," states the League's *Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2015*. It called for a re-examination of the void left by the repeal of Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which addressed Internet hate propaganda.

Altogether, 1,277 incidents were reported in the audit, down from a record 1,627 in 2014 and nearly the same as the 1,274 incidents recorded in 2013.

The vast majority of incidents in 2015 – 1,123 – were described as harassment, such as verbal slurs, stereotyping, systematic discrimination in the workplaces or schools, hate propaganda and threats of violence.

While anti-Semitism has kept up with the times by moving online, incidents of vandalism dropped to their lowest level in 15 years, while violent occurrences dropped by half, from 19 in 2014 to 10 in 2015.

One notable incident involved the shooting death of Edmonton police Const. Daniel Woodall, of the city's anti-hate unit. He was killed in June while trying to serve an arrest warrant on an individual being charged with criminal harassment for bullying a local family. The audit is dedicated in his memory.

The audit noted there has been only a five per cent variation in the number of incidents over the past five years. The year 2014 was an exception, with 1,627 incidents, but it is considered the worst year for anti-Semitism in Canada since records have been kept. The spike in incidents correlates to the Israeli conflict in Gaza that year, the audit notes.

The league's findings parallel those of the Toronto Police, although the numbers the audit reports are substantially higher.

According to the *Toronto Police Service 2015 Annual Hate/Bias Crime Statistical Report*, Jews continued to be the single-most targeted victim group in the city, with 31 occurrences that involved Jews and another that targeted an Israeli, out of a total of 134 occurrences. Like the audit, police noted that the total number of incidents involving Jews dropped in 2015 from the year before, although in both years Jews were the single-most targeted group.

> *There is clearly not enough social pressure against anti-Semitism*

Unlike the League for Human Rights, which reports incidents across the country, Toronto police only record incidents that could be considered criminal offences.

The audit found increased co-operation between "white nationalist and racialist elements," which had largely been isolated and independent from each other.

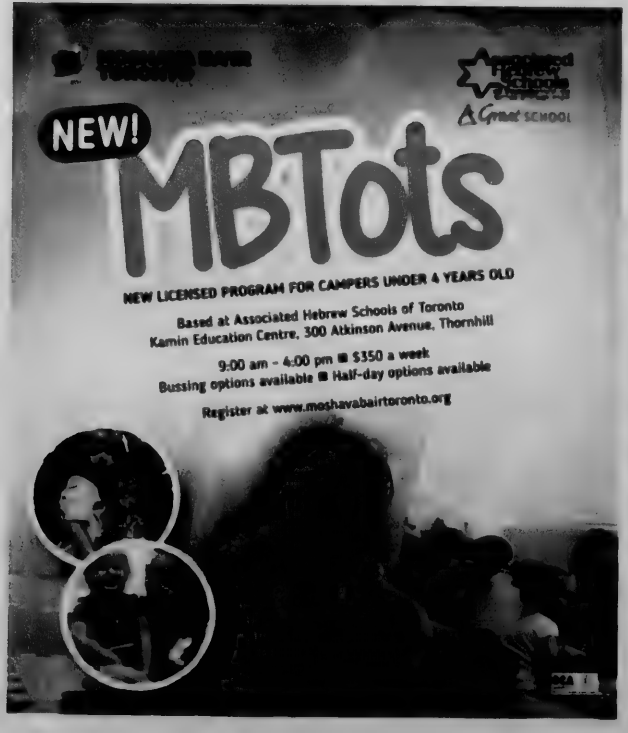
At the same time, the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel grew on university campuses. "The movement itself has been shown to lead to anti-Semitism," the audit states.

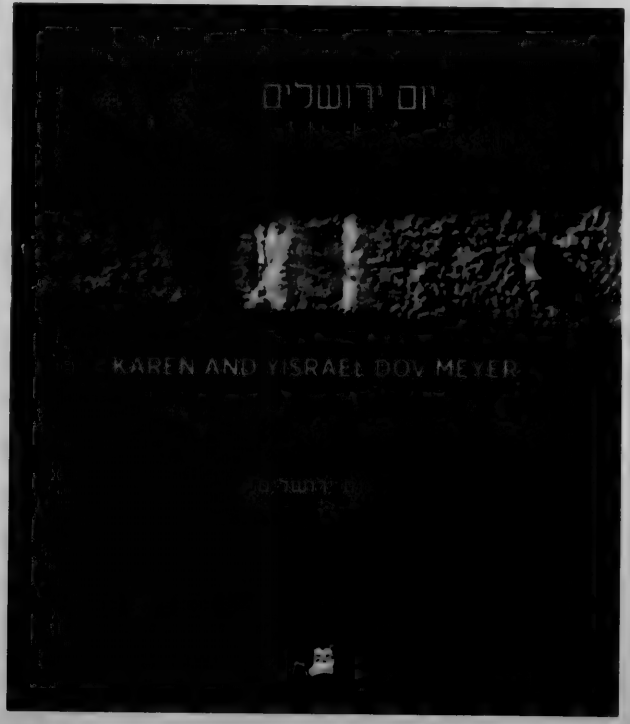
Asked why anti-Semitism persists despite education programs and the stigma attached to racism, B'nai Brith CEO Michael Mostyn said it's "so difficult to combat because of the inherent logical inconsistencies of the rhetoric, and lately, the veiled attempt to couch it as legitimate political activism.

"There is clearly not enough social pressure against anti-Semitism in particular, or we wouldn't see years like 2014, when a foreign conflict led to individual Canadian Jews being targeted in the streets. Today it is socially acceptable to engage in anti-Semitism as long as it's justified as opposition to Zionism and Israeli policy, even when the arguments used are classic anti-Semitic tropes," he said.

The audit noted that BDS activists ignore the increasingly anti-Jewish rhetoric of Palestinian leaders, including by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who said Jews "defile" the Al-Aqsa Mosque with "their filthy feet."

"The fact that boycott activists are willing to ignore jihadist rhetoric specifically aimed at the destruction of the Jewish People speaks to an underlying anti-Semitic motivation that should be concerning to all Canadians," the audit stated. ■


NEW!
MBTots
A Great SCHOOL
NEW LICENSED PROGRAM FOR CAMPERS UNDER 4 YEARS OLD
Based at Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
Kamin Education Centre, 300 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill
9:00 am - 4:00 pm ■ $350 a week
Bussing options available ■ Half-day options available
Register at www.moshavabairtoronto.org



Canadian students shine at moot beit din competition

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Montreal's Herzliah High School made history at the 2016 Ravsak Moot Beit Din competition when three Herzliah teams won first place in each of the divisions.

"This was the first time any school had even two teams that won," Herzliah head of school Laurence Kutler said.

Moot Beit Din is an intellectual contest that challenges Jewish high school students to examine contemporary situations through the lens of Jewish ethics and morals.

The contest, which was held this year on March 31 in West Palm Beach, Fla., is presented by Ravsak, a non-profit group that serves as a resource and network for more than 135 Jewish day schools across North America.

Each of the 29 teams from 21 schools was required to present a written and oral argument before a panel of rabbis, scholars and lawyers. This year's case study asked students to examine Jewish legal perspectives on medicine, and to respond to questions about the medical treatment of an elderly man with Alzheimer's disease facing a life-threatening heart condition.

The TanenbaumCHAT team, from left, Summer Hart, Avigayil Margolis, Ryan Ripsman and Ben Shore, pose with Rabbi Shalom Kreif at the Moot Beit Din competition.

Kutler explained that while each team in each division argued the same case, teams in the first division were required to find their own Jewish sources to back up their stance, teams in the second division were given a list of Jewish sources to cite and had permission to refer to non-Jewish sources such as medical research documents, while teams in the third group had to adhere to the Jewish sources they were provided with to make their case.

In one of the divisions, Herzliah and the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto placed first and second, respectively, adding to Canada's success at the competition.

The winning TanenbaumCHAT team was represented by Summer Hart, Avigayil Margolis, Ryan Ripsman and Ben Shore.

Shore, 16, said although all the teams had the same case to argue, it was interesting to note the varied conclusions that were reached.

"I think it was a very interesting case. There was a lot of applying Halachah to modern ideas and it was very interesting how we went about answering the questions, bringing in sources that you might not think are necessarily relevant but were able to be applied," Shore said.

"Everyone worked so hard and it was really amazing."

Ian Langleben, a 15-year-old Herzliah student who was on the winning team in the third division with Ysabella Hazan, Jonathan Cohen and Moshe Ohana, said he thinks the way in which they presented their argument won the judges over.

"We presented the argument not only in a way that would be telling the judges what would be the best options, but in the form of a discussion between the members of the group as if we were a Jewish court discussing the best options, as if we were a panel of rabbis," Langleben said.

"We think that created an aspect that added to the content... the drama aspect helped push us over and above the rest."

Summer Hart, an 18-year-old Grade 12 student on the TanenbaumCHAT team, said her participation in this competition benefited her in a number of ways.

"I think I gained more confidence in my public speaking and gained a better appreciation for Jewish Halachah and Talmud," she said.

Langleben said he was impressed with the event, adding, "You get to think about modern problems in a way that's refreshing because you're adding the Jewish aspect to it and looking at it from a completely different perspective. The event itself is fun and also a great opportunity to meet other students from across North America." ■

RAMBAM
Creating the Future of Medicine
Serving the people. Serving the world.

For more information:
Canadian Friends of Rambam
64 Merton Street, Toronto
Ontario M4S 1A | Canada
info@cfram.ca
Tel: (416) 481-5552

Canadian Friends of RAMBAM
Israel's Health Care Campus

New! Amica has expanded its care and support options.

Choose either first-class Independent Living or Assisted Living.

Choose care and support services tailored to your unique needs, preferences and budget.

Enjoy the benefits of a Personalized Wellness Plan.

SPACIOUS SUITES AVAILABLE

Call to learn about our new care and support options.

First-Class Retirement Living • www.amica.ca

Amica at Bayview 416.977.3177
Amica at Bayview Gardens 647.286.7935
Amica at Thornhill 905.886.3400

Successful refugee claims from Israel are way down

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Canada continued to accept refugees from Israel last year, but the numbers slowed to a trickle.

Figures obtained by *The CJN* from the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) show that of 60 claims from Israel finalized in 2015, only seven were approved — an acceptance rate of 12 per cent.

It's the lowest total number of accepted claims in recent memory. The rest of the claims were either abandoned or withdrawn.

The IRB's acceptance rate from Israel the year before was five per cent. There were 11 approvals based on 117 cases finalized in 2014.

Ottawa's acceptance rate for refugees from Israel has dropped steadily since 2005, when it was 29 per cent. In recent years, the largest number of refugees, 168, were admitted in 2003.

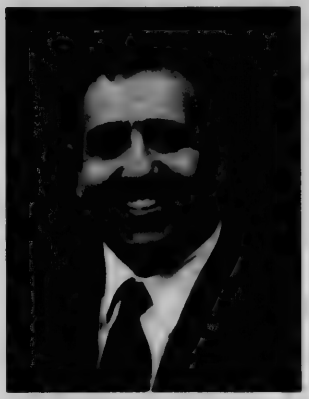
Since 1999, 857 claimants from Israel have been granted refugee status in Canada.

Gone are the days when the vast majority of refugee claims from Israel were made by immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who then springboarded to Canada, agreed Toronto immigration lawyer Guidy Mamann.

The IRB does not identify claimants or give reasons for acceptance or rejection of claims.

But in recent years, Mamann noted, successful claims in Canada have been made by Arab citizens of Israel, and they've generally fallen into three categories: individuals suspected of collaborating with Israel or who resist carrying out terrorist attacks against the Jewish state; women who brought dishonour on their families by refusing arranged marriages or engaging in certain behaviours; and gay men and women.

Refugees must prove a well-founded fear of persecution if they were to be returned to Israel, meaning that Israeli courts or police cannot protect them.



Immigration lawyer Guidy Mamann

Arab villages within Israel "continue to be a place where the culture is a little bit different than the modern culture in the big cities," Mamann told *The CJN*. "Very old ideas remain in those communities. If they discover one of their children is gay and is in a same-sex relationship, the roof will come off. That individual is going to be in tremendous danger no matter what the Israeli government does or does not offer in the way of protection."

One needs only to be suspected of collaborating with Israel or labelled a collaborator in error to be in danger, Mamann said. "Even somebody who sells his home to a Jewish family could be very easily targeted as a collaborator," he added.

Mamann noted that the low number of approvals from Israel in 2015 is remarkable. "In a country immersed in religious and political conflict, we should be seeing hundreds and hundreds of people seeking refuge from allegations of oppression."

> *[The IRB was] suckered into approving those claims. They were being fed nonsense, and they bought it*

He said the low acceptance rate is testament to Israel's ability to protect vulnerable minorities, but "also tells us something about the evolution of [the IRB]."

Canada's acceptance of refugees from Israel was once a sore point between the two countries.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Canada took in large numbers of refugees from Israel who had arrived from the former Soviet Union and then went to Canada, a favourite destination.

Typically, these claimants alleged that in Israel, they faced discrimination and were denied jobs, education and housing, and were even threatened and harassed, because of mixed marriages or questionable status as Jews. Israel countered that as a multicultural democracy, it did not produce refugees. It said such claims were spurious and designed simply to gain entry to other countries.

Mamann said the board was "suckered into approving those claims. They were being fed nonsense, and they bought it."

He said some IRB members were antagonistic toward Israel.

But these days, the numbers, especially the rejection rate, show the board is confident that Israel has robust protections, Mamann said.

The IRB has a separate category for refugee claims from "Palestine." Last year, it finalized 107 cases from Palestine and approved 57 of them, for an approval rate of 53 per cent.

Since 1999, 850 refugee claimants from Palestine have been accepted into Canada.

Edward Corrigan, a London, Ont.-based immigration lawyer who has had Palestinian clients, said the IRB numbers refer to claimants from Gaza, the West Bank and perhaps east Jerusalem.

Because claims are made from the country of origin, they may also include stateless Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Gulf states, Corrigan said.

A "large number" of Palestinians from Gaza are suspected of supporting, spying for, or being members of the rival Fatah faction, he explained.

"All these would be serious risk factors for Palestinians in Gaza," which is controlled by Hamas, deemed a terrorist group by Canada.

Corrigan said that would account for most of the refugee claims from Gaza. Others might include religious disputes.

Claims from the West Bank are "much more complicated" because of the presence of Jewish settlers, the Israeli military and factional tensions between Hamas and Fatah.

"Most [members] of the [IRB] would recognize that the ability of the Palestinian Authority to protect people is limited," Corrigan said.

The total includes "some" gay Palestinians. Corrigan said the IRB might also be hearing claims from Muslim women who married outside their faith or someone their family does not approve. ■

Man denied entry to Canada for being member of Fatah

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The Federal Court of Canada has upheld a ruling by immigration officials that denied entry to the country by a Palestinian national because he was affiliated with Fatah, which it described as a terrorist group.

In a February ruling recently made public, the court found that the Immigration Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board was right to deny entry to Akram Muslih Anteer because he was once a member of Fatah, the largest political party in the West Bank.

The court upheld a definition of Fatah as a "terrorist" group, even though it is not recognized as such by the federal government.

Anteer, a national of the Palestinian Authority and resident of Sweden, arrived in Canada in April 2013 and claimed refugee status.

The Immigration Division (ID) of the IRB believed he was a member of Fatah, "and that Fatah is an organization that engages, has engaged, or will engage in terrorist acts," stated the ruling by Judge Cecily Strickland.

"The ID found that the evidence established that Fatah was a terrorist organization." It determined that Anteer was inadmissible on security grounds and in June 2015, he was returned to Sweden.

Anteer then sought a judicial review of his case.

The court noted that when he was interviewed by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) at the port of entry, Anteer denied being a citizen or resident of any other country. He said he had resided in Israel and Jordan from 2002 to 2012, that his last permanent residence was Jordan, and acknowledged that he was a member of Fatah.

In May 2013 and January 2014, Anteer was further questioned by a CBSA inland enforcement officer and, the court said, provided his membership card for the Palestine National Liberation Movement, also known as Fatah, with an expiry date of August 2012.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Boy's bar mitzvah money goes to Guatemalan schoolkids

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Jacob Katz and his family will be returning to Toronto this month after living in Guatemala for almost two years.

And while they'll be packing up many belongings for home, Jacob will be leaving something very important behind – his bar mitzvah money.

He's donating all the money from his recent bar mitzvah in the Central American nation to Access Education – Guatemala Children's Fund. The Toronto-based charity, founded by Adrienne Rosen, builds schools in Guatemala and provides scholarships to children who can't afford to pay school fees.

In a recent phone interview, Jacob proudly told *The CJN* that through his mitzvah project, he will be helping more than 30 children attend high school this year. "Before I came to Guatemala, I knew about poor people, but I never saw any.

"Now I've been to their homes, and some [homes] have the whole family living in a one-room house. That's when I saw real poverty."

He said he decided to give his bar mitzvah money to Access Education after visiting the small town of La Union for a middle school graduation. "The kids that graduated were the first kids to pass middle school in that town."

He noted that education isn't free in Guatemala, and those new graduates need to pay fees to attend high school, which will be in a nearby town until Access Education finishes building the high school wing in La Union.

In his blog, Jacob wrote that his goal was to raise $3,600. However, he exceeded that amount by $1,120.

Jacob is linked to Access Education through his mother, Claire Merbaum, a Toronto educator who has been on the board of this charity for eight years.

Jacob Katz is pictured with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, spiritual leader of Toronto's City Shul, at his recent bar mitzvah in Guatemala.

She said that after a couple of visits to Guatemala on behalf of Access, she wanted her family to have the opportunity to live in Guatemala. She was particularly interested in Panajachel, a small gentrified tourist town with a good mix of American expats, international volunteers and indigenous people.

Panajachel is about a three-hour drive from Guatemala City and an equal distance from La Union.

Merbaum, who speaks Spanish, was able to find a teaching position at the Robert Muller Life School in Panajachel. This non-profit international school offers an English immersion program and provides scholarships to 30 per cent of its students, many of whom are Mayan.

Merbaum's husband Josh Katz, an IT specialist, took on more domestic responsibilities in Guatemala.

Their two children, Jacob and Jennifer, 10, had been students at the Toronto Heschel School and are attending the international school.

Jacob prepared for his bar mitzvah through weekly Skype meetings with Toronto educator Dori Levine, Merbaum said.

"Technology really enabled all of this [bar mitzvah] preparation to happen."

The family observed Shabbat in Panajachel, but for the High Holidays, they travelled to Guatemala City for services at Adat Israel, a Reform congregation, led by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, founding rabbi of Toronto's City Shul.

She's on the advisory board of Access Education and discovered Adat Israel six years ago on a trip to Guatemala City following board work she did for Access in La Union.

"The congregants [of Adat Israel] were a flock without a shepherd," she said. "I helped them become a real congregation, and through this effort, the congregation became accepted by the World Union for Progressive Judaism [the worldwide umbrella of the Reform movement]."

Her role is that of volunteer rabbi, and she visits the congregation once a year. This year, she timed the visit with Passover so she could officiate at Jacob's bar mitzvah and lead a community seder for Adat Israel members.

Rabbi Goldstein made it clear she doesn't do destination bar and bat mitzvahs. She said Jacob's bar mitzvah was an exception, because he and his family are part of the Adat Israel community. They helped with High Holiday services there, and in Toronto they attended High Holiday services at City Shul.

She called the bar mitzvah a "perfect connection" between Guatemala, City Shul, Adat Israel and Access Education.

She said when Jacob was called up for an aliyah on Shabbat morning, it was the first bar mitzvah for the Guatemalan congregation. "It was so fabulous."

The congregation marked the occasion with the completion of a striking new Aron Kodesh that was hand-made by two congregants. "They rushed to get it done on time. It was very emotional when we dedicated the Ark.

"The depth of [the congregants'] passion is palpable. They're deeply in love with being Jewish, against all odds."

A second bar mitzvah ceremony – attended by some 50 guests from Toronto – took place a few days later at a hotel in the colonial town of Antigua, a popular tourist destination.

Rabbi Goldstein described Jacob as a young person with depth and a big heart.

She said in his dvar Torah, he spoke about the difference between living with "kids who want and kids who need." ■

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The court noted that Anteer initially stated that he had joined Fatah when he was 10 years old and later stated that he joined "when Oslo took place," which the enforcement officer "thought likely meant the signing of the Oslo accords by Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in 1993."

Anteer said he had achieved "cadre level" of membership in Fatah, the court found.

"He also described his role within Fatah, which included identifying and intercepting opponents of Fatah and working with high ranking Fatah officials, and stated that he reported to the head of Fatah in the Jenin area, Ata Abu Rumeila."

> *The... evidence is clear that Fatah engaged in acts of violence and terrorism*

The CBSA officer noted that Rumeila was the reputed head of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB) in Jenin. The group was added to Canada's list of terror groups in 2003.

"The documentary evidence is clear that Fatah engaged in acts of violence and terrorism both before the denunciation of terrorism in 1989 and, through the AAMB, during the second intifadah from 2000 to at least 2007," the ruling stated.

The IRB said it is "likely" that Fatah "did not entirely disassociate itself from acts of terrorism against the Israeli state, even after renouncing armed struggle, and that the most notorious faction within Fatah, the AAMB, did not exist separately from Fatah as a whole."

There was "sufficient evidence to ground the [IRB's] conclusion that Fatah was a terrorist organization," the ruling stated.

The court noted that Anteer also said he was at the late Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat's compound when it was under siege by Israel in 2002, was wounded, and was subsequently held at an Israeli detention centre until released in 2005.

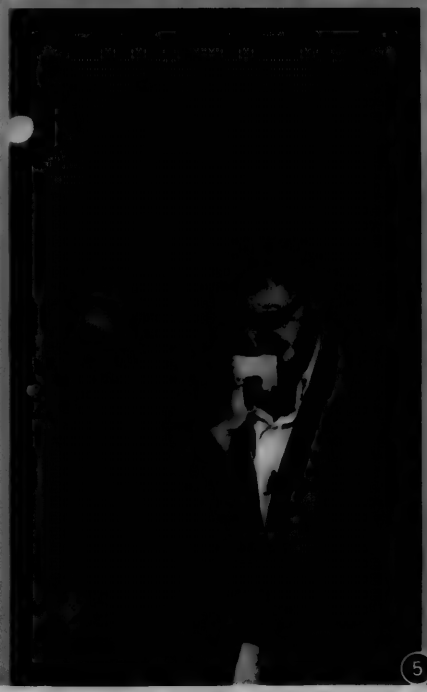
He was arrested twice more by Israeli forces, and in 2009, was expelled from Israel and removed to Jordan.

The court said Anteer denied Fatah was a terrorist group and that he engaged in or promoted acts of terror. That he is no longer a member of Fatah "is not relevant," the court ruled, adding that he remained a member until at least 2012.

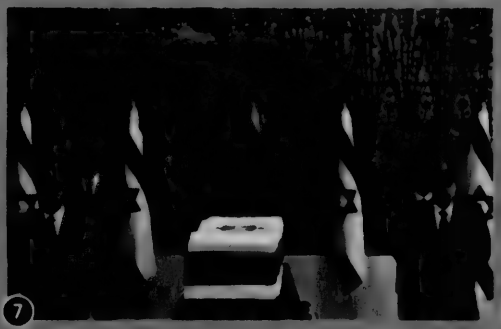
The IRB's decision to deny Anteer entry was "reasonable," the court ruled and dismissed his request for a judicial review. ■

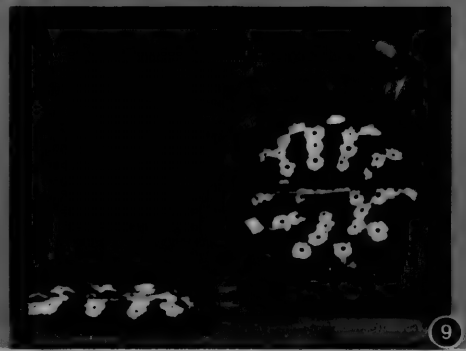
Israel's year in pictures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9



1. Naor Shalev, 13, carries a Torah scroll as he celebrates his bar mitzvah with family and friends at the Western Wall, Dec. 17. Naor was critically injured in a stabbing attack in Jerusalem two months earlier.
2. For 44 seconds on Oct. 1, Benjamin Netanyahu silently rebuked the UN General Assembly.
3. Leader of the Jewish Home political party, Naftali Bennett, seen with students at the Bleich high school in the central Israeli city of Ramat Gan in February 2016.
4. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin presents the championship trophy to players from Maccabi Tel Aviv who won its seventh straight Israeli league basketball title Feb. 18.
5. Mourners attend the funeral of Israeli-Canadian Chaim Rothman in Jerusalem Oct. 24 almost a year after he was wounded in a terror attack.
6. Two men in traditional Kurdish garments bake shmura matzah with a heated iron.
7. Fire broke out on June 18 at the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. Sixteen youths were arrested.





1. Family of Rabbi Ya'acov Don, former shaliach from Toronto, mourn during his funeral in Kfar Etzion, in the West Bank on Nov. 20.
2. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave an interview with international media voicing his opposition to the Iran nuclear deal last July.
3. Israeli kindergarten children treat teddy bears at Soroka hospital in Be'er Sheva May 12, 2015.
4. Israeli soldiers have apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah.
5. Youths try to build a snowman in the Golan Heights on Jan. 2. Temperatures in the area were colder than usual at the start of the year.
6. Renana Meir, right, is comforted at her mother Dafna's funeral in January. Her mother was stabbed in her home by a Palestinian teenager.
7. Yitzhak Navon, Israel's fifth president, who died Nov. 6, lies in state in Jerusalem.
8. Over 20 dogs were put up for adoption, at the President's Residence in Jerusalem on April 4.
9. Rob Nicholson, then Canada's foreign minister, right, lays a wreath at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on June 3 during an official visit to Israel.

INTERNATIONAL

ANALYSIS

In Gaza, deadly flames expose a fragile standoff

Avi Issacharoff
JERUSALEM

In one sudden and tragic moment on the night of Friday May 6, discussion over the latest escalation of violence between Hamas and Israel was relegated to secondary importance for some residents of Gaza. Local media began reporting extensively on an incident in the northwest of the Strip, in the Shati refugee camp.

Three toddlers from the al-Hindi family had perished in a fire in their home, caused by the candles lit in their room. The horror was reinforced by images of the three bodies that quickly spread across social media and on news sites that decided not to blur out the pictures.

By the next morning, a vitriolic blame game between Hamas and Fatah was in full swing, with Israel also being connected to the incident.

At the centre of the stormy debate is the question of who is responsible for the continual power outages that led the bereaved family (like tens of thousands of other Gaza families) to light candles.

The accusations began with members of the Hindi family themselves. On Saturday morning, they published pictures of some of the men in the extended family standing amid the rubble of what was left of the house, holding portraits of Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

On the pictures it was written "child killers."

The response from Ramallah came swiftly.

Within a few hours, Jamal al-Muhsin, a member of Fatah's central committee, said the Hindi family themselves were responsible for the deaths of the three children because they did not heed the instructions of the Gaza authorities, who urge residents not to leave candles burning in homes when dealing with power outages.

Muhsin, who is considered one of the closest men to Abbas, also said that Hamas was responsible for the incident, because it does not allow the government of Hamdallah to operate in the Strip and deal with the power problem.

A Palestinian boy carries a candle during a power outage in the southern Gaza Strip last year.
ABED RAHIM KHATIB/FLASH90 PHOTO

> *At the centre of the stormy debate is the question of who is responsible for the continual power outages*

Additionally, in an attempt to ease the criticism against the PA over the fire in Gaza, Abbas spoke over the phone to the father of the three killed children. Hamdallah also announced the family will be given a new house and some money.

But the story doesn't end there.

At the funeral for the three children Saturday afternoon, Hamas' Gaza head Ismail Haniyeh accused the government in Ramallah of strongly opposing a seaport in Gaza and refusing to "establish projects" to lift the siege –the security blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt on Gaza, to prevent its Hamas terror rulers from importing weaponry.

"Who bears the responsibility?" asked Haniyeh. "Who takes $70 million in taxes each month? Who insists on imposing a tax on fuel for the power station? Who refuses to extend the gas line from Israel to the power station in Gaza?" Haniyeh fumed, while noting that the PA's shortcomings did not detract from "the crimes of the occupation" – i.e. Israel.

On Sunday morning, May 8, residents of the Strip awoke to find a massive billboard placed at a central Gazan junction that featured blood splattered across Abbas and Hamdallah.

"Our blood is on your necks," the billboard says.

At the heart of the power supply dispute is an excise tax on fuel that comes from Israel via the PA. Hamas refuses to pay and demands the government in Ramallah pony up.

The PA is paying for half of the tax now and says Hamas must pay the other half.

Meanwhile, the power company claims that it does not have enough money to buy sufficient gas. One can guess, then, that the power outages will continue. And therefore, the residents of Gaza will continue to use candles for light.

Still, even as Hamas speaks out against the PA, it seems to be doing whatever possible to avoid another round of fighting with Israel, limiting itself in its response to Israeli tunnel-seeking incursions into the Strip and seemingly accommodating, however grudgingly, Israeli activity within Gazan territory.

In recent days the Israel Defence Forces have operated just inside Gaza – in a strip of 150 metres from the border within Palestinian territory. Hamas was content with firing a limited number of mortars into open areas in protest.

What it did not do was fire rockets at Israeli towns or to send out its special forces for a raid by land or by sea.

During the days that the IDF operated within the strip, Hamas sent messages to Israel via Qatar, Egypt, the UN and others to say that it was not interested in another war. An agreement was indirectly created between the two sides – with the help of Egyptian mediators – under which Israel will leave this inside "perimeter" soon, Hamas will cease firing, and during the fighting Hamas won't do more than fire a few perfunctory rounds.

Practically speaking, in a manner that it would never admit to, Hamas thus signaled it would not go to war over the recent Israeli operations on the border. Even in Haniyeh's weekly Friday night speech, routinely full of pathos and battle cries against Israel, the former prime minister chose this time to emphasize that Hamas does not want a war.

Yet the cold status quo could change. Within Hamas' military wing, some are demanding the group take violent action with an "opening strike" that they hope will eventually bring about the lifting of the siege of Gaza.

There is also increasing support among ordinary Gazans for a new round of fighting, especially among those who have little to lose.

One errant Israeli shell or Palestinian mortar, will strengthen advocates for war in both camps. But a deadly accident, like a candle knocked over, can ignite the region just the same. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

OPINION

Rejecting Britain's anti-Semitic left

Gerald Steinberg

The deep hatred that taints significant parts of the British left has been painfully visible for many years, but very few stood up to fight this disease. The Labour Party's recent selection of Jeremy Corbyn, whose loathing for Israel is undisguised, appeared to mark a new low point. What is often termed "the new anti-Semitism", meaning the obsessive rejection of Zionism and self-determination for the Jewish People, seemed invincible, particularly in the United Kingdom.

But these attacks crossed an invisible red line, and dozens of officials, including Ken Livingstone, the former mayor of London, were suspended due to their anti-Semitic remarks. The BBC, whose broadcasts are seen as biased against Israel, featured debates in which Livingstone and the others were ridiculed and berated. Newspapers published commentaries that condemned the anti-Israel expressions and the failure of party officials to take action. This is indeed a new and historic development.

But as the anti-Semitism is gradually being exposed and rejected, step after painful step, it's clear that this toxic political disease isn't confined to the British Labour party. The deep prejudice is reflected in many other institutions, including on university campuses and among groups claiming to promote "liberal progressive values."

Some powerful charities and human rights groups have promoted campaigns singling out Israel for sustained attack, including boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS). These groups are allied with radical Palestinians and fringe Israeli anti-Zionists, promoting false allegations of war crimes, apartheid, genocide and other outrageous and immoral claims. Largely erasing Palestinian terrorism, they repeatedly issue blanket condemnations of Israel, while, at least until recently, all but ignoring blatant atrocities and human rights violations in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Libya.

In a number of cases, the new political anti-Semitism on the left merges with classical theological hatred of Jews. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), which is endorsed by many public figures and receives money from Britain's Department for International Development, is very active in demonizing Israel, in co-operation with the Council for Arab-British Understanding. Swee Ang Chai, MAP's founder, is also a promoter of the anti-Semitic rants of David Duke, leader of the Ku Klux Klan.

Christian Aid, which was created to provide humanitarian assistance, runs social media attack campaigns blaming Israel entirely for Palestinian suffering. (Palestinians are treated as children who are not responsible for their actions.)

War on Want, another very powerful group, uses similar rhetoric, and Jewish Human Rights Watch filed a complaint with the U.K. Charity Commission, citing the organization's campaign of "demonization of the State of Israel," which "has no bearings on the objects of the charity."

In the case of Amnesty International, in addition to frequent war crimes accusations, a number of its officials are active in promoting hatred. In November 2012, during an intense parliamentary debate on Gaza, Kristyan Benedict, Amnesty UK's campaign manager, tweeted a "joke" based on the image of three Jewish MPs as "warmongers." John Mann MP, chair of Britain's All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism, observed that Benedict had "crossed the line between legitimate criticism and anti-Semitism" and called for an inquiry into the organization.

But Amnesty leaders dismissed Benedict's offensive words as merely "ill-advised" and "not racist or anti-Semitic." Two years later, he struck again, using the term JSIL ("Jewish State in the Levant") to compare Israel to the mass public executions and beheadings of the Islamic State in Syria. Amnesty-UK also rejected urges to add anti-Semitism to its human rights agenda.

As these and other examples show, the mix of old and new anti-Semitism on the left goes far beyond the U.K. Labour Party. To truly rehabilitate themselves, these groups must close the gap between espousing progressive values and actually implementing them, starting with the immediate end to hatred of Israel and the Jewish People. This process has finally begun, but there is still a long way to go. ■

SeeJN | Moving Ceremony

YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90 PHOTO

Israeli soldiers salute during the flag laying ceremony in Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem, on May 8. The ceremony of laying Israeli flags on each fallen soldier's grave is held every year just a few days before Yom Hazikaron, the memorial day for Israel's fallen soldiers.

Educator pleads guilty to child porn charge

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The one-time director of Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto pleaded guilty to a child pornography charge in California, received a 100-day jail term and has returned to his native England.

David Prashker pleaded guilty in April to the felony charge of possessing child pornography. He served 100 days in county jail (before and after sentencing) and was released, Jordan Sanders, the Contra Costa County deputy district attorney assigned to the case, told *The CJN* in an email.

Prashker admitted in a plea agreement that he knowingly possessed "electronic matter depicting a child under 18 years of age engaged in sexual activity," prosecutors said in a statement.

Prashker, 60, is required to stay on probation for three years and register under California law as a sex offender.

Upon his release, he returned to the United Kingdom, Sanders said.

When he was arrested at his home in Lafayette, Calif., on Feb. 18, Prashker allegedly threw a laptop from a second-floor bedroom into his backyard while a search warrant was being served. Investigators found evidence of child porn on the computer's hard drive.

Prashker was also charged with attempting to destroy evidence, but that charge was dropped in the plea deal.

He served as director of Leo Baeck Day School from 2004 to 2008, when he resigned over violent and sexually explicit poetry he wrote and posted online.

Parents of Leo Baeck students had complained that the poetry was inappropriate and that posting it online reflected poor judgment. Parents were alerted to the poems via an anonymous email.

The London-born Prashker was a substitute teacher at two private schools in Contra Costa County outside San Francisco, but there was no evidence found that his activities involved students at the schools.

According to his website, Prashker is the author of 30 books, "including contemporary and historical novels, short stories, poetry, songs, plays and scholarly works, as well as being a painter, musician, singer-songwriter, the owner of the Argaman Press (his own publishing imprint), the author of TheBibleNet and the founder and CEO of the Campaign for a Charter of Human Responsibilities."

As a teacher and school administrator, he "has covered every age from nursery to adults, including day and boarding schools, religious schools, kibbutz schools, summer camps, and regular Shabbat morning Torah shi'urim for adults." ■

Comptroller wants investigation into leaked war report

TAMAR PILEGGI
JERUSALEM

Israel's State Comptroller Yosef Shapira requested that Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit launch an investigation into the leak of his secret, reportedly damming report on the state handling of Israel's 2014 war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Shapira told Mandelblit on May 8 that the highly classified draft report was sent last week to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon and other government officials who served in the security cabinet at the time of the war, the *Ha'aretz* daily reported.

He said the premature release and publication of information from a top secret document was a criminal offence punishable by up to a year in jail.

Also last Sunday, the Knesset called for a special plenum session to address the leaked report and its findings.

The session was called after opposition lawmakers from the Zionist Union, Joint (Arab) List and Meretz parties garnered the necessary support from Knesset members. The date for the plenum discussion has yet to be set.

Meretz MK Ilan Gilon told Army Radio last Sunday afternoon that he fully expects Netanyahu to attend the session, "in order to provide the public with some answers."

According to media sources who saw the 70-page document, Shapira's report accused Netanyahu and Ya'alon of failing to provide the security cabinet with real-time updates regarding the imminent threat of war with Hamas, or the capabilities of the terror group's cross-border attack tunnels.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Israeli Defence Minister Moshe "Boogie" Ya'alon, centre, seen with incoming IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, right, and outgoing IDF Chief of Staff Benny Gantz, left, at a changing of the ranks ceremony held at the PM's office in Jerusalem last year. MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90 PHOTO

The prime minister and the defence minister were also said to conceal warnings from the Shin Bet security agency, which raised the potential for war with Hamas in early July 2014, according to Channel 10. The 50-day conflict, known in Israel as Operation Protective Edge, began on July 8, 2014.

Members of the security cabinet were only apprised of the Shin Bet warning once the operation was underway, the report said.

According to the *Ma'ariv* newspaper, among the officials hit hardest in the draft was then-IDF chief Benny Gantz, "who is exposed as a weak chief of staff who was out of touch with reality."

Netanyahu, it added, "is depicted as having no crisis management abilities."

The *Yediot Achronot* daily said the draft found the security establishment "did not have a comprehensive plan for dealing with Hamas' offensive tunnels" during the conflict.

Hamas' tunnels were used to devastating effect on a number of occasions during the war to ambush IDF soldiers.

In February, the comptroller's office released a statement pointing to severe failures to anticipate the tunnel threat.

"The draft as submitted points to gaps and failures, some severe, in the readiness for the tunnel threat and dealing with them," it said.

Last Thursday, May 5, Netanyahu and Ya'alon hit back at Shapira, dismissing the report as "not serious."

Sources close to the two men said they rejected the claims against them in the draft.

Yuval Steinitz, a senior Likud minister loyal to Netanyahu, said the reported findings of the report "bore no relation" to the report's true content.

"The operation was conducted with unprecedented transparency vis-à-vis the security cabinet. Over the course of the operation, Netanyahu convened the cabinet dozens of times, more than during any other [military] operation in history," a source close to Netanyahu said.

The Israeli military destroyed over 30 Hamas tunnels during the 2014 operation, and recently uncovered two sophisticated tunnels – including one last week – that lead into Israeli territory.

Following the conflict, Israel invested an estimated NIS 1 billion (approximately $340 million) into developing a detection system to locate such tunnels.

The draft report came amid fears of another conflict in the south after several days of exchanges near the border.

A Palestinian woman was killed last week when Israeli tank shells hit her home east of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, according to a report by the southern city's Nasser Hospital.

The Israeli fire came in response to a spate of mortar attacks on troops along the Gaza border fence since April 3. ■

Times of Israel / Timesofisrael.com

Israeli Jews support pluralism and civil marriage, poll finds

TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF
JERUSALEM

Most Israeli Jews support increased Jewish pluralism in Israel, and are in favour of the right to freedom of marriage, a survey released May 8 found.

The poll, published by The Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI), found that more than 60 per cent of Israeli Jews back the legalization of civil marriages in the country.

Over 80 per cent said that Israeli Jews who identify as traditional, Orthodox and secular are all "equally good Jews," and 56 per cent of respondents said the government should be "much more considerate" of the views of minority groups.

Some 44 per cent said they supported the integration of non-Jews into the school system.

The study, conducted as part of the Jewish pluralism in Israel Index with the support of the Davidson Foundation, polled 1,000 Israeli Jewish adults, of whom 31 per cent described themselves as completely secular, 21 per cent secular-traditional, 23 per cent traditional, 10 per cent religious, 10 per cent ultra-Orthodox and 4 per cent liberal-religious.

The institute defined Jewish pluralism as "the condition in which Jews in Israel and abroad, from different social, ideological and religious groups, regardless of sex or ethnicity, should have an equal chance to bring their differences to the public arena."

Although most respondents indicated support for greater pluralism in Israeli society, some sharp differences remained on how increased religious freedom should be implemented in the Jewish state.

Over half of respondents said they opposed "Jews marrying non-Jews," and most also disagreed with women wearing phylacteries at the Western Wall.

The poll further found that 90 per cent of respondents reported feeling "comfortable" or "very comfortable" with themselves in Israel, though those who identified as right-wingers (22 per cent of all respondents) were significantly more likely to respond as such than left-wingers (4.9 per cent of all respondents).

The survey also examined the public attitudes and perceived contribution of the different groups and population sectors.

By a wide margin, Israel Defence Forces soldiers topped the list as contributing the most to the Jewish state. At the bottom were Israeli Muslim Arabs and the ultra-Orthodox communities, two groups who traditionally have the lowest proportional presence in the army.

In contrast, Israeli Druze, a small Muslim community whose young adults generally volunteer to serve in the IDF, ranked significantly higher on the scale of groups contributing to society.

Diaspora Jews were also viewed in a more positive light than Israelis who left the Jewish state to live abroad.

According to the JPPI, the poll, which is part of a larger work on pluralism in Israel and the Jewish people, focused on "Jewish Israelis. The index comes to provide an annual objective measurement concerning the ability of every Jew to feel at home in the Jewish state," a statement from the institute said.

According to JPPI president Avinoam Bar-Yosef, the differences in responses are representative of the ongoing debate over Israel's Jewish identity.

"The differences result from a clear majority's wish to preserve a framework of unity Jewish character of the country and the agenda of Diaspora communities, mainly liberals, who want the state to include anyone who identifies as Jewish and desires a connection to their roots," he said. ■

Times of Israel / Timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life

FILM | BOOKS | PAI

Arabic Movie explores cinephilia among Arab-speaking Jews.

TJFF program examines story of Israeli cinema

JORDAN ADLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

> *[Israeli cinema has] such a rich history which we don't acknowledge much.*
> **Stuart Hands, TJFF programmer**

The programmers of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival are not just interested in exposing the work of hot new Israeli filmmakers making a mark on the world stage. They also want to invite Torontonians to travel back in time and explore the past 50 years of Israel's film history.

One of the centrepieces of the festival's 24th year is *Hagiga – the Story of Israeli Cinema*, which screens across two nights (May 11, 12) at Innis Town Hall.

"It is such a rich history, which we do not acknowledge much," says Stuart Hands, the TJFF program director.

"People have this understanding that [Israeli cinema] only became interesting in the past 15 years. There are all these filmmakers that came before, in the '70s or even before that… who were vital."

The two-part festival version of *Hagiga* was trimmed down from a more comprehensive series of episodes that aired on Israeli television in 2015.

Part 1 focuses on the major filmmakers who shook up the film industry in the '60s and '70s, including Menahem Golan, Judd Ne'eman, Ephraim Kishon and Uri Zohar.

The second chapter will focus on more contemporary figures, such as Eytan Fox, Joseph Cedar, Eran Riklis and the late Ronit Elkabetz.

Several of the films featured in this latter half may be familiar to patrons with deep ties to the festival.

"This audience has been with the festival for 24 years now, and they have developed a kind of curiosity and knowledge of all these films and actors that you see when you look at the documentary," says programmer Jérémie Abessira.

One of the earliest titles to premiere at the TJFF, which loyal festival goers may remember, was the 1994 Israeli drama *Sh'Chur*, which featured an Ophir award-winning performance from Elkabetz. The actor and director died on April 19 at the age of 51 after battling cancer.

In her honour, the TJFF programmer decided to add a screening of a moving documentary about Elkabetz. *A Stranger in Paris*, (May 12) directed by Nir Bergman, is a 50-minute documentary from 2010 about the late artist, best known for films such as *Late Marriage* and *Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem*.

Hagiga airs in two parts at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

A Stranger in Paris was submitted to the festival in an earlier year, but it only found a place in the program due to her passing, Hands says.

"She's a very important icon," he says. "People who have been with the festival all these years have really become familiar with her."

Another title focused on arts in the Middle East is David A. Stein Memorial Award winner *Arabic Movie* (May 13). The film explores a different kind of cinephilia in Israel, but among the Arabic-speaking Sephardi and Mizrahi populations. Every Friday night, these groups would come together to watch Arabic films from Egypt.

Another title of interest is *I, Dalio – or the Rules of the Game*, (May 11), a 33-minute documentary about character actor Marcel Dalio. The French actor was often cast as Jewish characters in films released during the lead-up to World War II. Dalio later fled for the United States to escape the Nazi regime.

"The whole film is kind of revolving around… being Jewish and what it means for [Dalio] as an actor in France being seen as the Jew," Abessira says.

Dalio may not be a household name, but he appeared in many of the greatest films of all time, such as *Casablanca*, *Rules of the Game* and *Grand Illusion*. That latter title, directed by Jean Renoir, was screened earlier in the festival. Chris Faulkner, a professor who has written on Renoir's Popular Front films of the 1930s, introduced the classic wartime drama. ■

For screen times visit tjff.com

Shylock's Ghost looks at controversial character

JORDAN ADLER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Before he won the Man Booker Prize, English novelist Howard Jacobson taught the works of William Shakespeare. The Bard also inspired his first book, the non-fiction work *Shakespeare's Magnanimity*, about four of the playwright's tragic heroes.

However, despite Jacobson's love for Shakespeare, one work was left off his syllabi and went unmentioned in his writing: *The Merchant of Venice*.

"It was not a play that had ever figured largely in my imagination," Jacobson says.

That may be a surprise for readers of Jacobson, who has written several fiction and non-fiction works with Jewish themes. *Venice* has remained one of Shakespeare's most provocative works due to the character of Shylock, the moneylender that many argue is a Jewish caricature.

Nevertheless, when publisher Hogarth enlisted various bestselling authors – including Jacobson, Margaret Atwood and Edward St. Aubyn – to reimagine Shakespeare's works in contemporary times, he re-read the play and found it suitable for a new interpretation.

Fascinated by the character, Jacobson also agreed to appear in a BBC special about Shylock with Alan Yentob.

Howard Jacobson in Venice

That documentary, *Shylock's Ghost*, screens at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival on May 14, at Innis Town Hall.

Filmed last summer, the doc is an insightful and entertaining look into one of literature's most controversial characters. In the film, Jacobson and Yentob visit Venice's Jewish ghetto, where actors prepare to mark the area's 500th anniversary with a new staging of Shakespeare's play.

The timing was right for Jacobson, who was just finishing up *Shylock Is My Name*, his update of *Venice*, when he worked on the film. (That book is now available for purchase.)

Speaking to many distinguished scholars of the Bard, Jacobson admits that he thought of some new ideas for his novel inspired from their conversations.

"Of all the books I've ever written, I've never done one that kept changing itself [so much]," he says. "Shylock himself gets under your skin, and if you're Jewish particularly, you feel differently about him every day."

Shylock's Ghost, directed by Colette Camden, features interviews with various actors who have played Shylock onstage, such as Dustin Hoffman and Antony Sher.

In other scenes, literary scholars debate whether or not the play is anti-Semitic. As the documentary explains, Shylock is considered "the most odious Jew literature ever spawned." In the play, the moneylender demands to cut off a pound of Antonio's flesh if the merchant cannot repay his loan.

Jacobson says he prefers actors that show off Shylock's wit and strength. He is fond of English actor Henry Goodman's take on the character, as well as Al Pacino's depiction of Shylock in Michael Radford's 2004 screen adaptation.

"I'm more taken by those actors who make you feel the maleness of Shylock," he says. "The play is richer when we are alarmed by [him] actually, when we feel his power."

Various literary scholars argue that *Venice* was taking the pulse of anti-Semitism during the time of its original staging. However, that play was performed 50 times in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939, perpetuating the propaganda of the time.

Nevertheless, Jacobson doesn't see the play as anti-Semitic.

"People forget that these plays are plays – they are dramatic. At no point are you meant to take a side," he says.

Last year, a version of the play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, added a scene with Shylock's conversion to Christianity that wasn't in the original text. A filming of that production, which features Jonathan Pryce as Shylock, will show at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival on May 15 at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema.

After studying *Venice* so thoroughly for his novel, and taking part in the BBC documentary, Jacobson says that if given the opportunity to teach Shakespeare again, the play would be on his syllabus.

"The play's been very badly read over the years," he says, referring to the claims of anti-Semitism that cloud how people look at the text. "Shakespeare is too good a writer for us to read a play as simplistically as that." ■

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE* with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
94 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgroupltd.com

OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.

Detail: *Judith Seducing Holofernes*. Diptych 73 x 96" (185.5 x 244cm)

LILIAN BROCA
Heroine of a Thousand Pieces:
The Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca
May 5 – July 4, 2016
Artist will be in attendance at the opening.
Thursday, May 5, 2016. 6:30pm – 9:30pm

carrier villa gallery
901 Lawrence Avenue West,
Toronto ON M6A 1C3
(416) 789-7011

Holocaust doc gets a modern twist in festival's closing film

MICHAEL FRAIMAN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

On April 28, 1945, more than 10,000 refugees landed at a harbour in Malmö, Sweden. Remarkably, a Swedish National Television videographer captured their arrival on black-and-white film, and though the footage is just a few minutes long, it shows us everything we could ask for: close-ups, wide shots, frightened children, joyful mothers, smiles and waves. But on its own, the footage is an empty shell: personalities without histories, faces without names.

That's where Swedish director Magnus Gertten comes in. The closing night film for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, *Every Face Has a Name* (May 15, 8 p.m. at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema), updates this 60-year-old footage by finding as many survivors as possible who arrived that day, showing them the restored footage on a silver MacBook, and asking them what – or whom – they remember.

There's a wonderful moment of suspense with every one. The camera lingers unflinchingly on them, their backs hunched over, eyes squinted behind bifocals, muttering to themselves as they scan the footage warily.

Then, suddenly: "That's my mother!"

Each face, as the title claims, has a name – but also a story. We meet the sweet-voiced Elsie Ragusin, an American Roman Catholic who visited her grandmother in Italy at the worst possible time and was transported to Auschwitz because the Nazis were convinced she was a spy; Philip Jackson, who helped his hardened mother in the resistance as a teenager and was decorated by the French military, only to suffer a worse fate when his own 19-year-old son died of leukemia years later; Nurit Stern, with a thick Israeli accent, who at first staunchly refuses to even look at the footage, yet winds up putting names to three unknown faces – including her own.

The film is a slow burn, with an eerie ambient soundtrack that lulls us somewhere between sleep and empathy. The cinematography and editing are cleverly done, considering what little there is to work with: they take associative cues from the subjects' words to help us understand that everyday sights may remind these survivors of terrible things.

One man mentions seeing children hanging dead from coat hooks, so we cut to a rope swing near his house; another talks about feeling weak all the time, and we immediately see a soccer goalie standing haplessly after being scored on.

Every Face Has a Name closes the festival.

Though the film essentially does the same thing nearly a dozen times, its grander cinematic narrative is tugged along by repeated shots of a modern-day Sicilian harbour. Though the details are not made explicit for a while, it's quickly obvious that Gertten wants us to be thinking about Syrian and African refugees – the thousands who have died while journeying to a better life, and the hypocrisy Europeans and North Americans flaunt whenever they reject the humanity of a certain class or race.

To be clear, I'm inferring a bit here. Gertten stops considerably short of making any sort of claim linking Jewish and Syrian refugees. Instead, he shows us the clips from Sicily, names a few Muslim refugees and ends things there.

With a running time of only 75 minutes, he certainly had room to flesh out a real argument; he could have interviewed at least one African refugee, perhaps finding some firmer narrative parallel than simply juxtaposing poor people on boats. If he didn't want to make a political film, he should have eschewed the topic altogether, instead of meekly hinting at social justice.

But if the modern-day parallel seems more an afterthought, the depth of the survivors' experiences more than compensates as an emotional core. Had he not made this film, we could have looked at that original 60-year-old footage and parsed out something of a story on our own, filling in gaps with our imaginations and other documentaries. But Gertten has brought this mere archival documentary footage to life, so that, 50 years from now, once Nurit Stern and Philip Jackson are gone, their sum existence will not be reduced to nameless faces smiling, waving, staring straight into a camera. They will have told their stories. ■

Jewish Music Week in Toronto
MAY 29TH - JUNE 5TH, 2016
Musical events all week including these six gala evening concerts:

Sunday May 29 THE TOAST OF BROADWAY
Monday May 30 SHIRAT TIKVAH
Tuesday May 31 MAISON MUSIC!
Wednesday June 1 A CAPPELLA POPS!
Thursday June 2 ISRAELI MUSIC TODAY
Sunday June 5 MALACHEI MAMBO
PLUS Free Daytime Performances • Lectures • Films • Community Singalong • Student Art Exhibit and more!
www.jewishmusicweek.com 416-638-4492
CJN.

Parking in city lot next door

SAVE THE DATES

"Raw Colour"

First Toronto Art Exhibition by

J. W. Dimitry

Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2016

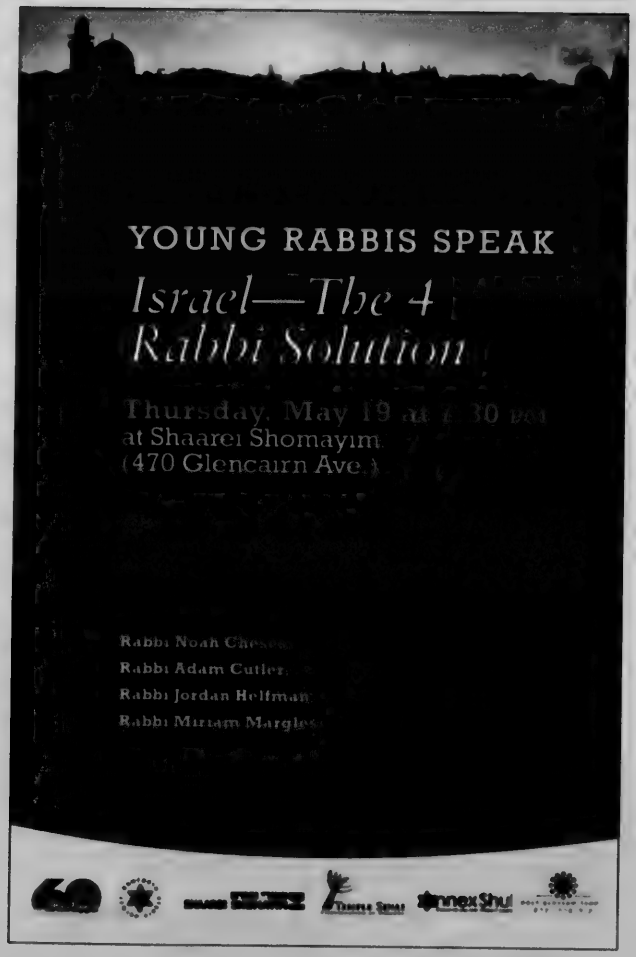
Coldstream Fine Art Gallery

80 Spadina Avenue, Suite 208, Toronto
Gallery hours: Fri 12-5 pm | Sat 12-4 pm | Sun 12-4 pm
Special VIP Showing: Sat evening 6:30-10:30 pm

All individual donations and all proceeds of the art sales will be donated to the Sick Kids Hospital Foundation

SickKids

For more information:
drjoel@rogers.com www.sickkidsfoundation.com



YIDDISH CORNER

איך געדענק מײַן טאַטנס "ערשטער מײַ"

GERRY KANE
yankele635@gmail.com

עסלעכע יאָרן זײַנען זיכער יונגע פֿיס לײַפֿן, אַלטע פֿיס סוען ווי, מײַן ברודער משה איז געבוירן געוואָרן אין מײַ און איך געדענק נאָך ווי הײַנט ווען איך בין געזעסן אויפֿן סאָפֿע אָפּטל און מאַרשירט מיט אים און הונדערטער אַנדערע יידישע אַרבעטער אין שסאָלצקײַ אויף דעם אינטערנאַציאָנאַלן אַרבעטער סאָג- דער "ערשטער מײַ."

די וואָס האָבן מאַרשירט זײַנען געווען לינקע, רעכטע, פֿרומע, פֿרײַע, קאָמוניסטן, אַנאַרכיסטן, בונדיסטן און פּעלי־ציונסטן. פֿאַרשטייט פֿאַליטיק צוזיכן די באַוועגונגען האָט מען אַוועקלייגט אויף אַ זײַט אָפּ דעם סאָג צו דערמאָנען אַז אַלע וואָס אַרבעטן מיט די הענט האָבן אַ ווערדע וואָס מען סאָר נישט לאָזן צוברעכן אויף דער קאָוועדלע פֿון קאַפּיטאַל. און צו פֿינף יאָר אַלט, אין 1940 בין איך געווען אײַנע פֿון די מאַרשירער. מײַן סאָטע, אַ ינגער מאַן, אַ פֿרעסער, איז געשאָרבן מיט צוויי מאָנאַטן שפּעטער.

מיר האָבן מאַרשירט ביז ברענסוויק אַוועניו וווּ מיר האָבן זיך צוגעהערט צו י.ב. זאַלצבערג – אַ קאָמוניסט און באַוווסטער אַרבעטער פֿירער – רעספּעקטירט אין אַלע לינקע יידישע באַוועגונגען. אין שפּעטערע יאָרן איז ער געוואָרן אַ מיסגלידּ אין דער פּראָוווינציעלן פּארלאַמענט, אָנטאָק פֿון דער קאָמוניסטישער פּארטיי,און געהערט זיין שטימע פֿאַר פֿרײַהײַט פֿאַר די יידן אין ראַסן פֿאַרבאַנד.

וואָס איז געוואָרן פֿון די קינדער וואָס האָבן מאַרשירט מיט זייערע עלטערן? די רעאַליסטע איז אַז די מערהײַט פֿון די קינדער וואָס האָבן מאַרשירט זײַנען נישט געגאַנגען אויפֿן וועלבן וועג, נישט געבליבן קיין פּראָלעטאַריער.

זיי זײַנען געוואָרן פּראָפֿעסיאָנעלע מענטשן- דאָקטוירים, אַדוואָקאַטן און ביזנעס לײַט- וי מען האָגט אויף דעם יידישן שאַרגאָן – "אָלרײַטניקעס". אָן אויף דעם איז נאָרנישט צו באַקלאָגן. בעסער צו זײַן "אָלרײַט" וי צו האָרעווען אין אַ שאָפּ בײַ אַ מאַשין.

וואָס איז יאָ זיך צו באַקלאָגן איז אַז אונדזערע קינדער און אײניקלעך וויסן נישט די געשיכטע פֿון דעם ערשטן מײַ. זיי וויסן נישט די געשיכטע פֿון שוועריע אַרבעט און סאָציאַלע קאַמפֿן פֿון זייערע באָבעס און זײדעס – די אימיגראַנטן וואָס, מיט זייער שוויים, האָבן געהאָלפֿן ביזן דאָס לאָנד וואָס גיט זיי אָזוי פֿיל. הײַנט, וען די מערהײַט פֿון אונדזערע יידן פֿאָרן פֿאַרבי דעם "אַרבעטער ריינג" צענטער אדער דער "באָראָכאָוו" צענטער וויסן זיי נישט וואָס די מיסגלידער פֿון דעם יידישער אַרבעטער באַוועגונגען האָבן צוגעסאָגן צום אויפֿבוי פֿון אונדזער קהילה.

א פּאָר ווערטער פֿונעם יידישן קוואַל הומאָר און פּאָעזיע:

אַ ישובניק האָט חתנה געמאַכט זיינעם אַ זון. אונטער דער חופּה האָט ער אים געגעבן אַ ברכה: "מײַן זון", זאָגט ער אים מיט טרערן אין די אויגן. "זאָל דער אויבערשטער געבן איך זאָל דיר דאַרפֿן אויף כּפּרות, און דו זאָלסט מיר דאַרפֿן אויף כּפּרות, וועלן מיר ביידע זײַן גליקלאָך.

GUEST VOICE

My faith gave me a change of heart over same-sex marriage

Michael Coren

My new book is entitled *Epiphany: A Christian's Change of Heart and Mind over Same-Sex Marriage*. Which at first glance is not the most obvious title to appeal to readers of Canada's premier Jewish newspaper. But please stay with me. The personal story here is that for many years I was known as one of the country's leading opponents of equal marriage. I was a social conservative and someone who while never intending harm did perhaps empower and enable those who did. It's something for which I am profoundly sorry and I've written and broadcast countless times over the past two years my contrition and apologies.

My personal transformation from critic to passionate friend is multi-faceted and complex but is based in faith. In my case, even though three of my grandparents were Jewish, it comes from my Christianity; I became a Christian in 1984 and have never wavered. So it was through prayer, reading of Scripture, thought and experience that I came to a new understanding and approach on this issue. It's something I thank God for every day, and this is the point. God.

Judaism is as various in Christianity in its application. Reform, Conservative, modern Orthodox, ultra-Orthodox and so on, and all have their own forms of theology regarding the gay community and same-sex marriage. A relationship with God is personal of course but that relationship has to be informed by God's word, which is revealed in the Bible.

Christians have what might be described as a sequel to what they call the Old Testament but in fact it's actually the Hebrew Scriptures that say the most about homosexuality. Mind you, it's still not much. Lesbianism is never mentioned at all and if you blink you'll miss the entire subject. Contrary to what some might tell you, homosexuality is a wafer-thin component of the Bible.

It's not for me, a Christian and a mere journalist, to instruct you in this area but some of the traditional biblical references are difficult to justify with consistency and integrity in the modern age. The Mosaic regulations had reference and relevance in their age and still provide a broad moral narrative but do any of us still observe every iota? It's surely unfair and even disingenuous then to single out some parts of holy text and not others. Some of the teachings regarding, for example, punishments for adultery or rules regarding women's rights would be considered bizarre and worse today.

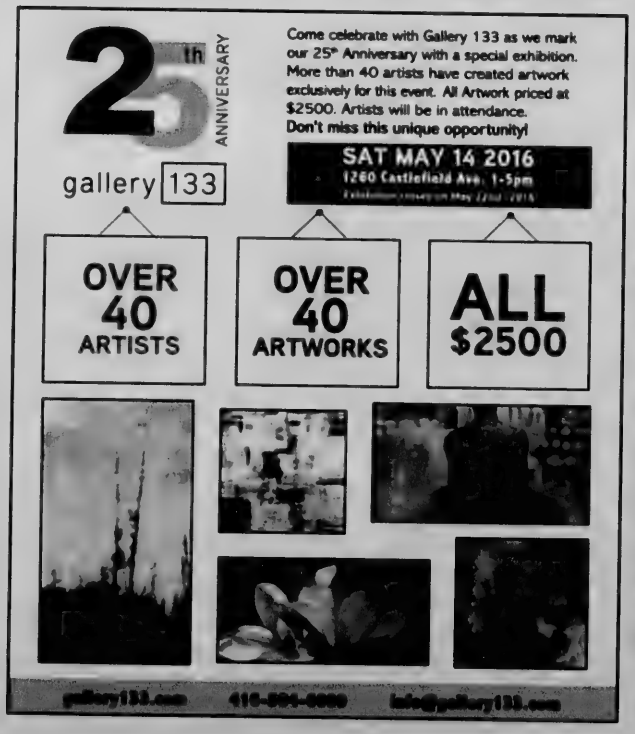
Similarly with the example of Sodom and Gomorrah. While Sodom has so much to answer for regarding the treatment of gay people down the ages, when the people of Sodom's behaviour is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible it is spoken of in reference to lack of charity, cruelty to strangers and barbarism, rather than homosexuality. It's more likely an early medieval interpretation that had led many people of faith, Jewish as well as Christian, to believe otherwise.

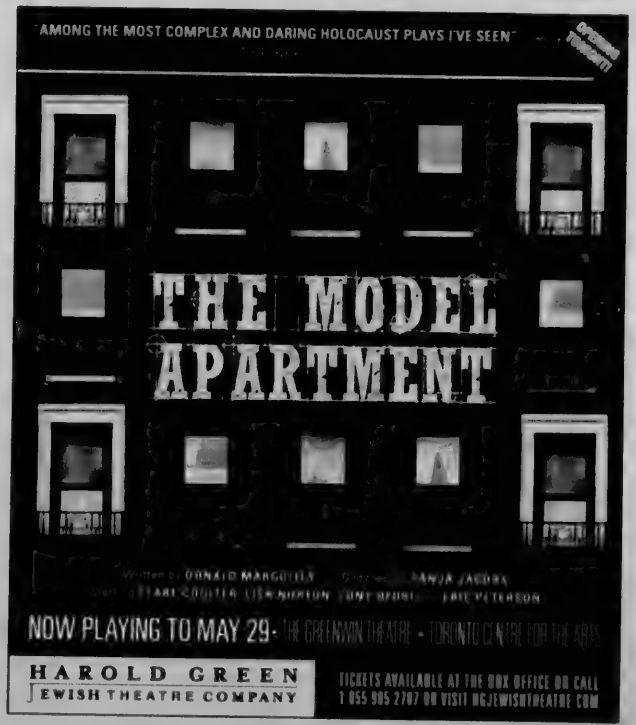
At heart, though, is the essence of God's teaching, and that essence is love. Love for God, love for His creation and love for His creatures. A love that defies understanding but a love that in Judaism as much as Christianity is supposed to be built around treating others as ourselves.

The reality is that Jewish people have often been at the forefront of the campaign for equality and for social justice and this is true for gay rights as much as any other. More than this, while the Jewish state – Israel – may not accept gay marriage as such it is ethically progressive and socially enlightened regarding its gay citizens and a glowing example to its neighbours.

Intelligent and rational religion is under siege, by aggressive secularism on the one hand and hysterical fundamentalism on the other. Gay rights and equal marriage have become litmus tests for tolerance and understanding, and if Judaism and Christianity are to appear relevant and authentically loving to the next generation they have to reconsider some long-standing opinions and even prejudices. If Scripture were absolute about homosexuality there would, alas, be no choice. But it is not. It is largely neutral and should always be understood through the prism of contemporary knowledge, life experience and the unending, relentless, overwhelmingly joyful notion of God's boundless love. ■

Epiphany: A Christian's Change of Heart and Mind over Same-Sex Marriage *has just been published by Random House/Signal*


25th ANNIVERSARY
gallery 133
Come celebrate with Gallery 133 as we mark our 25th Anniversary with a special exhibition. More than 40 artists have created artwork exclusively for this event. All Artwork priced at $2500. Artists will be in attendance.
Don't miss this unique opportunity!
SAT MAY 14 2016
1260 Castlefield Ave. 1-5pm
OVER 40 ARTISTS
OVER 40 ARTWORKS
ALL $2500
gallery133.com
416-806-6000
info@gallery133.com


"AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX AND DARING HOLOCAUST PLAYS I'VE SEEN"
THE MODEL APARTMENT
NOW PLAYING TO MAY 29
HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR CALL 1 855 985 2787 OR VISIT HGJEWISHTHEATRE.COM

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 12, 2016

Jazz singer's songs take listeners on a journey

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Jazz singer Brenda Lewis' rediscovery of her voice while she was teaching English in post-Communist Czechoslovakia led to her becoming a professional singer in her late 20s.

Singing has always come easy to Lewis, who has two critically acclaimed albums to her credit and performs at top jazz clubs and music festivals across Ontario.

Lewis picks up melodies quickly and, as a young teen, could mimic the voices of Cher, Karen Carpenter and Marie Osmond. For a while, she sang backup in a reggae band, but she said she never dreamed she'd get up on stage and sing lead.

Teaching in Czechoslovakia in 1990, she brought lyrics of folk songs to class for her students to sing, and while singing along with them, she rediscovered her own voice.

"It was a very safe way of getting into singing," she said. In Czechoslovakia and then in Guelph, Ont., where she's currently based, friends asked her to sing at parties and, encouraged by the positive response, she began performing on open stages and in local clubs. Lewis started out singing folk music and country blues and then made the transition to jazz.

"I've always kept a slightly roots element to what I do, also a bit of an undertone that comes from gospel and soul," she said. Lewis is a publicist who promotes her own music and said her profile as an artist has helped her grow her public relations business. With her latest release, *Far and Near*, a collection of standards and songs written by Canadian artists, Lewis takes the listener on a journey.

> *The album is all about travel, one way or the other.*

Brenda Lewis

"I started putting songs together for the album, and once I got halfway through, I realized I had a theme. A lot of them were about faraway places, longing or places of the heart. It's all about travel, one way or the other," Lewis said.

Far and Near features several songs outside the jazz genre, written by Sarah McLachlan, Gil Scott-Heron and Jesse Winchester. Guitarist Margaret Stowe, who co-produced the CD with Lewis, reinterprets the songs in a jazz vein. One of the standards on the CD is *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, a song Lewis dedicates to her parents when she performs it. Lewis said she imagines her parents, Henry and Edith, who were both veterans of the British army, dancing to it. "It's about London, England. That's where they lived after the war, when they got married," she said.

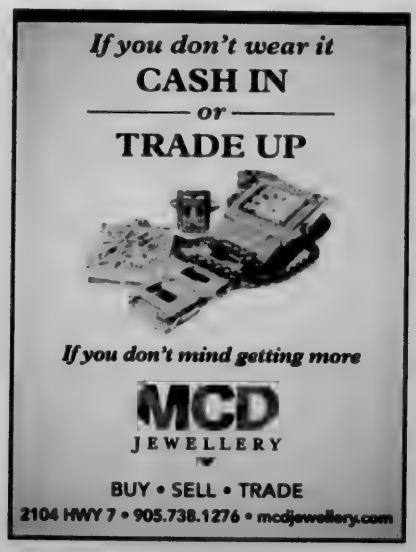
Lewis' father, born Heinz Laufer, was, at 14, one of 669 Jewish children evacuated from Czechoslovakia and sent to England in 1939 on the Czech Kindertransport organized by Sir Nicholas Winton. In 2009, Lewis met Sir Nicholas and thanked him for saving her father's life.

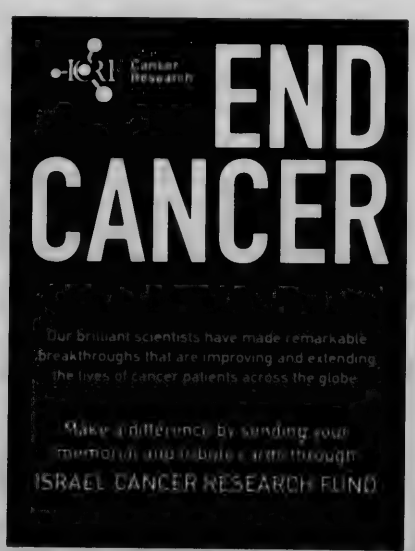
"It's a moment when you realize he's a just a man, of course, but a man who made a decision to do something extraordinary," she said. Lewis said it was a matter of sheer luck that her dad was chosen for the Kindertransport.

"Everyone applied to get their kids onto this Kindertransport. My grandparents applied for both of their kids to be sent and the agency that was in charge picked my dad, probably because he spoke English."

The rest of her father's family didn't fare so well. His mother, his father and his brother perished. Lewis believes in paying her dad's good fortune forward. Late last year, after struggling with what she could do to help the Syrian refugees, she co-presented and performed at a benefit concert for them in Elora, Ont. ■

Lewis is performing at 7 p.m. on May 15 at Toronto's Jazz Bistro. For more information about Lewis, visit www.brendalewis.ca. You can download Far and Near *on iTunes.*




IRCR Cancer Research
END
CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe.
Make a difference by sending your memorial and tribute gifts through
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Festival shows films about and by people with disabilities

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Years after the Toronto Jewish community committed to making synagogues more accessible to those who are differently abled through the annual Shabbat Itanu initiative, a "complementary, but separate" event is being held in Toronto for the first time.

The REELabilities Film Festival, founded in 2007 in New York by the JCC in Manhattan to present films by and about people with disabilities, makes its Toronto debut on May 12.

"It's in 13 cities across the U.S. and we are the first international location. We are so excited. We have 27 community partners, film festival partners and accessibility organization partners," said Liviya Mendelsohn, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre's manager of accessibility and inclusion and the artistic director of the REELabilities Toronto Film Festival.

The festival is an opportunity to "tell some of these beautiful and interesting stories that haven't had as wide an audience yet," she said.

Although the film festival is new, the Shabbat Itanu event it complements is not.

The film *Anita* will be screened May 19.

Shabbat Itanu, held this year on May 13 and 14, is an annual event that calls on synagogues to hold inclusion-themed Shabbat services and programs to highlight the need for greater inclusion and accessibility.

Mendelsohn said there are 23 synagogues in the GTA that are marking this event in some way.

"Several shuls have community members with disabilities and disability advocates speaking on how to remove barriers and helping them figure out what the barriers are. I know a couple of shuls that are having a scholar in residence to talk about Judaism, Jewish texts and accessibility," she said.

Offering an example of one of the programs, she said that on May 14, Shaarei Shomayim will host Judge Richard Bernstein, the first blind justice elected to the Michigan Supreme Court and an advocate for disabled rights, as he shares his personal story with the congregation.

"There are some really exciting programs, and some shuls are reaching out to younger activists, but it's a great time for people with disabilities to take centre stage in their shul and talk about their experience and how the whole community can embrace difference."

Mendelsohn said the event also brings congregations together for one cause.

"It's been tremendous to watch shuls mentor each other, helping each other to do things like apply for grants to renovate their facilities… Several shuls have accessibility tips in their weekly or monthly newsletters, and it's really been wonderful to watch this organic process where people are working together and sharing across denominations, across all kinds of differences."

What brings Shabbat Itanu and the REELabilities Film Festival together is the fact that a number of congregations will buy group tickets to attend the screening of two films that touch on Jewish themes.

"*Deaf Jam* [May 16 at the Al Green Theatre] is about a young Israeli teen in New York who is deaf. She discovers American Sign Language poetry and enters into this slam poetry scene in New York where she meets a young Palestinian poet and they begin to make poetry together. It's a really beautiful story," Mendelsohn said.

The other Jewish-themed film, *Anita*, which will be screened May 19 at the Al Green Theatre, is about a young woman with Down syndrome who gets separated from her mother following the bombing of the JCC in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"The role is played by an actor with Down syndrome… It's a journey of hers throughout the city and a coming-of-age story. It's beautifully acted."

Some of the films are presented by Jewish organizations including the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, the Toronto Jewish Film Society and Reena. ■

For more information or to buy tickets visit www.toronto.reelabilities.org

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS
'KOSHER' LABEL IN ADVERTISING
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising reads as follows:
"In the labelling, packaging and advertising of a food, the Food and Drug Regulations prohibits the use of the word kosher or any letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or any other word, expression, depiction, sign, symbol, mark, device or other representation that indicates or that is likely to create an impression that the food is kosher, if the food does not meet the requirements of the Kashruth applicable to it.
The terms "kosher style" and "kind of kosher" are not allowed, unless they meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish-style food" or "Jewish cuisine" are not objected to, although the foods may not necessarily meet the requirements of the Kashruth.
Rationale: "Kosher style" is considered to create the impression that the food is kosher, and therefore the food must meet the requirements of the Kashruth. "Jewish style" food may not necessarily create this impression."
The CJN makes no representation as to the kashruth of food products in advertisements.
CJN

Wintes Toyota
Gideon Landau
gideon.toyota@gmail.com
REDTAG
aeroplan
0 - 1,500
25,000
Get Low Interest Rates on Toyota Certified Used Vehicles!
TOYOTA
Certified
Gideon Landau at your service
for Purchase of New or Used Vehicles
Selection of used cars with full warranty lowest price for a new car of any other vehicle manufacturer
Wintes Toyota
For appointment, please call directly 647.284.7277

A traveller in the land of cancer

NORMAN RAVVIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

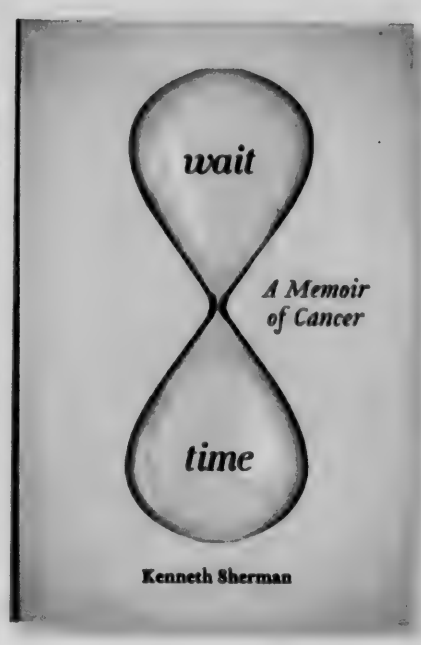
In a 2008 essay titled *The Angel of Disease*, poet Kenneth Sherman surveyed the field of writing that confronts illness. The essay is a somewhat dispassionate, even scholarly account of well-known works in the field: Susan Sontag's two books on AIDS and on her own cancer; poets such as Ted Hughes and Donald Hall, who apply creative response to illness; alongside darker works by the German poet Heinrich Heine and the American story-writer Harold Brodkey, who confront the nearness of death.

Dispassion is absent from Sherman's new book, *Wait Time: A Memoir of Cancer*. In it he provides a passionate, often pained portrait of the months in 2010, after a routine check-up helped reveal that his body harboured a malignant tumour as well as the possibility of a rib affected by cancerous growth.

Following his diagnosis, Sherman embarks on a grim adventure as he faces the possibility of death, pursues timely medical care, and struggles to contain feelings of fear and defeat by maintaining his normal, healthful activities.

One of these is writing. He maintains a notebook – a longstanding writer's habit – but Sherman's notebook of his cancer year has its own particular character. It contains "selections from the illness narratives I am currently rereading... Of course, reading and thinking about disease is oceans apart from coping with a potentially terminal condition. Once the doctor tells you you are ill, you begin to eke out your existence as a patient. Your life becomes an improvisation around the theme of illness."

The notebook also "contains drafts of poems," which he fears are "too emotional to be of substance. They resonate with self-pity and hurt..."



> *Once the doctor tells you you are ill, you begin to eke out your existence as a patient. Your life becomes an improvisation around the theme of illness.*

***Wait Time: A Memoir of Cancer,* by Kenneth Sherman Wilfrid Laurier University Press**

Wait Time is organized as a diary of the months in which Sherman confronted grave illness. Its entries are never sketchy; they indulge in no trivia or filler about routine daily life. Rather, they contain measured, intimate introspection about the practical demands of confronting cancer's threats. The disease is met, as Sherman tells it using Sigmund Freud's words, as "the unwelcome intruder."

In many ways, Sherman's story is linked with its Toronto setting. He makes his way through health services at Toronto General Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH), where he undergoes surgery to remove the tumour and part of a rib. He provides a detailed portrait of doctors, support staff and the atmosphere of hospital rooms and corridors. And all of this evokes the strengths and flaws of the Ontario health-care system.

Wait Time is not an indictment of big city medical care, but Sherman's experience raises serious questions: "Are the cogs and functionaries who work at PMH given sensitivity training? As you sit in these crowded waiting rooms, or as you wait in line for your overdue surgery, you can't help but ask what is being done with the millions upon millions of dollars raised by Princess Margaret Hospital through its lotteries, its fundraising walks and bike rides...? How much money goes to the CEOs of our mega-hospitals and to the heads of their fundraising foundations?"

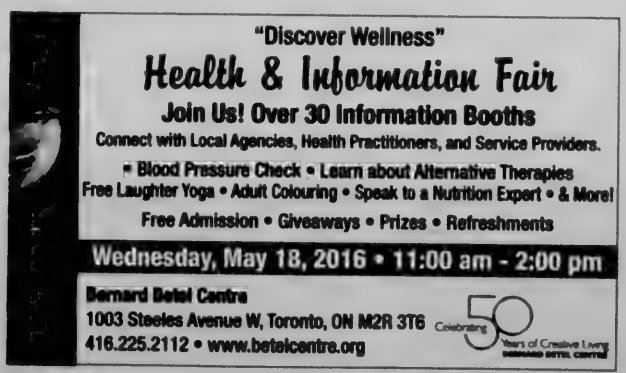
These practical questions merge with a depiction of Sherman's inner life, as he and his wife, Marie, make their way through the stages of discovery and care. One goal is greater understanding of the disease; another is an understanding of the broader social response to cancer. On this front, he considers the usefulness of Siddhartha Mukherjee's bestselling *The Emperor of all Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, alongside other specialist writers' interpretations of cancer's impact.

But Sherman's instinctive response to his illness is to continue on as a poet. Some of the poems written in this vein are included in *Wait Time*, bringing the finished book closer to the character of the writer's notebook it is based on.

Among the impressive qualities of *Wait Time* is its unguardedness. Sherman describes periods when he could not write. These periods, he says, added to his "despair," because for him, "writing, the engagement with language," is a support in "times of trouble."

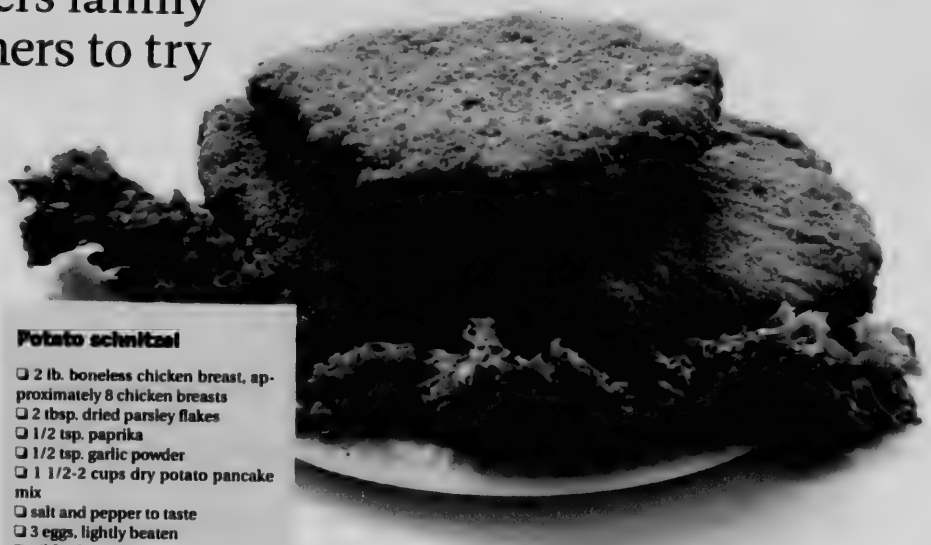
The conclusion of *Wait Time*, which a reviewer would be irresponsible to reveal, is a deeply felt appreciation of the impact of illness on human character and companionship. ■

Norman Ravvin is a writer and teacher in Montreal.


"Discover Wellness"
Health & Information Fair
Join Us! Over 30 Information Booths
Connect with Local Agencies, Health Practitioners, and Service Providers.
• Blood Pressure Check • Learn about Alternative Therapies
Free Laughter Yoga • Adult Colouring • Speak to a Nutrition Expert • & More!
Free Admission • Giveaways • Prizes • Refreshments
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 • 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Bernard Betel Centre
1003 Steeles Avenue W, Toronto, ON M2R 3T6
416.225.2112 • www.betelcentre.org
Celebrating 50 Years of Creative Living

Cookbook offers family recipes for others to try

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



At the end of March, some 200 women gathered at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT) for a cooking demonstration and a light meal based on recipes from Amy's Stopnicki's first cookbook, *Kosher Taste* (Feldheim Publishers, 2016).

She launched the book at the annual fundraiser for the Maddie Leventhal Mikvah Centre at the BAYT.

Stopnicki, an event planner and mother of four, said with the publication of *Kosher Taste*, she has achieved a longtime goal.

"I wanted my recipes to be out there. It's about sharing and helping and showing people that entertaining is achievable."

Organizers also prepared the food served to the women in attendance. Sonya Kaplan and Yehudit Levy, the event co-chairs; Lisa Berman and Suzanne Kaye, co-chairs of the mikvah; Kaye's daughter, Chaya Pamensky, and Stopnicki created a five-course tasting menu.

Stopnicki demonstrated how it was done as the women dined on Veggie Sticks with 3-Minute Caesar Salad Dressing, Elephant Garlic Soup, Baby Spinach and Apple Salad with Maple Vinaigrette, Spinach Pesto Stuffed Chicken, Potato Stacks, Chocolate Mousse and Mini Chocolate Biscotti.

Stopnicki said she's thrilled with the feedback she has been getting from readers. "People come up to me and say, 'These look like recipes that I can make.'

"That's what makes me happy. A lot of the recipes are ones that I've been making for years for my family. I developed these recipes and tweaked them over time."

Becoming a cookbook author is the culmination of her many years of entertaining experience, she said. "It has truly been a labour of love. So much work been put in and it feels great to finally have the final product."

Her foray into cookbook writing began four years ago when Netivot HaTorah Day School approached her about doing a cookbook. "I was excited about the idea of taking the project from start to finish."

She said it took three years for *Gathered Around the Table* (Feldheim, 2014) to be completed. Later the entire community was invited to a simchah-like party for a book launch that drew 400 people.

"It was a cookbook launch with pizzaz. It went very well, but I wanted to do something different this time."

Kosher Taste – it was completed in 15 months – can be found at most local Jewish stores including Israeli Source, Miriam's and Kitchen Art, as well as at Indigo Books and Music at Bayview Village.

Potato schnitzel

- ❑ 2 lb. boneless chicken breast, approximately 8 chicken breasts
- ❑ 2 tbsp. dried parsley flakes
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. paprika
- ❑ 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- ❑ 1 1/2-2 cups dry potato pancake mix
- ❑ salt and pepper to taste
- ❑ 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- ❑ oil for frying

Place the chicken between 2 sheets of heavy plastic (resealable freezer bags work well) on a solid, level surface. Using a meat mallet, firmly pound the chicken to a thickness of ¼-inch.

In a shallow bowl, combine parsley flakes, paprika, garlic powder, potato pancake mix, salt and pepper. Pour the eggs into another shallow bowl.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Meanwhile, dip the chicken into the egg, then the potato flake mixture. Cook the chicken in the heated oil, turning once or until both sides are golden brown and the chicken is cooked through. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Carrot and daikon salad

- ❑ 5 to 6 large carrots, julienned
- ❑ 1 large daikon, julienned
- ❑ 3 to 4 green onions, chopped
- ❑ 3 cloves garlic, chopped

Dressing

- ❑ 1/4 cup oil
- ❑ 1/4 cup lemon juice
- ❑ 1 to 2 tsp. sugar
- ❑ salt and pepper to taste

In a mixing bowl, combine the garlic and vegetables. In a small jar or cruet, combine the dressing ingredients. Pour the dressing over the salad and let it marinate for 20 to 30 minutes before serving. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Balsamic roast chicken

- ❑ 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- ❑ 5 onions, thinly sliced
- ❑ 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- ❑ 1/2 cup honey
- ❑ 1/4 cup soy sauce
- ❑ 5 cloves garlic, chopped
- ❑ ❑ salt and pepper to taste
- ❑ 2 to 3 sprigs fresh rosemary, kept whole
- ❑ 2 chickens, cut in 8ths

In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat and sauté onions until they're soft. Add balsamic vinegar, honey, soy sauce, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook all the ingredients together for 5 minutes and then let them cool.

Add the rosemary sprigs and pour the mixture over the chicken. Refrigerate overnight or marinate for 1 hour at room temperature.

Preheat oven to 350. Bake the chicken in a covered roasting pan for 1 hour. Uncover the pan, baste and bake the chicken for another 20 to 30 minutes or until it is cooked through.

Remove the rosemary sprigs before serving and use them as a garnish. Makes 8 to 10 servings. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN.

The Canadian Jewish News is an independent not-for-profit corporation publishing weekly newspapers in Toronto, Montreal, and online to serve the Canadian Jewish community.

Come intern for The CJN this summer

Are you a journalism student, recent grad or budding writer looking for an internship? Join *The CJN* this summer. You'll gain valuable newsroom experience and work closely with our editorial and online teams. Interested?

Send your resume to ***cjninfo@gmail.com.***

Please use "Summer Intern" in the subject line. Honorarium included

We thank all for their responses, but only candidates of interest will be contacted.

WRY BREAD

Local woman disappointed in her son

David Levine

After much recent speculation, sources are confirming that Rose Glassman, 71, has recently begun expressing disappointment in her son, Jeremy Glassman, a 38-year-old architect and father of three. The news shot through their tight-knit community, sparking both a furious debate and an outpouring of sympathy.

Jeremy's first indication that something was amiss came over a recent Friday night dinner, when an innocent story about a family friend took a turn.

"My mother was telling us about her friend Mary, and how her son had bought a house right down the street from his parents, and my mother turned to me and said: 'I guess being near his mother is a priority for some sons.'

"She stressed that last part – 'for *some* sons.'"

Jeremy says he couldn't escape the feeling that his mother was talking about his own decision to move his family to a house "11 minutes away" from his parents.

"It was almost like she wanted me to feel bad about my decisions. Why else would she put it that way?"

Suddenly, Jeremy says, he realized his mother was expressing disappointment in him. He refused to believe it, but the disbelief on the faces of his own family confirmed his fears.

Rose's disappointment in her son has shocked friends and neighbours, who describe the Glassmans as friendly and unassuming. Rose's mental health and emotional stability have become the subject of frequent debate in the community.

Ever since that first incident, Jeremy says it's as though a "switch has been flipped" in his mother's mind. Jeremy and his mother have been incapable of having a regular conversation ever since, he says, instead turning to vaguely coded puzzles.

"It's so strange and inefficient. She'll insinuate things, hint at her feelings, but she'll never say what she means. Like she wants me to figure out what she's thinking. This morning she asked 'Are you really wearing that sweater?' She knows I'm wearing it."

Most frustrating for Jeremy is the way a simple conversation can be twisted. "My wife Sharon got a promotion, and when we told my mother, she got really quiet, until I asked her enough and she told me she was disappointed because Sharon had probably already called her own mother with the news, whereas *I* waited four hours to tell *my* mother in person, which I did on purpose so she'd be the last person to know."

Rose's alleged criticism tends to focus on Jeremy's decision to move away from home, the distance between his home and his parents' place, his choice of career, his choice of spouse, the looks and intelligence of his children, and his occasional failure to fully tuck in his shirt.

Jeremy says he draws strength from the overwhelming support he's received from friends and strangers who call, write, email, and stop him on the street. Many find it hard to believe Jeremy is still close with his mother, even though her behaviour has not changed.

"Just yesterday she told me her roof is leaking. I asked if she wanted me to call someone. She said she thought I could 'take a look.' I'm not a roofer. I told her I don't have tar or shingles or a ladder, plus it's raining and also nighttime. She said 'It's not important.' But clearly it *is* important, or else why mention it?"

Those closest to Jeremy say the toxic exposure is taking a toll on his health and demeanour, but for him, it's the path of least resistance. "If I stopped calling, stopped visiting, stopped bringing her grandkids over, I'd feel guilty, and I'd be proving my mother right."

Though no diagnosis has been proposed at the time of publication, experts from around the world have convened to study Mrs. Glassman, and they are confident that hers is an isolated case with no chance of contagion. ■

Follow A. David Levine on twitter at @adavidlevine

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5457

Mazel tov to Max Dankner on your 91st birthday. With all our love from your wife, children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov Ephram on your third birthday! You are special to us! Love from Winter-Fleishman, Uncle Jay, Aunty Lisa, Mom, Dad and big brother Samuel.

Congratulations Geoffrey and all the Dodge Sand team for winning the Avenue Road House League Novice championship. With love, Paul & Sharron Lurgen.

Happy 68th anniversary to Minnie Beirnil Edelstein & Max Edelstein, the best parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Love Audrey, Sondra, Ileana, Irwin, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov Deborah Cohen who graduated from Sackler School of Medecine in Tel Aviv. She will undertake her specialty in obstetrics and gynecology in Michigan.

Happy birthday to Baba Usher from your kids and grandchildren, April 27.

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Back row: Kim Smiley, Naomi Zener, Sam Hergan, Robin Gofine, Sarah Fulford, Rafi Yablonsky and Yael Bogler. Front row: Elissa Birnbaum, Alana Kayfetz and Mika Unterman

David Greenberg, Jamie Grundman, Ayelet Kleczkowski, Michaela Shimansky, Stephanie Gladman and Sam Schriber

Sam Hergan

Inspiring Innovation

The last of a speakers series put on by UJA Genesis drew a full house to hear Sarah Fulford, editor-in-chief of *Toronto Life* magazine, and Naomi Zener, vice-president, business and legal affairs for VICE Canada, share their secrets on how to succeed in your career and life by choosing what works for you and not letting others dictate how you should live your life. Now that's *inspiring!* ■ – *The Socialite*

Elissa Birnbaum, Naomi Zener and Sarah Fulford

Allie Novack, Nina Boccia and Nancy Singer

Rafi Yablonsky and Ricci Postan

Robin Gofine and Kim Smiley

Allie Novack and Kortney Shapiro

Yael Bogler and Sam Waiman

Ioan Kovari and Rafi Yablonsky

MICHAEL GELMAN PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

Give a Gift Card for Special Occasions
Kosher Dining • Spa • Hotel • Events
KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MAY 12 - MAY 19

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, May 12

MAIMONIDES
Harvey Spiegel discusses "Maimonides: has the world changed in the last 1,000 years?" 11 a.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $10/$15. 416-635-5340, ext. 308.

BOOK REVIEW
Janna Nadler reviews *Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932*, by **Francine Prose**. Temple Emanu-El, dessert at 1 p.m., review at 1:30 p.m. $10.

THE YATZKANS
Friends of Yiddish and Toronto Jewish Film Festival screen *The Yatzkans*, 6 p.m., Cineplex Empress Walk Theatre, 5095 Yonge St. www.tjff.com

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut at the JCC Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy music, dancing and Israeli food carnival.

Friday, May 13

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut, screening of *West Bank Story* and music with **Mickey Lewin**, 7:30 p.m., 272 Codsell Ave. $15. 416-385-3910.

Sunday, May 15

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
Club Chaverut presents **David Lipovitch** discussing "The Ark of the Covenant," 1:30 p.m., Beth David Synagogue. $7/$10. RSVP 905-764-8141.

TEA AND FASHION SHOW
Na'amat Canada, Toronto clubs Beersheba and Tamar present a tea and fashion show in Richmond Hill, 2-5 p.m. $20. For tickets and address, call 416-636-5425.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of May 26 is May 16. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Survivors speak to the next generation

NCSY's Jewish Student Union club at Forest Hill Collegiate hosted two Holocaust memorial assemblies for their school last month. Susan Pasternak spoke to students in grades 9 and 10, and Nate Leipciger spoke to grades 11 and 12. From left are Riley Koltun and her great-uncle Nate Leipciger, and Susan Pasternak and her grandson Rossy Pasternak.

YOM MANUAL LABOUR
Help prepare the Kavanah Garden for spring, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., Lebovic Campus Drive. Email sabrina@shoresh.ca

TRUDEAU AND THE JEWS
Jonathan Kay, Karen Mock, Michael Taube debate "Trudeau: good for the Jews?" moderated by *The CJN's* **Yoni Goldstein**, 2-4 p.m., Tribute Communities Recital Hall, York University. 416-736-5823.

CAREGIVERS' SEMINAR/POETRY BOOK LAUNCH
A seminar for caregivers, "Reflecting on challenges and exploring options," will be held 9:15-11:45 a.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation. 905-886-3810.
At 7 p.m., book launch for *Bridging the Divide: Selected Poems* by **Hava Pinhas-Cohen**, translated by **Sharon Green**. Both the author and translator will be present.

Monday, May 16

TEMPLE EMANU-EL LECTURES
Arne Kislenko discusses "The war on terror: contemporary perspectives on an age-old problem," Temple Emanu-El, 2 p.m. $15. 416-449-3880.

NAVIGATING YOUR INVESTMENT
Economist **David Rosenberg** discusses "Navigating your investments through the negativity," 7:30 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. $15/$20. 416-635-5340, ext. 308.

MEDICAL ETHICS
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "The ethics of treating the enemy," 7:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

THREE FAITHS
Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rev. Canon John Hill, and **Dr. Liyakat Takim** discuss "From Abraham: three faiths," 7:30 p.m., St. Luke's Catholic Parish, 39 Green Lane, Thornhill. For details, email **Fran Isaacs**, thisisfran@yahoo.com

Tuesday, May 17

LUNCH AND LEARN
Alf Kwinter discusses "A funny history of Jewish comedy," Beth Sholom Synagogue, noon. $18. RSVP 416-783-6103.

CHUG HATANACH
Michael Rubin leads the study of Isaiah, Chapter 9, at 8 p.m., Beth David Synagogue.

LUNCH AND LEARN
Rabbis Yael Splansky and **Jarrod Grover** discuss "Joys and challenges of the rabbinate," 12:10 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

SHAKE AND SHVITZ
Canadian Hadassah's L'Netzach Chapter and Temple Sinai's Nextgen Group present a dance/exercise fundraising event, 7-9 p.m., Temple Sinai. $30. For tickets, visit bit.ly/shakeandshvitz

Wednesday, May 18

JEWISH HISTORY
Hana Werner discusses "Jonah: the anti-prophet prophet," 1:30 p.m., dessert. Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10. RSVP 416-781-3511.

BUSINESS ETHICS FROM BOOKS
Lunch and learn series on business ethics from the bookshelf. **Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner** discusses *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas*, 12:30 p.m., Zeifmans LLP, 201 Bridgeland Ave. RSVP 416-256-4002, ext. 398.

COOKING DEMO
Norene Gilletz and **Danielle Silver** present a spring cooking demo, 7:30 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue. $55. RSVP 416-783-6103.

SAVING THE NEGEV
Ari Briggs, director of Regavim, discusses illegal building in the Negev, 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE HAPPINESS PROJECT
Rabbi Michael Skobac discusses "The Happiness Project: a Jewish approach to living contentedly," 8 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. 416-789-0020.

RABBI, RUN
Rabbi Elliot Strom discusses his new novel, *Rabbi, Run*, 7:30 p.m., Temple Sinai.

MAH-JONG MADNESS
A mah-jong fundraiser to aid Beit Halochem, disabled soldiers in Israel, will be held at Beth Emeth Synagogue, 1-4 p.m. $25. Email **Lena Berman,** ronlen.berman@sympatico.ca or 905-881-7469.

BENEATH THE HELMET
Beth David Synagogue shows the film *Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front*, 7 p.m. RSVP at www.bethdavid.com

Thursday, May 19

AMY SKY
Amy Sky performs songs from her new CD *Twilight Rose*, 8 p.m., Temple Sinai. Free.

ROOTS OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS
David Lipovitch discusses "The ancient roots of Jewish holidays," 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $5 for non-members.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
◗ Circle of Care, in partnership with Jewish Family and Child, is looking for volunteers to join the hospice program team. Volunteers receive 30 hours of training program that starts May 16. Call **Arnold,** 416-635-2900, ext. 496 or email afoss@circleofcare.com

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com
◗ The challenge of anger for women: A 6-session group for women to learn to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way. Starts May 12, 7 p.m. at 35 Madison Ave.
◗ Effective parenting: A 4-session group for parents of children aged 2 to 10. Starts May 12, 1 p.m. at Lebovic JCC; May 17 at 7 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.
◗ All about moods: A 1-session workshop for parents and professionals about anxiety and depression in children with learning disabilities, May 17, 7-9 p.m., Lipa Green Centre.
◗ Adult children losing a parent: A 6-session group for adults who have recently lost a parent. Starts May 18, 7:30-9 p.m. Lipa Green Centre.
◗ Living with Adult ADHD: A 4-session group for adults who have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD. Starts May 19, 7-9 p.m. Lipa Green Centre.
◗ Parenting the child/teen with ADHD: A 4-session group for parents of children/teens diagnosed with ADHD. Starts May 24, 7-9 p.m. Lipa Green Centre.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call Beth Feffer, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, Tuesdays to June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; Yom Ha'atzmaut concert with **Yitzhak Argaman,** May 12, 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. May 15, concert with Silverthorn Symphonic Winds, 1:30 p.m.; May 17, **Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "Mordechai Analeiwicz," 10 a.m.; May 19 lecture on "The hidden problem of abuse," 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.
◗ **Lunch and Learn.** Singers **Lea and Leon** perform at a seniors' lunch program, May 25, noon, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. 416-633-5100.
◗ **WEL Group (Women Enjoying Life)** meets monthly at Earl Bales Community Centre. Next event, June 8 is a day trip in Toronto. RSVP by May 25. **Shirley** 416-661-4471 or **Lorraine** 416-638-6828.

Prosserman JCC

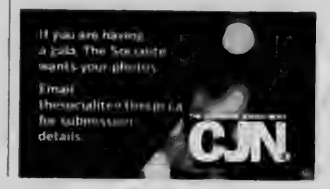
Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
◗ Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg,** "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," Wednesdays to May 25, 1 p.m.
◗ Mini memoir/legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 19, 1 p.m.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 25, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Examining contemporary Jewish stand-up comedy with **Rosalin Krieger,** June 4-28, 1 p.m.
◗ Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott,** "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.
◗ Children's outdoor art classes start June 22. Summer ceramics start June 28.
◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
◗ *The InterLove Project*, photos by **Colin Boyd Shafter,** is on display until May 25.
◗ Comic adaptations of Jewish stories, a panel discussion with **Steven Bergson, Liat Shalom, David G. Klein** May 15, 7 p.m.
◗ Art appreciation with **Osnat Lippa,** "Against the odds: celebrating female artists," May 16, 1:30 p.m.
◗ ReelAbilities Film Festival shows *Deaf Jam*, May 16, 7 p.m. and *Anita*, May 19 at 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre. Tickets at 416-599-8433.
◗ Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
◗ Klezmer ensemble conducted by **Eric Stein,** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein,** 416-968-0200.

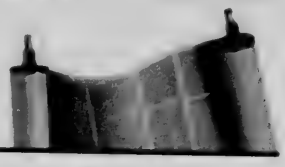
Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
◗ Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl,** May 26, 1 p.m.
◗ Saggar firing workshop, June 2 and 9 at 1 p.m. Beginner and advanced ceramics courses start June 29.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 26, 7-9 p.m. ■



Parshah

Kedoshim | Leviticus 19:1-20:27



Rabbi Aaron Katchen examines ways in which religious Jews ritualize Yom Ha'atzmaut
Rabbi Michal Shekel says celebrating Israel's independence is really about rebuilding ourselves
Rabbi Howard Morrison recalls the time he experienced Yom Ha'atzmaut and his bar mitzvah in Israel

Aaron Katchen

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

We have no shortage of disagreements in the Jewish community. And for the most part, disagreements are not a bad thing – it means people are being thoughtful about their lives. What often rankles people is when a disagreement involves something that matters, and someone else has the chutzpah to disagree.

There's a question that exists among the religious community about how to ritualize Yom Ha'atzmaut. On all of our festivals and days of importance, we say *Hallel* (literally: praising God), the recitation of Psalms 113-118, as a form of thanksgiving. The problem is, does Yom Ha'atzmaut qualify? Some parts of the community believe yes, others no, and some recite *Hallel*, but without a preceding blessing.

The "no" camp's reasons vary, from those who are not sure if God was involved in the establishment of the state to those who believe we should not move back to the land until the Messiah arrives. The "without a blessing" camp believes that there is reason to thank God for the foundation of the state, but some are either opposed to establishing new holidays/customs or don't bless when there is a *neis nistar* (a hidden miracle).

The final opinion (and for transparency, it's the one I hold) is that it's only through a great miracle that we have been able to return to the Land of Israel and re-establish Jewish sovereignty there. The miracle is only the start of the process, which is why the prayer for the State of Israel states "*reisheet tzmichat geulateinu*" – the first sprouting of our redemption. God has enabled us to return to the Land of Israel, which "is the day the Lord made" and requires recognition, praise and thanksgiving, but our work is not done, for now comes the hard work of completing our redemption. ■

Rabbi Aaron Katchen, who is based in Toronto, directs Ask Big Questions Canada in partnership with Hillel.

Michal Shekel

One of the songs of the chalutzim (pioneers of Israel) was *Anu Banu Arza*. Popularized around 1930, this song concisely expressed the Zionist endeavour: we have come to the Land of Israel to build and to rebuild ourselves in the process.

While the musical output of modern Israeli songwriters is truly remarkable, it is this "golden oldie" that has been going through my mind as we celebrate Israel's 68th year in the same week in which we read Kedoshim.

Much of the focus in the latter half of Leviticus is on the Land of Israel and our relationship to it. God commands us in Kedoshim: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the Lord am your God" (Leviticus 19:9-10).

Interestingly, the word for "your land" (*artzechem*) uses the plural form of "your," while "your field" (*sadcha*) uses the singular. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch stresses the significance of this: "The Land at rock bottom is the land of the community… given to no one for purely exclusively selfish egoistic purposes." Our relationship to the Land binds us to members of our community, obligating us to provide for those who do not have our bounty.

This lesson is as applicable in Canada as in Israel. Our bounty may be different, but we have no less of a duty to the community. Tackling poverty in the Jewish community and beyond is founded on building a just community by providing the means for people to help themselves. The fact that we are rebuilding ourselves in the process is an added bonus. ■

Rabbi Michal Shekel is the executive director of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Har Tikvah Congregation in Brampton, Ont.

Howard Morrison

Growing up near Boston, my first memory of Canada and Yom Ha'atzmaut was in 1973. My family had arranged to celebrate my bar mitzvah at the Kotel, the Western Wall, after Yom Ha'atzmaut.

There was no direct flight from Boston to Israel. The stopover was in Montreal. We were scheduled to arrive in time for the military celebration of Israel's 25th anniversary. However, our flight was delayed, and we arrived the next day.

We spent our first Shabbat at a kibbutz, and celebrated my bar mitzvah our second Shabbat in Jerusalem. At the kibbutz, we met a friendly group from Montreal. Coincidentally, the same group would stay in our hotel in Jerusalem. The Canadians were invited to my bar mitzvah at the Kotel. I will never forget that first memory of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Who would have guessed that 43 years later, I would be writing about it from my synagogue office in Toronto for the *CJN*?

Each year, I recite *Hallel* on Yom Ha'atzmaut. This is a growing practice for Zionistic religious Jews. In addition to the festivals mandated in the Torah, *Hallel* is traditionally recited for miraculous events in Israel. The first such post-Torah event is Chanukah. Many Jews today see parallels between Chanukah and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

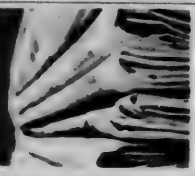
I also recite a special version of *Al Hanisim* on Yom Ha'atzmaut, another growing practice among Zionistic religious Jews. This prayer thanking God for the miracles of the season is patterned after a similar prayer of gratitude recited on Chanukah and Purim.

Whenever I celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut by reciting *Hallel* (praise) and *Al Hanisim* (gratitude), I am spiritually transported back in time and place to the spring of 1973. I forever praise and thank God for my childhood family that introduced me to the beauty and vitality of the State of Israel and for a group of Canadian Jews I met there who celebrated my rite of passage with me.

Chag Yom Ha'atzmaut Samayach to everyone! ■

Rabbi Howard Morrison is senior rabbi – mara d'atra at Beth EmethBais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836



Forest Hill

REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village 416 488-2875 • Central 416 785 1500
Bayview 416 226 1987 • Yorkville 416 975 5588
Signature 416 929 4343 • Downtown 416 363 3473
Yonge St 905 709 1800 • Vaughan 905 695-6195
Muskoka 1 855 665 1200

CONDO PROPERTY

2BR + 2BTH CORNER STE ON HIGH FLR
Yonge+Finch! $408,800! Approx 1058 Sq. Ft. W/Excellent N/W Views. Lrg Eat-In Kit. Reputable Menkes, Chicago Bldg. ! Lrg Prkng Space. Ens Storage Area W/Lau Rm. Shahin Jahanzadeh* 416-226-1987

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

3028 BATHURST STREET! $2,500/MONTH!
Just S/Lawrence! Unbelievable! Approx 950' Storefront W/Rear Deck + Bsmt! 2 Entries! 2Car Parking! Was Restaurant! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

1703-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$3,710/Mo! Spectacular 2Br 2Bth North/West Corner Suite W/ Panoramic Views! Fab Flr Plan! Entertaining! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1008-320 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$1,680/Mo! Spectacular 1+1Br 1Bth East Facing Suite W/ Cityscape Views! Approx 59[illegible] Ready! Move Right In+Enjoy! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

805-388 EGLINTON AVE E! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
$1,325/Mo! Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Spectacular Updated 1Br 1Bth North Facing Suite W/ Balcony+Panoramic Views! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+330 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spadina N/St Clair! Brand New Condo Style Complex W/Incredible Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,870! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

386 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,350-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
Seldom Available! Your Choice Of Several Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,375-$1,450 Plus Parking+Utilities! Sandon Schwartzben 416-226-1987

FABULOUS RENOVATED CEDARVALE - MOVE IN NOW! $4300/MO.
3 + 1 Bdrms - 3 Washrooms- Hardwood Flrs - Galley Kitchen - Walk Out To Deck And Garden From Dining Room. Lynne Elland* 416-488-2875

OUT OF TOWN

GRAND ESTATE WITH MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS $2,675,000
This 5Bdrm, 5 Bth home is located on 37.5 acres o'looking Georgian Bay with 8km of Trails and inground pool. Kelly Lazar*/ David Wagman* 416-488-2875

ENJOY SUNSETS ON 285 FT OF SPARROW LAKE WATERFRONT $1,179,000
This 2835 sq ft 5 bdrm, 4 bath bungalow has a 550 ft Bunkie on 1.4 acres. Only 90 min from Toronto. Kelly Lazar*/David Wagman* 416-488-2875

103 FT OF PRIME LAKE SIMCOE WATERFRONT $799,000
This 1,695 sq ft, 3 bdrm, 3 bth home boasts a 300 sq ft Bunkie which is great for guests. Only 10 min from Orillia. Kelly Lazar*/ David Wagman* 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

Sold
Sell or rent your property quickly. Use CJN classified ads.
Call
416-391-1836
today.
CJN

Conservatory, 333 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath, + solar., hdwd, lndry, indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-788-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

Jerusalem Apartments for Sale!!! New, boutique bld. w/3 lrge. apts. on quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Jerusalem. Includes garden apt., 2-level, massive penthouse with private roof & 360 stunning view. High ceilings, ultra-luxe specs and finishes. For Sale By Owner, No Agents. +972.523.477.428 andrewNY613@gmail.com

3 bdrm townhouse @ Taboo Resort available July 2016. Call: 416-733-0411 ext. 23

WANTED! Apt. building or plaza (3 - 50 apts.) private buyer, no commission. Carlos@416-990-4412

Position for Full or Part-time ECE teacher. Fax resume to 416-631-8383 or call 416-638-6910 (Helen)

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont.
L4K 2L7
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL
Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

Jewish Senior Care Provider. I am avail. for shopping, cooking, housekeeping, appt's. or companion in nursing home. Live- out. Refs. 416-665-3815.

Cleaning lady avail. every other Tues & Wed. Refs. upon request. Please call: 647-763-5508

Cleaning lady for seniors in apts., & condos only. Available to do laundry as well. 416-826-9691.

To Howard Rosen, sorry I punched you at Runnymede Public School in the early 1950's. Tom Caldwell.

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-906-0637

ONE CALL 4 ALL - Renovations, Repairs & Handyman services. 31 yrs. experience; satisfaction guaranteed. Barry 416-821-1797.

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
CJR
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416-782-3302
www.bistrogrande.com

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.6144

Computer and tablet help. Reasonable. Mark 416-398-6712

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. **Roman - 416-716-9084**

Earl Sales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. **416-630-6487.**

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

BATHURST CONCRETE AND REPAIR. **Concrete stairs & veranda, Garage floors, Sidewalks, Wet basements, Brick, Tuck-pointing, Flagstone repair, Small jobs. Reas. 32 yrs. exp. Lic. NO HST. Joe, 416-451-9936.**

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

Q & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-786-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. **PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1383.**

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 12, 2016

Tal Inbar: Israeli space program spreads its wings

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Israel in Space sounds like the name of a science fiction show from the 1960s, but in 2016 it's entirely real. Today Israel is one of only a few countries that can both design and build its own satellites and launch them into orbit. Tal Inbar heads the Space Research Center of the Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies in Israel. He was in Toronto on April 12 and in Montreal April 14 as keynote speaker for the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) galas, titled *Israel in Space*, which honoured the late astronaut, Ilan Ramon. He spoke to *The CJN* prior to the event.

Tal Inbar, head of Israel's Space Research Center

Only a handful of countries have a space program. Why did Israel chose to develop one?

The origin of Israel's space program is connected to the negotiations with Egypt and the withdrawal by Israel from the Sinai Desert. We wanted to ensure that the Egyptian army kept all the military agreements that are annexed to the peace accord was signed in 1979.

The only way you can verify what your neighbour is doing is from space. That was the trigger to develop our own space program.

How did it develop from there?

At the time, no one would sell to Israel anything related to space – not the launch vehicle, not the components for the satellite, and of course, not a complete satellite.

The mission was conducted by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), [which launched] the first satellite in September 1988. It was a technology demonstrator. Another one came two years later, and the first operational satellite was launched in April 1995. So we have had the capability to watch our neighbours since 1995 with ever-growing quality and resolution.

After the satellite was operating in space very successfully, the decision was made to embark on a new program, to develop our own communications satellite. It took a lot of years before we came up with several ideas for civilian application.

Is there now a private sector component to the space sector in Israel?

Today there are several companies. One is named SpacePharma, which is devoted to conducting experimentation in micro-gravity. You could just send your experiment to this company, and they will send it to space and give you all the results.

There is another company called Effective Space Solutions. They are developing an in-orbit services satellite. It's like if you were stuck with your car, you can call someone to tow you. This is the same, but in space.

They are developing a new micro-satellite in the range of about 200 kilograms that could be attached to another country's communications satellite. After all the fuel in a satellite is spent, the small satellite could move you out of the orbit that you are in.

Another company just developed a gel propulsion system for satellites. This company is called New Rocket.

Another company is developing very small satellites with a large inflatable antenna that will give the operators of a fleet of such satellites the opportunity to provide high speed Internet globally and other means of communications, like HDTV, by using very small and relatively cheap satellites.

Another Israeli company, named after Ilan Ramon, is called Ramon Chips. It produces computer chips for space routes.

What about SpaceIL?

SpaceIL is an initiative of several people who wanted to compete in the Google Lunar XPRIZE to land a small vehicle on the moon. The initiative was first envisioned by three young engineers, none of whom remains in the endeavour today. Today it's an initiative that is conducted and operated by the traditional space industry

The idea is to land a vehicle on the moon. They have a tentative launch date somewhere in the second half of 2017, but it might be postponed to 2018.

Is the rocketry used to put these satellites into space also Israeli-made?

Yes, it is Israeli-made, but it's not commercialized. The only user of the launch capabilities is Israel.

Where do these satellites launch from?

It's from Palmachim Air Force Base, about 15 kilometres south of Tel Aviv, by the seashore. For safety reasons, we are forced to launch to the west. We are the only country in the world that launches to the west, and we lose about one-third of the energetic potential of the launch vehicle. We don't have any choice, because we don't have very large territories we can launch from.

Does that mean your satellites have to be one-third smaller than other satellites?

It means we design our satellites to be very small, compact and light weight, with no compromise on the outcomes from the satellites.

We were the first country in the world who built mini-satellites in the range of 250 to 350 kilograms, with the performance of satellites with launch weights of about one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half tonnes. That was a revolution at the time, but during the last two decades, the entire world satellite industry closed the gap with us.

What are the challenges facing the Israeli space program?

The main challenge is budget, like everywhere else.

But the other main challenge is selling satellites to countries that don't necessarily want to tell the world that the satellite or its components are from Israel.

There are some limitations on the export of space technology. For example, if there is even $1 worth of U.S. hardware inside an Israeli satellite, you have to get permission from the State Department, and they want to give some protection to American industry.

Another challenge is that most countries today don't just want to buy a satellite. They want some technology transfer. And there are limitations that the Israeli regulator, which is the Ministry of Defence, imposes on various companies. So not any product that we can produce we are allowed to export.

Iran recently launched a missile that could carry nuclear payloads. How concerned are you?

Iran launched a nuclear-capable missile and they showed some very interesting underground facilities, silos and huge depots with dozens of ballistic missiles in each.

Also, new information came from North Korea. They just tested a new type of re-entry vehicle, which is a warhead for an almost-ICBM that has the capability of getting close to the continental United States.

The rule of thumb is that what you see today in North Korea you will see tomorrow in Iran, and we don't want to see it the next day in Israel. Iranian missile technology and space launchers originate in North Korea, and there is collaboration between the two programs. We know there are Iranians in North Korea when they conduct tests and vice versa.

Does Israel have the capabilities to deal with these threats?

We have a multi-layer defensive system, from Iron Dome to David's Sling and then Arrow 2 and Arrow 3. Arrow 3 is under an advanced state of development. We have to cope with the known ballistic threats from Hezbollah, from Syria, from Iran and from the south – the rockets which are getting very heavy with warheads from Islamic Jihad and Hamas. But we have to look at what the next generation of threats could be from Iran. And you have to keep an eye on North Korea. You have to be very alert and know what is going on in the whole spectrum of ballistic threats to Israel, and to cope with it, we have our own very sophisticated capabilities.

What is the extent of the co-operation in space between Canada and Israel?

There is co-operation with Canadian companies on next generation Israeli communications satellite, Amos 6, which is due to launch later this year.

The Canadian company is MDA Corporation, which was a major sub-contractor for the satellite. There is a memorandum of understanding between the Israel Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency. The whole legal framework for co-operation in civilian space is ready, so Canadian companies could be part of the Israeli space industry.

If there are some investors in Canada, there are new and innovative ideas in the space field in Israel. The status of relations between Canada and Israel allows us to bypass some of the limitations with other countries. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, we need passion, not stagnation

Backstory

MICHAEL DIAMOND
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

We Jews insist on asking questions, and debating the answers. Throughout Jewish history our inquisitiveness, our unwillingness to simply accept that which we are told, our insistence that we be heard and that the ideas of others are deserving of our respect, whether we agree with them or not, have been a mainstay of what makes us a people.

But what happens if those who hold certain ideas or beliefs become so certain of their rightness, that they are unwilling to accept the possibility they are wrong, in whole or in part? What happens if ideas become ideologies, with a sense of permanence that does not allow for change or rebuttal? What happens if certain ideologies become the basis of movements which exclude the possibility that there may be a better way, a different approach, or an adjustment to the initial idea which may make it better?

When that happens you have stagnation. You have intolerance, anger, frustration, and sometimes violence. You lose that which is valuable about humanity because you lose the ability to grow, inquire, and evolve. And you may end up with political movements that can do a good deal of harm to others.

Unfortunately, there are an increasing number of examples of this type of ideological stagnation in the Canadian Jewish community. During last year's federal election, anyone who did not support the Conservative party was seen by many as being a traitor to fellow Jews. For too many, there was no question to be debated or discussed – there was just the Truth.

Meanwhile, south of the border, the political process has produced a crop of ideologically based politicians who, in almost every case, are supported by followers who are so sure of the rightness of their candidate's position (even those politicians who appear entirely unclear in their positions) that they will brook no compromise, and will yell, scream, spit or fight, in support of their Truth.

And then there is the ongoing divide in the Jewish community between those more traditional in their style of religious observance and those less traditional. The debate, of course, is a fair one, and offers much to teach for both positions. But to the extent that one side treats the issue as closed, and consequently degrades the other, we again have stagnation and a weakening in the social fabric of our community.

> *We can be the best we can be, only if we are open to listen to others.*

As we mark Israel's independence on Yom Ha'atzmaut, we remember both the miracle and the human sacrifices which led to the formation and ensure the continued survival of the Jewish state. But perhaps we should also remember that the ongoing debate which preceded Israel's independence, and which continues to be at the underpinnings of Israel's vibrant democracy, has led to a steadily evolving Israeli society, an evolution which is necessary in order to beat back both the internal and external challenges of statehood.

Without doubt, the Jewish community needs people with strong convictions and the willingness to speak out. We need passion. We need the desire to approach a question and to come up with an answer that makes sense and can be supported. But we will all most benefit if those people who would lead or be strong followers would also be open to the possibility that their research may have been flawed, that some of their assumptions may have been incorrect, or that their conclusions may lead to negative outcomes they had not considered.

We have all heard versions of the same joke: Stick 10 Jews in a room and you'll end up with 11 opinions. For our community's thought leaders, whether here in Canada or in the United States or in Israel, to be fully valuable, they need to demonstrate the humility which comes from recognizing that the "truth" is seldom static, that answers constantly evolve, and that we can be the best we can be only if we are open to listen to others, and to the respectful debates that can only lead to better outcomes for all of us. ■

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Dr. Henry (Herschel) Mel	Apr 21/16	
Odette Brownstone	Apr 21/16	65 Spring Garden Ave.
Natan Kleinman	Apr 24/16	48 Misty Crescent
Merle Young	Apr 24/16	1888 Bayview Ave.
Rhonda Tannenbaum	Apr 24/16	88 Bode Street
Edith Eason	Apr 23/16	1 McKnight Place
Pearl Porter	Apr 26/16	30 Lindenmount Street
Zalton Freeman	Apr 26/16	15 Forest Hill Road
Joseph Greenstone	Apr 29/16	#719-484 Steeles Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Waisglass, Harry	Apr. 26, 2016	55 Ameer Ave
Lyubomyrska, Sofiya	Apr. 26, 2016	601 Clark Ave W
Steinfeld, Reuven	Apr. 27, 2016	Private
Margel, Max	Apr. 27, 2016	100 Canyon Ave
Eisenberg, Jacob	Apr. 27, 2016	344 Spring Gate Blvd
Caccistore, Adam	Apr. 28, 2016	109 Jefferson Ave #A
Veldman, Valentin	Apr. 28, 2016	1121 Steeles Ave W
Kruyz, Sofia	Apr. 30, 2016	11 Townsgate Dr
Bouzi, Riva	Apr. 30, 2016	73 Stillwater Cres
Silas, Simha	Apr. 30, 2016	13 Torresdale Ave
Kasteryano, Venecia	May 2, 2016	57 Brentwood Cres
Friesner, Doreen Fagale	May 2, 2016	66 Marbury Cres
Abergel, Marcell	May 3, 2016	601 Clark Ave W
Gold, Shahar	May 3, 2016	60 Morgan Ave
Rita Korenblum	Apr 22/16	55 Ameer Ave.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

To place an UNVEILING NOTICE
please call or email at least 15 DAYS
prior to the date of the unveiling
416-544-4622 ext. 2521
ssokolsky@thecjnsales.com

The unveiling of a monument in the memory of
ABIE and EVA ASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29, at 12:30 pm
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park (BLMP)
6033 Bathurst St., Toronto | Warsaw Lodzer-Section 46
Relatives and friends are invited to attend
A light lunch will be held in the BLMP Reception Room

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SULIM LEIB SID POSNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 15
at 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Section 4 Hebrew Friendly Sons of David
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BERNARD MARCOVITZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday May 22, 2016
at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
10955 Dufferin St. (N. of Major Mackenzie)
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

We wish to thank our family and friends
who made donations, sent meals, cards and
those who made a special effort to ensure that
we had a nightly minyan in honour of our beloved

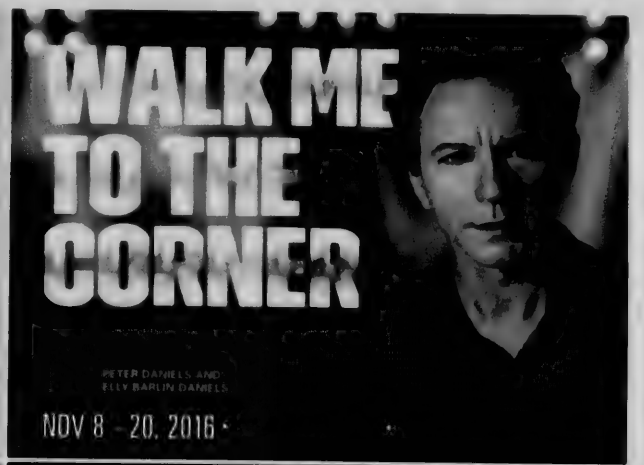
ABRAHAM (ABIE) & EVA ASH ז"ל

Loving and devoted parents of Ida. Dearest sister of
Jack Bursztain and sister-in-law Florence Bursztain.
Greatly missed by cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

We are deeply grateful for your overwhelming support
and kindness during this very difficult time.

They will be sadly missed and forever remembered.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GREAT THEATRE



10th ANNIVERSARY
HAROLD GREEN
JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 416.733.0545
OR 416.932.9995 OR VISIT HGJEWISHTHEATRE.COM

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MAY 19, 2016 • IYAR 11, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhoteltoronto.com
peraplan

Inside

Kathleen Wynne kicks off Israel business mission

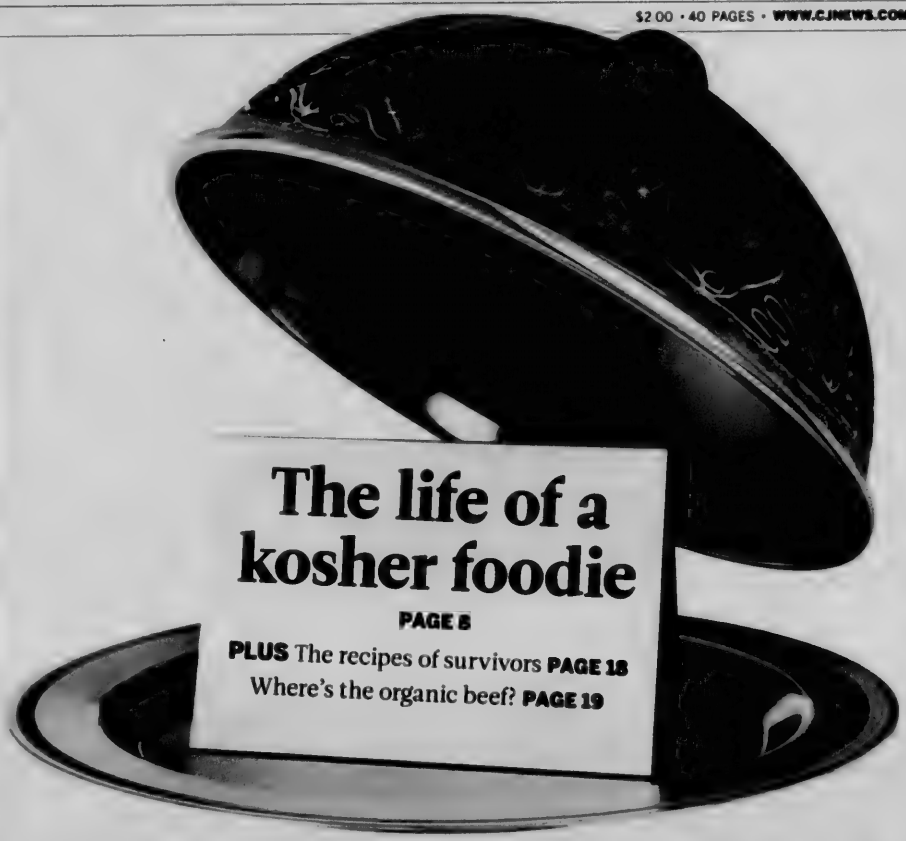
Ontario premier emphasizes collaboration during visit to Jewish state. **PAGE 21**

Tony Kushner speaks out at Koffler Centre event

Award-winning playwright draws distinction between art and politics. **PAGE 30**

Emor

Halifax	8:23 p.m.	9:35 p.m.
Montreal	8:05 p.m.	9:20 p.m.
Ottawa	8:14 p.m.	9:28 p.m.
Toronto	8:23 p.m.	9:35 p.m.
Winnipeg	8:57 p.m.	10:20 p.m.
Calgary	9:30 p.m.	10:36 p.m.
Vancouver	8:38 p.m.	9:50 p.m.



The life of a kosher foodie

PAGE 8

PLUS The recipes of survivors **PAGE 18**

Where's the organic beef? **PAGE 19**

Saying au revoir to Dieudonné

Border agents stop anti-Semitic French comedian ahead of Montreal shows. **PAGE 12**

Fort McMurray: a harrowing escape

Howard Rensler talks about being forced to flee along a flame-licked highway. **PAGE 14**

A Jewish woman on our bank notes?

BACKSTORY: Bobbie Rosenfeld was 'Toronto's fleet-footed Jewish maiden.' **PAGE 39**

6 27843 39403 7

Shoe flap, and Heel Hitler?

Reebok won't be selling this shoe after all.

Reebok nixes 'Israel 68' footwear

In an apparent response to a pro-Palestinian backlash on social media, Reebok announced, then quickly rescinded, plans to sell a special sneaker marking Israel's 68th birthday. On May 10, a day after Reebok Israel said it would sell a blue-and-white shoe engraved with "Israel 68" as a collector's item, the sportswear firm said the announcement was made in error and that the shoe had merely been proposed by an outside designer but not accepted. Reebok also said it avoids distributing shoes linked to national emblems or countries. Initial reports said the sneaker would be auctioned on Facebook on Yom Ha'atzmaut with proceeds going to Crossfit Without Borders, a group for people with mental disabilities.

He annoyed more than his girlfriend

A Scottish man was arrested after a video of him teaching a dog to make a Nazi salute and respond to the phrase "gas the Jews" sparked outrage among U.K. Jewish groups. Markus Meechan, 28, was detained on suspicion of committing a hate crime and spent a night in jail, the *Daily Mail* said May 9. He posted a video titled "M8 Yur Dugs A Nazi" (Mate, your dog's a Nazi). In the clip, which received more than 1.6 million views, Meechan said he trained his girlfriend's pug as a joke. "My girlfriend is always ranting and raving about how cute and adorable her wee dog is, and so I thought I would turn him into the least cute thing that I could think of, which is a Nazi," he told viewers. He filmed the dog perking up to the phrase "gas the Jews" and raising its right paw to the phrase "Sieg heil" in a speech by Hitler. He later apologized, saying he meant no offence and only wanted "to annoy my girlfriend."

School's secular studies found wanting

A chassidic boys school in London has been ordered to stop accepting new students until it starts teaching about LGBTQ issues and stops covering images of women in short sleeves in books. The Beis Aharon Trust, which runs the school, is appealing a state education watchdog decision that said the school is violating educational standards and doesn't prepare its 342 students "to enter modern British society." The school passed inspection six years ago, but failed in 2014 after a tougher ratings regimen was adopted. It had pledged to beef up its secular studies, but reportedly hasn't done so. ■

Gematria

70%

The percentage of Israelis who say they currently have hummus in their fridge, a new survey said. Ninety per cent said they eat the chickpea dip at least once a week.

$4,000

The amount the Republican Jewish coalition paid to cover the expenses of former prime minister Stephen Harper for a speech he gave to the group in Las Vegas last month.

Quotable

Admissibility to Canada is not a right, but a privilege.

— CIJA's Rabbi Reuben Poupko on the decision to deny entry to anti-Semitic French comic Dieudonne M'bala M'Bala. See p. 12.

Exclusive to CJNEWS.com

Columnist Mark Mietkiewicz looks at some of Israel's unofficial national symbols.

Inside today's edition

Rabbi2Rabbi	4	Comment	10	Jewish Life	28	Parshah	38
Perspectives	7	News	12	Socialite	31	Q&A	38
Cover Story	8	International	22	Ask Ella	32	Backstory	39

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

Stone Craft Monument Factory

Large inventory of top quality

Granite Monuments

in our own North York factory

Single Stones from $750

NEW ADDRESS
80 MARTIN ROSS AVE.

416-667-1474

WWW.STONECRAFTMONUMENTS.COM

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein

Certified Financial Planner

416-221-0060

Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

Get out of town!

Kudos to Daniel Held for addressing the pressing issue of affordability in Jewish neighbourhoods ("Get out of town! It might be all you can afford," April 28).

The high cost of living Jewish (specifically an observant lifestyle) with skyrocketing rents and home prices, as well as day school tuition, synagogue membership, camp, etc. has barely been addressed by the community.

While it's true that our communal priorities should continue to focus on the poorest and neediest among us, stagnant household incomes in the face of high costs create a situation where Jewish observance, for some, has become a luxury. Creative thinking is indeed required.

Chad Derrick
Toronto

B'Tselem defence hypocritical

Brian Rothberg's letter to the editor ("In defence of B'Tselem," April 29) decries the questioning of B'Tselem's motivation, and labels that as slander.

He then proceeds to slander Israel, claiming, without specification, that many of its current political and military activities lack moral legitimacy. For good measure, he ends his missive with a final gross slander that Israel is a state without civil or human rights. Rothberg should consult the meaning of being hoisted on his own petard.

Israel Ungar
Fredericton, N.B.

UJA must change priorities

Jeffrey Stutz's column suggests that grandparents help pay for their grandchildren's Jewish education (April 28).

While it is laudable when grandparents choose to help their children with the high cost of day school, it is not their responsibility to do so. Many of our parents are on fixed incomes and do not have cash to spare.

A solution that I have yet to see proposed is the reallocation of funds by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. In 2015, the projected campaign total was $61 million. Jewish education received 26 per cent of that. Support for Israel and overseas received 32 per cent.

I am a firm believer in creating a strong connection to Israel, however, I think that it is time for us to recalibrate our thinking. Israel is not the dependent country that it once was. UJA needs to understand this and readjust its priorities.

The staggering cost of Jewish education is not the only crisis at hand. Housing costs are astronomically high. For many, it is impossible to come up with a down payment on a home. What about those for whom a Jewish education and housing is simply a pipe dream?

While I have no doubt that the money being sent to Israel is well spent, and certainly it is our responsibility to do what we can for the Jewish state, we have serious problems here at home that must be addressed, and quickly.

Shira Muller
Toronto

Schulich misses the point

Seymour Schulich claims that if only Jews shunned the accoutrements that made them look overtly and obviously Jewish, they would be able to "fit in with the majorities" as he did, and all would be well at York University, as well as in the wider world ("Jews should stop 'whining' about York U, benefactor says," May 12.)

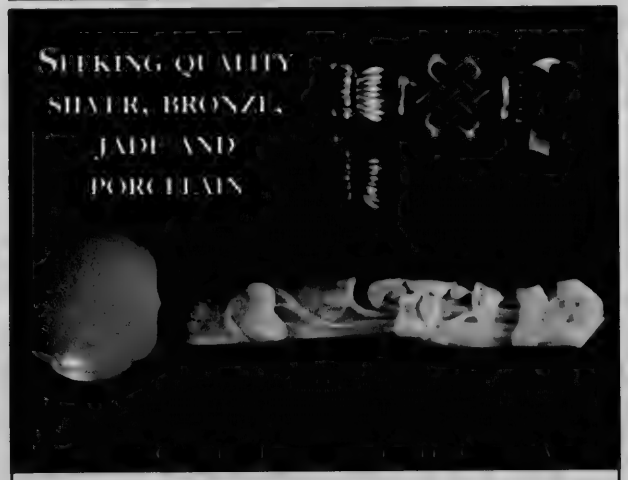
His reasoning reminds me of the thinking that was prevalent among German-born Jewry prior to the Nazis' rise. German Jews, who were very assimilated, were alarmed when the Ostjuden, Jews from eastern Europe, started showing up in Germany. These Ostjuden, who were fleeing pogroms and other forms of oppression, tended to be far more observant, and therefore looked the part, a sight that prompted the assimilated Jews to fear that they would be lumped in with their more "backward" brethren.

We all know the horrific story of what came next. The tyrant who took over Germany didn't much care whether you were a fine, upstanding German Jew who knew how to "fit in" or you were one of the more Jewish-looking Ostjuden. As far as he was concerned, a Jew was a Jew, and all were deserving of eradication.

It is shocking, and I must say, more than a little saddening, that a man of Schulich's eminence seems oblivious to that lesson.

Mindy Alter
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL

SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM

(including taxes)
May 12 - June 19 2016/Sep 1-27 2016
Valid for specific dates only & subject to availability

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES - NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA
www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

Summer	Winter Break
July 03-14	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 - Aug. 04	March Break
Aug. 07-18	Mar. 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 - Sep. 01	

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide - a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE - Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the work! We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

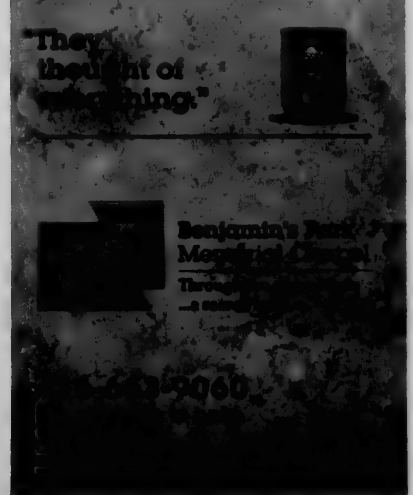
25th Anniversary
PEERLESS
YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY

UNIGLOBE Travel
Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

Tours@peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

We are an Orthodox family, so when our father died, it was important to have a service that strictly observed Jewish law. We chose Benjamin's because of their superior care. They helped us fulfil every sacred rite, from Shmira to Shiva. Our father was never left alone, and neither were we. Thank you Benjamin's for keeping the light alive.



RABBI 2 RABBI

Who are Israel's true heroes?

Are they the ordinary people who find superhuman strength to celebrate life after tragedy, or those who try to seek justice and protect the nation's soul?

RABBI YAEL SPLANSKY
HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE, TORONTO

RABBI MARK FISHMAN
CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH, MONTREAL

Rabbi Splansky: Shalom from Israel. My Jerusalem hotel is just a short walk from the Liberty Bell Park, where the mitzvah is written on the replica bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land" (Leviticus 25:10). If Israel is to fulfill Isaiah's call to be a "Light unto the nations," (Isaiah 49:6) her people must "pursue justice" (Deuteronomy 16:20) and passionately so.

Beyond the noble soldiers of the IDF, who are the Israeli heroes you have come to know and admire?

Rabbi Fishman: If most of the time we teach from books and texts, the very Land of Israel itself and its people are those who have the most to teach us. We just have to be listening. This past November, I attended the wedding of Sara Littman and her groom, Ariel, in Israel. Sara's father and brother had been tragically murdered just days before the wedding. So you ask who inspires me? The ordinary people of Israel, who, beset by tragedy, find the superhuman strength to celebrate life.

Rabbi Splansky: I'm here with a congregational social justice trip, and we visited Yad b'Yad, the extraordinary bilingual school in Jerusalem where Jewish and Arab children are taught by Jewish and Arab teachers.

We met two representative parents from the school – Elana, a modern Orthodox woman from Toronto, and Fadi, a Christian Arab man from Haifa. They remembered when the school was struck by Jewish arsonists, and when a neighbourhood bus was the target of Muslim terrorists. Fadi said, "When all hell breaks loose out there, this school is where we want to be."

These parents are taking real cultural risks in order to prepare their children for respectful and successful coexistence.

Rabbi Fishman: There is no doubt in my mind that if peace in Israel will only come about by bringing ordinary people on both sides of the conflict face to face with one another. To meet the "other" and talk together, to find commonality and a shared humanity is the only way.

Yet I find it discouraging that so much interfaith dialogue and promotion of co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians is initiated by Israelis and their supporters in the Diaspora. Perhaps I am mistaken, but I feel that the pull toward co-existence is somewhat lopsided.

Everyone knows that both sides will benefit from peace. But have we reached the point where both sides wish to mutually recognize one another and indeed live side by side?

Rabbi Splansky: Southwest of Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh has become a flashpoint in the fight for women's rights. Miriam, an Orthodox woman from New York, monitors the streets for illegal signs instructing women not to linger on the sidewalks in front of synagogues and to dress according to a strict modesty code. The word "women" was blackened out from the sign for the Women's Health Clinic, as if it were a dirty word. I also count Miriam among Israel's champions of justice.

The Canadian Jewish community is devoted to protecting the body of the State of Israel. Our people give generously to build hospitals, bomb shelters and army bases. But how can we also protect the soul of Israel? As our bus winds its way through the Judean hills and wadis, I hear the echo of the prophet Amos, saying, "Let justice flow like a mighty stream" (Amos 5:24).

Rabbi Fishman: While you hear Amos I hear Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, who once wrote: "We are great and our faults are great, and therefore our problems great, and great are our consolations." Although our troubles may be immense, we are reminded that so too will our consolations be great as well. When everything finally reaches its completion, our joy and true celebration arrive.

I believe it is meritorious to offer donations from the Diaspora, yet I feel that it may be overreaching to suppose that we can "protect the soul of Israel." I can't put myself in an Israeli's shoes. National conscription for teenagers, living with war and terror or the threat of annihilation – such a lifestyle impacts those in the country that we in the West may not fully appreciate.

There is certainly much still to be achieved in Israel, yet can we "outsiders" really tell them how to do it? Those privileged to live in the land are truly the shapers of Israel's soul. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 20 (2,246)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949

Editorial e-mail: cjnnto@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Postmaster: Please return 2915 and changes of address to: CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7.
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

UJA's

RIO✦CAN

WALK with Israel

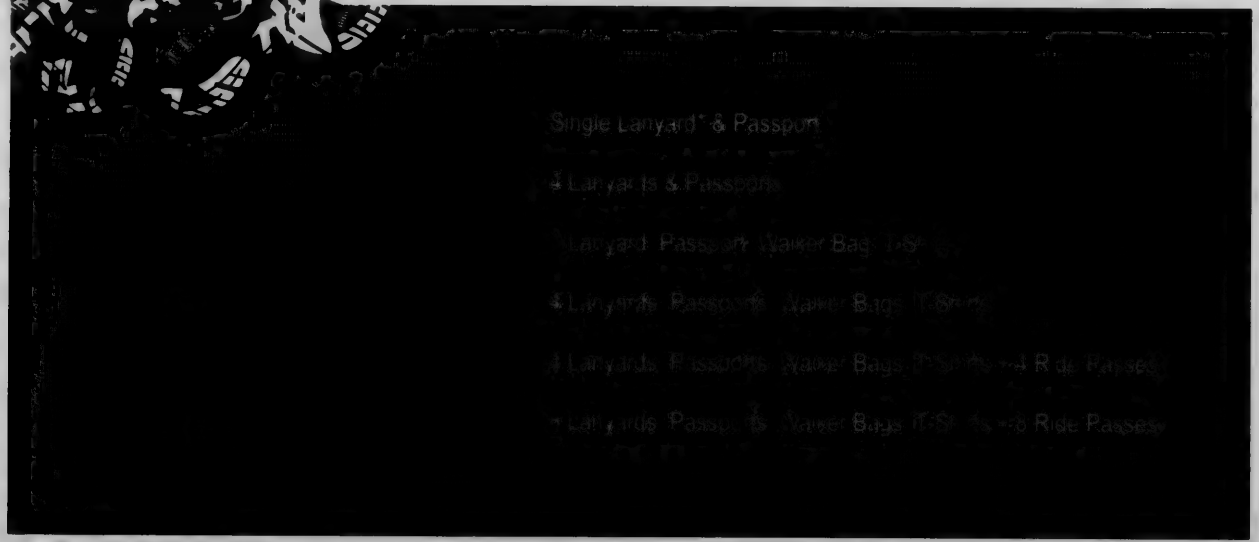
Sunday, May 29

Registration: 9am
Walk Start: 10am

Coronation Park

All participants must register to Walk at:

walkwithisrael.com



Thanks to Circle of Care and Dignity Transportation, shuttle buses are available along the Walk Route.

UJA's WALK with ISRAEL

Ronnie Irwin Model Festival

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Fainstein Editor Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge News Editor Daniel Wolgelerenter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski Art Director Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheer, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus,
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Synagogue's 50th anniversary

The executive and ladies auxiliary officers of the McCaul Street Synagogue, Toronto 1937.

ONTARIO JEWISH ARCHIVES, BLANKENSTEIN FAMILY HERITAGE CENTRE

SeeJN | March of the Living

Canadian Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella, left, and Rwandan Supreme Court Justice Marie Thérèse Mukamulisa light a memorial torch on the 2016 March of the Living. Abella born in a German DP camp after the war, is the daughter of two Polish Holocaust survivors, and the first Jewish woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Mukamulisa appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Rwanda in 2003, lost most of her family in the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi ethnic minority in Rwanda.

From Yoni's Desk

Noa, Tony Kushner and the politics of art

Two public disagreements in the Jewish community came to a head last week, and in the aftermath, the question is how best to avoid a repeat performance in the future, or if that is even possible.

Last Wednesday, May 11, in Vancouver, a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,200 gathered to hear Israeli singer-songwriter Achinoam Nini, known as Noa, perform at a Yom Ha'atzmaut event sponsored by the city's Jewish federation. The event, however, was not without controversy, after the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF) withdrew as a sponsor in February over Noa's left-wing politics. While allegations that she supported the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel were quickly rebuffed, JNF Canada CEO Josh Cooper nonetheless told *The CJN* at the time: "The entertainer that has been hired does not reflect nor correspond to the mandate and values of JNF of Canada."

After JNF pulled out, Israel's embassy in Ottawa and consulate general in Toronto stepped in. Noa, aware of the controversy in Vancouver, appeared relieved that the event went ahead, writing on Facebook when she arrived in Vancouver: "After all the harrowing events leading up to this concert, I am so thrilled to be here and truly grateful to the Jewish federation for not folding and the Israeli ambassador for supporting!" (For more on this story, see page 16.)

Two days earlier in Toronto, acclaimed American Jewish playwright Tony Kushner made an appearance at the Panasonic Theatre for an event sponsored by the Koffler Centre for the Arts. And as with Noa's performance in Vancouver, Kushner's Toronto engagement became a lightning rod for debate in the Jewish community after UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, a Koffler Centre sponsor, distanced itself from the event over Kushner's affiliation with Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), the U.S.-based organization that supports the BDS movement. While Kushner sits on the board of JVP, he has publicly stated that he is against BDS.

Prior to arriving in Toronto, the *Angels in America* author accused UJA of "McCarthyism," and during the event he lashed out again. "The UJA, in deciding that this event was too dangerous for Jews to listen to, is upholding a fantasy version of the State of Israel and a fantasy version of Israeli policy," he said.

In response, UJA president and CEO Morris Zbar told *The CJN*, "Mr. Kushner sits on the advisory board of a leading BDS organization in the United States. That is his right. And UJA has the right to affirm our fundamental principles and reject BDS in all of its forms." (For more on this story, see page 30.)

Jewish organizations have every right to distance themselves from public figures whose political positions don't jibe with the views of their supporters and constituents. The same, of course, goes for individual members of the community, who are free to stay home or to organize their own events instead. Still, there is undoubtedly something special about Jews coming together publicly, whether it's to celebrate the State of Israel's independence or to experience a world-famous artist. But as last week's events in Vancouver and Toronto seem to suggest, sometimes that might not be in the cards. ■ — YONI

ESSAY

Why I read the Talmud

Edward Trapunski

Every second Tuesday evening at 8:30 I turn on my computer to study Talmud over Skype with a group of five people that comes mostly from the egalitarian First Narayever Congregation I belong to in Toronto.

I don't do it for religious reasons. Although theoretically I knew what the Talmud is, I had a secular Yiddish upbringing with respect for Jewish practices, but no real deep understanding.

I wanted to get more of an insight behind the rituals I sometimes practised but didn't quite comprehend. I wanted the challenge of following through on something spiritual and intellectual every day. I started by reading daf yomi every day. Every morning I would get an English translation of that day's Talmud page from *Daf Notes* and every evening I would read it, whether it made sense to me or not.

Daf yomi, a page a day, has been credited with making Talmud study accessible to Jews like me who are not Torah scholars. The process was generated by Rabbi Meir Shapiro as a way for Jews to collectively read all 2,711 pages of the Babylonian Talmud one day at a time. By following the sequence, the entire Talmud is completed in a cycle of seven years and five months. The first cycle of daf yomi began on the first day of Rosh Hashanah 5684, Sept. 11, 1923. I began with the start of the cycle on Aug. 1, 2012.

With holidays and family obligations, every day was a heavy commitment and I fell behind. Catching up was a struggle. Then in 2013 I discovered a notice in the synagogue bulletin inviting participants for daf shevui. The pace is slower, covering one page of Talmud per week instead of one a day. The group meets every two weeks, covering two pages. They say Talmud is always best learned in a group and my study partners are literally and figuratively on the same page. We take turns leading the discussion and sharing what we know.

The Talmud can still act as a guide as long as you see it as a living document, the author writes. WIKICOMMONS PHOTO

> *What I want to get out of reading the Talmud is the understanding, not the strict adherence, and the context for the life I live.*

The Talmud is a living document that was written at the time of the first Diaspora, when the Romans drove the Israelites out of Israel. Jerusalem was the religious capital for the Jews. The Temple was its core and the rites and rituals all took place at the Temple. When the Romans destroyed the Temple the Jews were left without a place to sacrifice animals and other Temple rites mentioned in the Torah and had to find new ways to worship.

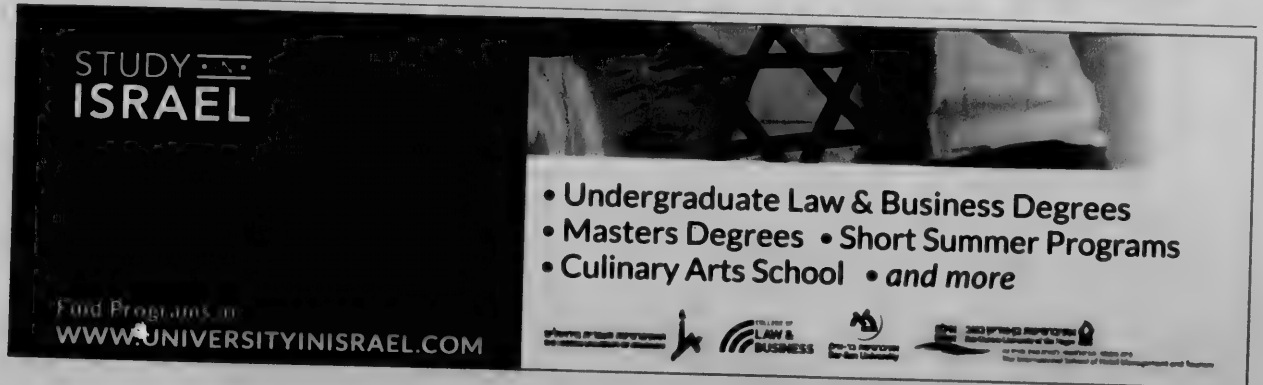
Between about the year 200 and the year 500 CE, the Jews were in exile in the towns and villages near Baghdad in ancient Babylon. The sages needed to develop a code of conduct based on the Torah that went beyond Temple practices. They had to create a framework for Jews to maintain their own identity and religion while at the same time living in harmony in a society which was not their own.

Eight hundred years ago, Maimonides theorized that many Jewish laws in the Talmud were instituted to distinguish Judaism from paganism. He insisted that trying to explain Jewish law doesn't undermine the authority of the law. Understanding the rationale behind the law doesn't compromise obeying the law. Studying the laws, he held, leads to keeping them.

We live in a different kind of Diaspora in the 21st century in Canada, but we have equal challenges about how to live our lives as Jews. The Talmud can still act as a guide as long as you see it as a living document, not something to be obeyed without questioning. For example, the tractate my group is currently studying is Ketubot, and the page I recently led is about whether a young girl should be stoned or strangled for a sexual indiscretion. In the modern age we don't do either, so the discussion is moot. But the system of logic the ancient rabbis used to arrive at their conclusions is what is brilliant. What I want to get out of reading the Talmud is the understanding, not the strict adherence, and the context for the life I live.

At the rate I'm going I should be finished my first run-through of the Talmud in about 49 years. Then I can start again. If you ask me then I might be able to tell you how much I understand. ■

Edward Trapunski is a writer based in Toronto and the chairman of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards.



What's a kosher foodie to do?

Dietary restrictions make it hard to enjoy a good meal. But it's not impossible, as **DANIEL KOREN** found out

A few months ago, a conversation on Jewish news and politics with a few of my peers turned to a topic I thought would be far less polarizing: food. I quickly learned, however, that people take their culinary exploits as seriously as they take their politics.

"You can't be a kosher foodie," one friend said.

I was stumped. "Why not?"

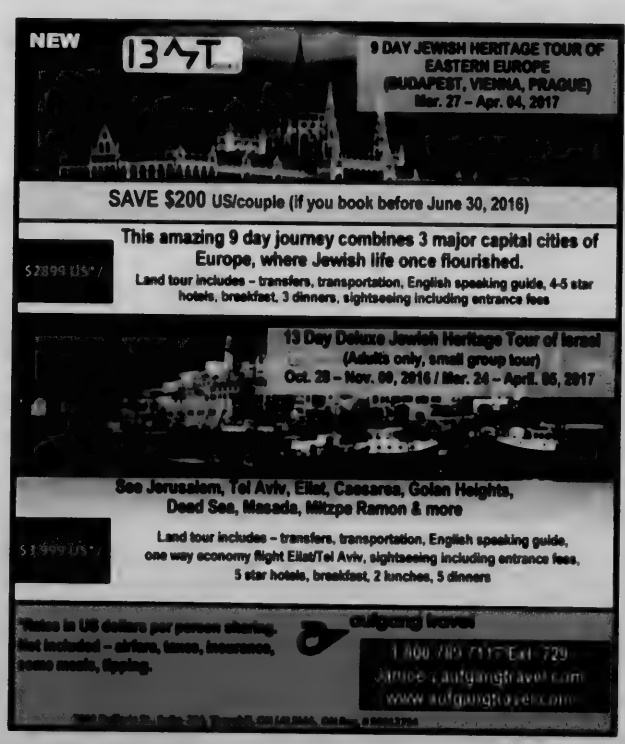
"Too many restrictions," he replied. "You can't try all the new food trends and techniques."

I pondered this for a moment before deciding to investigate. A quick Google search belied his claim.

Not only are there thousands of kosher foodies out there, but kosher food itself has experienced nothing short of a revolution over the past decade, catching up to trends in the wider culinary world.

The term "foodie" was first coined by American restaurant critic Gael Greene in a June 1980 edition of *New York* magazine. It gained popularity in culinary circles and continued to grow through the 1980s and 1990s.

Being a kosher foodie is not so impossible thanks to the wide variety of cuisine and recipes now available. LESLIE PEREZ PHOTOS


NEW
9 DAY JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPE
(BUDAPEST, VIENNA, PRAGUE)
Mar. 27 – Apr. 04, 2017
SAVE $200 US/couple (If you book before June 30, 2016)
This amazing 9 day journey combines 3 major capital cities of Europe, where Jewish life once flourished.
Land tour includes – transfers, transportation, English speaking guide, 4-5 star hotels, breakfast, 3 dinners, sightseeing including entrance fees
13 Day Deluxe Jewish Heritage Tour of Israel
(Adults only, small group tour)
Oct. 23 – Nov. 09, 2016 / Mar. 24 – April. 05, 2017
See Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat, Caesarea, Golan Heights, Dead Sea, Masada, Mitzpe Ramon & more
Land tour includes – transfers, transportation, English speaking guide, one way economy flight Eilat/Tel Aviv, sightseeing including entrance fees, 5 star hotels, breakfast, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
outgoing travel

Today, thanks to popular social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, many argue that foodie culture has reached dizzying new heights.

But what of Jewish foodies, and specifically kosher foodies? Do the dietary restrictions that come with being kosher actually make it impossible to be part of the foodie tribe? Can one be kosher *and* a foodie?

Food enthusiasts who spoke to *The CJN* seem to be in agreement: yes.

"A foodie is someone who's thinking about dinner while they're eating their lunch," says chef Bob Blumer, host of Food Network programs like *The Surreal Gourmet* and *World's Weirdest Restaurants*. "Being a foodie is maximizing the pleasure you get from what you're eating, regardless of what your restrictions are. If you're a celiac and you can't eat wheat, that doesn't mean you can't gain pleasure from food and go out of your way to make everything you can eat delicious."

It's a common sentiment among food enthusiasts, kosher and otherwise.

"A foodie is someone who cares about food quality, ingredients, process, experience, and everything that goes along with it," adds Dani Klein, 33, founder of YeahThatsKosher.com, a blog for kosher travellers. "There are kosher foodies, halal foodies, gluten-free foodies, organic foodies, lactose intolerant foodies, vegan foodies, carnivore-only foodies, etc. Just because one has a restriction doesn't mean they can't care about the quality."

"Food restrictions might make a kosher (or other) foodie limited in terms of what we can have, but that doesn't mean we are not lovers of good food," Klein says. "Thanks to the web, there's increased awareness of many hard-to-find kosher options in cities all over the world."

The Internet has also enabled the kosher foodie revolution in other ways. It has increased awareness about kosher food in general – on Instagram, the hashtag #kosherfood has been used 270,000 times – but it's also enabled a digital community of devout kosher foodies who share recipes, photos, and ideas with one another, thanks to a mutual, and delicious, common bond.

Montrealer Leslie Perez, founder of the blog *EveryDay Kosher*, says the last five years in particular have seen an explosion in Jewish food culture. "Jewish food finally has a voice, and it is influencing others in ways we could have never imagined. Through social media, we are connected to Jewish bloggers and foodies from around the world, from Texas to Morocco, and what unites us is that we are Jewish, love expressing our culinary art, and feed into that passion together as we share it."

In Toronto, the community of kosher food enthusiasts is also on the rise.

Eran Marom, a founder of Mobius Culinary Labs, an R&D centre that develops new methods in cooking, attributes the rise of the kosher food scene in Toronto to a thirst for knowledge, and loyalty.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Jewish Music Week in Toronto

A full week of musical events throughout the GTA, including these Gala Evening Concerts!

(ticket purchase required)

Sunday May 29	Monday May 30	Tuesday May 31	Wednesday June 1	Thursday June 2	Sunday June 5
THE TOAST OF BROADWAY Hugh's Room	SHIRAT TIKVAH Beth Tikvah	MAISON MUSIC! EFS	A CAPPELLA POPS! Glenn Gould Studio	ISRAELI MUSIC TODAY Lula Lounge	MALACHEI MAMBO Holy Blossom Temple

PLUS THESE EXCITING FREE DAYTIME EVENTS

MON MAY 30	TUES MAY 31	WED JUNE 1	THURS JUNE 2	FRI JUNE 3	SAT JUNE 4	SUN JUNE 5
JEWS & BLUES COLUMBUS CENTRE	PORTRAYAL OF JEWS IN OPERA LIPA GREEN BUILDING	CREATIVE PROCESS BAY/BLOOR INDIGO	FROM KITCHEN TO CARNEGIE HALL BARBARA FRUM LIBRARY	JEWISH MUSICAL COMEDY MUSIC GALLERY		
FLORY'S FLAME BAYCREST THEATRE	SOY SEFARDI BETEL CENTRE	ARBAN B'SHIR BARBERSHOP QUARTET PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE	PARSLEY SAGE 50 YEARS OF SIMON & GARFUNKEL [illegible]	AARON COPLAND PIANO MUSIC GALLERY	SATURDAY NIGHT MELAVEH MALKA & YOM YERUSHALAYIM COMMUNITY SINGALONG BETH TORAH	THE COOL KIDS CONCERT LEO BAECK
KLEZFACTOR TRIO BAYCREST TERRACE	JEWISH CUBAN MUSIC GARNET A WILLIAMS	YIDDISH JOURNEY THE REX HOTEL	REMEMBERING THEODORE BIKEL [illegible]	'BARBARA' FRENCH CABARET MUSIC GALLERY		PEEL ME A GRAPE JAZZ BISTRO

AND OUR RENOWNED JEWISH MUSIC WEEK STUDENT ART EXHIBIT!

www.jewishmusicweek.com 416-638-4492

CJN

Making Hatikvah an anthem for all of Israel's citizens

Mira Sucharov

With Liberal MP Mauril Bélanger's private members' bill seeking to change the lyrics of *O Canada* having advanced to its second reading, I am thinking about another anthem close to many *CJN* readers' hearts: *Hatikvah*. With Yom Ha'atzmaut having recently passed, the content of *Hatikvah* deserves some reconsideration.

Bélanger's amendment would make the Canadian national anthem more gender inclusive, changing "in all thy sons command," to "in all of us command."

As reported by *CBC News*, Bélanger said, "As Canadians, we continually test our assumptions, and indeed our symbols, for their suitability." He continued: "Our anthem can reflect our roots and our growth." It's a statement that is rife for comparing with the Israeli experience. Israel's Jewish state-building origins have long been challenged by the country's democratic requirements.

When it comes to inclusiveness, Bélanger knows of what he speaks. Over the last several months, Bélanger has been an especially unifying figure in the corridors of Canadian power, having been recently diagnosed with ALS. Not long ago, my own synagogue in Ottawa honoured him in a highly moving ceremony that easily transcended whatever residue of partisan divisions may have remained after what was an unusually divisive Canadian election.

Despite being written in the highly gendered language of Hebrew, ironically, *Hatikvah* doesn't suffer from gender exclusion (its gender inflections are mostly in the neutral "we" form). But there is a different gap in its inclusiveness: the 20 per cent of Israeli citizens who are Palestinian. Reports about swearing-in ceremonies of Knesset members or Israeli judges from time to time include a mention of a Palestinian honoree walking out or simply refusing to sing.

Writing in the *Forward* in 2012, Philologos (a pseudonym for Hillel Halkin) proposed changing *Hatikvah*'s lyrics to make them more inclusive. "It's unacceptable to have an anthem that can't be sung by 20 per cent of a population," Philologos wrote. "Permitting [the minority] to stand mutely while others sing is no solution."

Philologos' fix is simple. Change "*Yehudi*" (Jewish) to "*Yisraeli*" (Israeli), and "*le'tzion*" ("to Zion") to "*le'artzeinu*" (to our land). Close the song with "in the city in which David… encamped."

It's an idea that is top of mind for Israel's Arab MKs, such as Yousef Jabareen, who told me in a 2015 interview that he believes *Hatikvah* should be adapted "to accommodate both national groups." He added, "The Arab minority are not just another minority. They are a native minority. They were there before the establishment of the State of Israel."

When thinking about any type of policy change, it's important to consider who stands to gain and who stands to lose. Given that a recent Pew poll found that 79 per cent of Israeli Jews feel they "deserve preferential treatment," it's clear that Jewish Israelis are comfortable with their position of privilege – whether legislative or symbolic – in Israel. It stands to reason that any erosion in perceived privilege might be seen as a threat.

Israeli Jews – especially the solid majority who crave "preferential treatment" – may not embrace these sorts of changes. Neither, when it comes to changing *O Canada*, do some Conservative MPs, citing no need to bend to "political correctness," as Larry Maguire said. Another MP, Kelly Block, said she does "not believe the anthem is sexist," according to *CBC News*.

However, there is something powerful about allowing for expanded boundaries of inclusion. Further enfranchising those who feel excluded can help buttress the institutions that constitute the state. And the costs would be relatively low.

By their design, national anthems are meant to express the will of the polity. Those who wield power might want to think about the effects of the content of national symbols on those who don't feel represented by them. When it comes to nation-building, casting a net that extends to the edges of the polity bears fruit for democratic functioning and civic identity. ■

UNESCO resolution disfigures Jewish, and western, history

Mordechai Ben-Dat

One would think, rather reasonably, that an organization whose mission is "to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information" would care about conveying truth.

Normally, one would think that.

But if you did, you would be wrong. At least insofar as UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is concerned. The words of its mission statement, reproduced above, have been rendered meaningless. They are no longer a statement of high purpose, but rather a cloaking slogan. They cleverly hide sinister motives and malign behaviour.

No other conclusion makes sense in light of the resolution UNESCO's executive board adopted last month that stripped the Temple Mount in Jerusalem of any historical, theological or cultural connection to the Jewish People.

The resolution was a hodge-podge of condemnations against the Jewish state, which is referred to throughout the document as "the occupying power." UNESCO's executive board condemned the Jewish presence and activities on the Temple Mount, in Hebron and at the tomb of Rachel, all of which are identified only by their Arabic names. The resolution also mentions Gaza.

As Alan Baker, Israel's former ambassador to Canada, wrote in a sharp rebuke of the resolution, UNESCO "pointedly and deliberately denies, ignores, and seeks to delete from history, any historic, cultural and religious link between the Jewish People, the Jewish religion and Jerusalem, including specifically its holy religious site of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, the Machpela Cave in Hebron and Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem.

"It ignores and denies the age-old indigenous Jewish historic linkage of the area to Judaism, Jewish history and religion and ignores the existence of the remnants of Jewish holy sites and the fact that this area is universally recognized by all as 'Temple Mount,' attesting to the fact that this was indeed the site of the Jewish Temples, and as such the cradle of all Jewish existence and history."

In his commemoration of Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointed out the true essence of the travesty perpetrated by the UNESCO executive board.

"Pay attention to what is happening here. A global organization responsible for preserving history is offhandedly rewriting a basic fact of human history. This is willful ignorance. Even worse, it is an addiction to a lie and its dissemination around the world until it is accepted as fact. This is precisely how Jew haters have acted throughout the ages."

But, of course, this was the aim of the countries – Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, and Sudan – that put forward the resolution. Their intention is to place on the record of international institutions that are considered credible by most people worldwide a falsified history of the Jewish People, a history bereft of a Jewish presence in ancient Israel and an ancient Israel bereft of its Judaism.

However, to deny the presence of Judaism in ancient Israel is also to deny the presence of Christianity there. If there is no Jewish history in Jerusalem, there is no Christian history. Period.

By altering Jewish history, the supporters of this UNESCO resolution are altering, indeed disfiguring, western history, too. This may not bother the Muslim-majority countries who were among the 33 states that approved the resolution. But it should have bothered France, Russia, Spain and Sweden, who also voted for the resolution. In so doing, they effectively repudiated their own heritage, their own historical, theological and cultural origins.

But at what cost to them?

The six countries that opposed the resolution - the United States, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – understand that the hatred directed at the Jewish state ultimately rebounds against them, too. ■

Solving the day school tuition crisis a question of will

Rabbi Jay Kelman, CPA, CA

I write these words from Israel on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, the saddest day of the year, when we remember the 23,447 casualties of war and terrorism. It's immediately followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut, the happiest day of the year. This roller-coaster of emotions reflects Jewish history, with its tragedies and moments of triumph. Israel is where tomorrow's Jewish history is being made today. Only here is Judaism more than a religion. It's a way of life for a reborn nation.

As a sovereign state, Israel has the opportunity to deal with issues that, while central to Judaism, have lain dormant for centuries. Economics, social welfare, taxation, health care, freedom of the press, criminal justice, and transportation are some of the issues the Jewish state grapples with.

We can remove the dust from volumes of Jewish teaching that are now most relevant. Walking the streets of modern-day Israel, one begins to see the fulfilment of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's dream that "the old will be renewed, and the new will be sanctified."

A Jewish state means a publicly funded education system. I would argue that one of the reasons we have a state today is because throughout our long sojourn in the Diaspora, Jewish communities created publicly funded school systems.

Jews today are wealthier than any other generation in Jewish history. It's therefore even more tragic to witness rampant assimilation, much of which would be avoided if day schools were expanded. Sadly, while many would have little interest in Jewish education even if it were free, for many, the main barrier is cost, which for high school is approaching $30,000 a year in Toronto. We can and must do better.

Throughout the 1990s and the first decade of this century, few paid attention to the increasing cost of Jewish education, as enrolment was rising. But since the financial crisis hit in 2008 and costs reached a breaking point, there have been substantial decreases in enrolment, to the point where the sustainability of Toronto's day school system in its current form is in serious doubt.

I was gratified to see that UJA Federation of Greater Toronto recently included among its top priorities making day school affordable for middle income families, and given the costs of tuition for three or four children, a family income of $300,000 may barely qualify as middle class.

A recent survey by federation found that 75 per cent of parents said cost is a significant factor in deciding whether to send children to a Jewish high school. And for those whose day school education for their children will end after Grade 8, 29 per cent said they'd consider high school if tuition were lowered by 20 per cent. Drop it by 30 per cent, and the number greatly increases, since the increase in tuition compared to the cost of elementary school would be negligible.

To this end, federation is spearheading a pilot project that gives interest-free loans for up to one-quarter of high school tuition fees.

It's only because of financing – with interest – that most can afford homes or cars, and financing education is common at the university level. The time has come to do so at the high school level, which would allow many to get a Jewish education they otherwise couldn't afford and wouldn't affect the tax receipt parents receive.

This is something we should all embrace, but it's only a first step. Our goal must remain capping tuition at 10 per cent of family income, regardless of the number of children in the system.

When Theodor Herzl said "If you will it, is no dream" regarding the establishment of the State of Israel, it took much more than will, but lowering tuition to 10 per cent of income requires no more than having those blessed with wealth to dream a little bigger.

Our children are counting on you. ■

Remembering our heritage, both personal and national

Norma Baumel Joseph

This is the season of memorials, of days and moments that spark our most cherished memories. We hold Yizkor ceremonies in synagogues on Passover and Shavuot, and Yom Hazikaron commemoration events. We celebrate Mother's Day and Israel Independence Day, and recall all those occasions that retain our history, both personal and national.

It seems natural and important for us to keep these events as sacred memorials, as reminders of our past without which our familial and national legitimacy is uprooted. Identities are contingent on self-development as well as historical experiences. We need these events and these rituals, because they enhance our lives and enable us to hand over a powerful heritage to our children.

For myself, I admit to missing the significance of these events until I longed for my own parents. At that point, 15 years ago when my father died, I finally got it. I finally understood the importance, the overwhelming drive to memorialize.

Every year at Yizkor, or when I say *Kaddish*, I think about my parents' gifts to me. I try to remember the good times, the joys and the values, the Torah and the dancing, the food and the friends, the family and the jokes. Did I pass them on? Was I able to capture the fullness of our tradition and its grandeur for my own children? That's the question.

My mother came from Hungary, my father from Vishnitz – such a large distance, geographical and cultural, to traverse. When I was young, I didn't appreciate it at all, so I didn't get enough of/ from them. When I grew up and had my own family I wanted and needed more. But still, I wasn't fully aware of how much there was to learn from them and from their ties to our heritage. But by then, it was almost too late.

We memorialize them because we need their life, their *neshamahs*, to infiltrate and enliven ours. We as a collective live off their experiences, their contributions and their wisdom. There is so much to gain from the past, from knowledge of its most intimate details. But we wait too long to ask the questions. We think we know it all in the generalizations. But life is lived and experienced in the minutiae only. Our parents know the specifics that we're too impatient to learn from. Pity us.

> *Every year at Yizkor, or when I say Kaddish, I think about my parents' gifts to me.*

My parents had perfect vision. (Of course, they wore glasses.) They had a vision of perfection that dominated their interactions. They demanded it of themselves and of us, their children. They believed in honesty, trust, responsibility, loyalty, family and hard work. They were proud American Jews and saw no contradiction or tension in those allegiances. They both worked so hard to send us to yeshiva, to give us the best education.

My parents were believers in the best sense of the word. Yes, they had doubts about many things. But they taught us to trust and to give. Tzedakah was an ever-present and ultimate value. You always gave, no matter what. And you always trusted. I was always suspicious. Not my parents. They weren't naive, but in some strange circular fashion, their belief built upon a love that emanated out of trust. Or the love came first, and that led to trust, which enabled belief.

I'm not sure which came first or whether any of these were causative or collateral damage. I do know that for my parents and their generation of immigrant Jews, America, God and family all came together in one sacred package. They trusted the vision of the Torah, of the Democratic Party, of the founding fathers, and of my teachers. I would wish for their guidance now. I do see them smiling at the wonderful accomplishments of my children. I see them basking in their glory – seeing the continuity from their world through to their grandchildren. For theirs was truly, a wonderful heritage to remember and pass on. ■

News

Comedian forced to return to France by border agents

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

French comedian Dieudonné, who has a lengthy criminal record for hate speech and incitement, was refused entry to the country on May 10 by Canada Border Services agents shortly after his arrival at Trudeau Airport from France that afternoon.

His defiant attempt to deliver his scheduled performance in Montreal the next day via videoconference from France did not happen, after the place where he booked space for an audience, the Evo Montreal student residence on Sherbrooke Street, cancelled that reservation at the last minute.

Dieudonné was scheduled to give 10 solo shows at a Montreal art gallery beginning tonight, but the owner of the venue said he has cancelled the shows after the comedian was turned back.

Dieudonné was also booked for two shows in Quebec City and a final one May 18 in Trois-Rivières.

Just hours before Dieudonné M'bala M'bala, which is his full name, flew out of France May 10, he was convicted on yet another hate-related charge by a Paris court and handed a two-month suspended jail sentence and a 10,000-Euro fine.

It concerned his show last year *La Bête immonde*, which was found to be racist and inciteful, specifically for its treatment of Jews.

Dieudonné, 50, has received some 15 convictions over the past several years in France, as well as Belgium. In 2014, he was banned from entering the United Kingdom to perform out of concern for public safety.

He is infamous for ridiculing of the Holocaust and describing Jewish conspiracies and nefariousness, as well as for having expressed empathy for the terrorists who committed the murders at the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine and a kosher supermarket last year in Paris. His comments have been made not only in the form of satire on stage, but in other public platforms.

Canadian Jewish groups had urged that Dieudonné be barred from the country. B'nai Brith filed a formal complaint with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs pressed federal authorities to recognize that Dieudonné's humour has long crossed the line from comical to criminal.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre stated firmly that the Frenchman was not welcome in his city, although Quebec City Mayor Régis Labeaume refused to condemn him.

On May 9, Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel called on the federal government to not let Dieudonné in. Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly responded that the decision on whether he would be permitted entry was up to the CBSA. According to immigration law, Canada can ban anyone with a criminal conviction for up to five years afterward.

In the House of Commons May 10, Rempel asked if the government "use[d] its power to prevent this man from entering Canada?"

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale responded: "The professional officers of [the CBSA] take all relevant factors into account, including the existence of a criminal record."

Dieudonné posted this photo of himself at Trudeau Airport on his Facebook page.
FACEBOOK PHOTO

CIJA applauded the CSBA's decision. In a May 11 statement, Quebec co-chair Rabbi Reuben Poupko said: "Admissibility to Canada is not a right, but a privilege. Dieudonné forfeited this privilege with his numerous criminal convictions… The border services agents made the right call yesterday in upholding specific criteria required for entry into the country…

"In the context of a rise in violent and deadly anti-Semitism in Europe, professional anti-Semitic agitator Dieudonné is not welcome in Quebec or Canada tomorrow anymore than he was today."

The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies also commented.

"We are pleased that Dieudonné was sent back home," the organization's president and CEO Avi Benlolo said in a May 10 statement. "At the same time, we are saddened that he was invited to Montreal in the first place and, despite his racism, he filled 10 shows [a total of 2,000 seats].

"Given that he has publicly denied the Holocaust and frequently makes jokes about gas chambers and invented Jewish conspiracies, what does this say about our social environment?"

Guy Chigoho, owner of Espace Mushagalusa, the venue where the shows were scheduled to take place, said he found nothing of a racist or hateful nature in the script for the show Dieudonné was to perform, called *En Paix*.

The local promoter of the Quebec City shows, Gino Sainte-Marie, a founder of the Festival de jazz de Québec, similarly defended the material, which he had also seen in advance. *En Paix* has been staged over the past year throughout France without any legal issues, he pointed out.

Dieudonné was to have taken to the stage at LaScène Lebourgneuf. He was last in Quebec City in 2008, when he was a star of the ComediHa! Fest.

His last scheduled show in Montreal in 2012 at the Corona Theatre, booked by major promoter Evenko, was cancelled after Jewish groups protested.

Espace Mushagalusa, which specializes in African art, was vandalized twice in the month leading up to Dieudonné's planned run.

In the most recent incident, over the night of May 6-7, the front window of the Ontario Street East establishment was spray-painted with "F--- Yo Couch N-----."

Three individuals were captured by the gallery's surveillance camera and the owner disseminated the video of social media. Police are investigating. ■

Huge BBQ Sale!
THE FIREPLACE CLUB
AM GROUP
Heating & Cooling Ltd.
$1,500 Rebate on a New Furnace & Air Conditioner
Sale, Installation and Service
Please come and visit one of the most beautiful showrooms in the GTA
Thornhill • 905.597.6033 • www.amgroupltc.com • info@amgroupltc.com

Offers so good, you'll think we're mishuga!

Enjoy 12 Months Pay for 11 For 3 Years*

OR

Second Person Free!*

AND

10% off Year 1
5% off Year 2
5% off Year 3*

Maybe it's just the flowers blooming or sunnier days, but we've been feeling an extra bounce in our step lately – and we want to share that feeling with you! With our *May Mishigas* offers, you can enjoy Vaughan's premier Jewish retirement community – featuring gourmet dining, spacious suites and stunning amenities - for much less than you'd expect! **Book your tour today!**

JEWISH-STYLE CUISINE | INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING

Antique Treasures Roadshow
May 25th, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Uncover the value of your fine art, silver, china, jewelry and more.
Limit of two items per person.

Fashion Show
June 1st, 2:00pm-4:00pm
Enjoy a runway fashion show featuring stylish clothing from Alia N' Tan Jay.

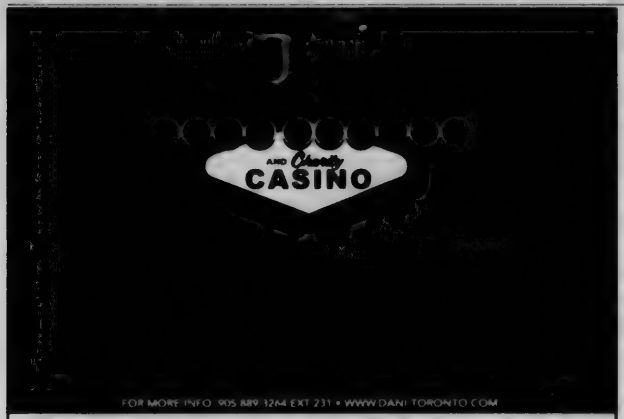
RSVP is required.

VIVA Retirement Communities
THORNHILL WOODS
Making Today Great!

Call Wendy at 905.417.8585 or visit vivalife.ca

9700 Bathurst Street
at Lebovic Campus Drive

*Conditions Apply



Dani A Hand-Up. Not A Hand-Out.

CHW passionately supports programs and services for **Children, Healthcare**, and **Women** in Israel and Canada.

When you give to CHW you're funding life-changing programs that help thousands of children, women, and families grow and thrive.

Together we can build a better future for those who depend on us in Israel and Canada.

With your help,

CHW is Giving Hope and Creating Opportunities.

Make a gift today.

TO GIVE OR LEARN MORE

416.630.8373

www.chw.ca/toronto

info@toronto.chw.ca

www.facebook.com/CHWToronto

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Digital Partner

CBC Wood Gundy | The Anstey-Coulson Group

CHW Children Healthcare Women

Fort McMurray resident shares harrowing story

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

For Howard Rensler, May 3 started like any other day, with him waking at 6 a.m. in the Fort McMurray, Alta. condo he shares with his wife Diana and heading to work at the local Boys and Girls Club, where he is executive director.

But the day didn't end until 8 a.m. on May 4, when he and Diana completed what he called a "harrowing" 12-hour drive to Edmonton along a flame-licked, four-lane highway clogged with thousands fleeing the city.

As they drove, with the fire raging about 50 kilometres away and the air full of what Rensler described as "burning chunks of trees four to five inches wide," he didn't know if they would make it.

"We just had to keep going and suppress whatever anxiety we were feeling... to subdue our impatience and panic," he said.

Originally from Toronto, Rensler, 65, has lived in Fort McMurray for about five years, after moving from Kelowna, B.C in 2004.

He said he's only aware of about a dozen other Jews living in Fort McMurray. While there's no local synagogue, a handful of them get together for Passover seders.

By around noon on May 3, Rensler recalled, a handful of spot fires were moving towards the city and he began calling parents and guardians to pick their children up from the club.

Several hours later, a mandatory evacuation order was issued and buses were sent to transport people to a shelter away from town.

The Renslers decided then to drive the roughly 400 km to Edmonton; the bumper-to-bumper traffic meant that for stretches of the journey they moved at two km/h.

For part of the drive, the fire was moving south along with them.

"At one point, the flames were right by the edge of the highway," Rensler recalled. "I saw a four-storey hotel go from a rooftop fire to complete ash in the time it took for us to pass it, about 30 feet from the road."

Outside Edmonton, a motel put them up for free that first night and brought in food for the many evacuees staying there. Edmonton residents came to the hotel with clothes and toiletries.

The Renslers stayed several nights before flying to Kelowna, where they're currently staying with friends.

They still don't know the extent of the damage to their rented condo, or whether it's even standing.

Howard Rensler at the Red Cross offices in Kelowna, B.C.

They've received a small advance from their insurance company, but Rensler noted they are "burning through that pretty fast."

They've been told it will be about three weeks before they can return to Fort McMurray, whereupon Rensler said he'll do what he can to reinstate the Boys and Girls Club.

"Right now our focus is to do our best to survive here," he said.

While he hasn't had direct contact with local Jewish organizations, a number of Jewish groups in Edmonton and elsewhere have mobilized to raise money for the evacuees.

As of May 13, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, which set up a PayPal account to collect donations for the crisis, has raised close to $6,000, money it will likely donate to the Canadian Red Cross.

The Jewish Community Outreach Reconnect Edmonton (J.CORE), a federation sub-agency, has been collecting toys, food and diapers to deliver to evacuees in and around Edmonton.

When the crisis first hit, the Calgary Jewish Federation sent $25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross from an emergency relief fund it had. It subsequently launched a fundraising campaign for the evacuees, and has raised over $17,000 by May 13.

Elliott Steinberg, the federation's marketing and communications manager, said it will donate funds accordingly, after determining where the greatest needs are.

Toronto-based social service agency Ve'ahavta also launched a Fort McMurray relief fund May 4, and has raised over $25, 000. Like the Calgary federation, it will donate funds where needed. ■

Synagogues look to become more accessible

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Eddie Rice well remembers the handful of times he has been called to the bimah for an aliyah. The first was at his bar mitzvah in 1961. Another took place during his wedding aufruf and the most recent took place just a few days ago during Shabbat Itanu.

From 1992 – when post-polio syndrome forced him into a scooter – until recently, he was unable to climb the stairs to the bimah.

In recent years, synagogues across the city have been moving to accommodate people like Rice who live with disabilities. The Beth Tikvah congregation, where Rice davens, recently unveiled a ramp from the floor of the sanctuary to the bimah, enabling disabled Jews to fully participate in shul activities. Other houses of worship have taken steps to make their facilities more accessible as well.

The inauguration of the ramp at Beth Tikvah came slightly before Shabbat Itanu, which ran May 13-14. A project of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, "Itanu Toronto is [an] inclusion initiative" with a focus on "self assessment, outreach, [lectures], sermons, poetry, text study, programming, and more."

The Shaarei Shomayim synagogue underwent a major renovation about one year ago, during which accessibility was made an important part of the redesign. Visitors to the shul are met at street level with a ramp to bring those in wheelchairs and walkers into the building, while the same renovation included construction of a ramp inside the sanctuary to the bimah. In addition, the shul has introduced an "accessibility Ark" attached to the pulpit to allow people in wheelchairs to open and close the Ark, Rabbi Chaim Strauchler said.

Four years ago, the shul added a Shabbat elevator to provide easy access between the main level and the lower level.

"During renovations, all parts of our congregation recognized that....you can't just build for the able bodied, but you have to build for everyone," Rabbi Strauchler said.

Liviya Mendelsohn, the inclusion specialist at federation, runs a working group of 23 synagogues spanning all streams of Judaism.

The organization serves as a clearing house for the exchange of information, including advice about accessing government grants to upgrade older facilities, she said.

In recent years, the Jewish community has become more sensitive to the needs of the disabled. "It's a reflection of the wider changes in the community, the recognition of diversity and reaching out to those who felt excluded," Mendelsohn said.

One of the congregations that had a head start in accommodating people with disabilities is the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. "[The late] Rabbi Joseph Kelman was a leader in the world of educating for special needs. We started at this shul the Ezra Kadima School" in the 1960s, to provide special needs youngsters with a Jewish education and to prepare them for bar mitzvahs, said Pearl Grundland, the shul's executive director.

Eddie Rice on scooter

The Kadima Centre, as it is now called, provides educational, social and cultural programming to adults with special needs.

As Shabbat Itanu approached, the synagogue was working on yet another innovation, the installation of a "loop induction system" that would permit people with hearing aids to tune in directly to the feed from the microphone on the bimah.

Retrofitting an existing space to accommodate people in wheelchairs can be a difficult process, said Beth Tikvah president Hershel Guttman. At first it appeared 30 front row seats would have to be removed, but architect Martin Shoom presented a plan for a "compliance alternative" that used less space and still met building code requirements.

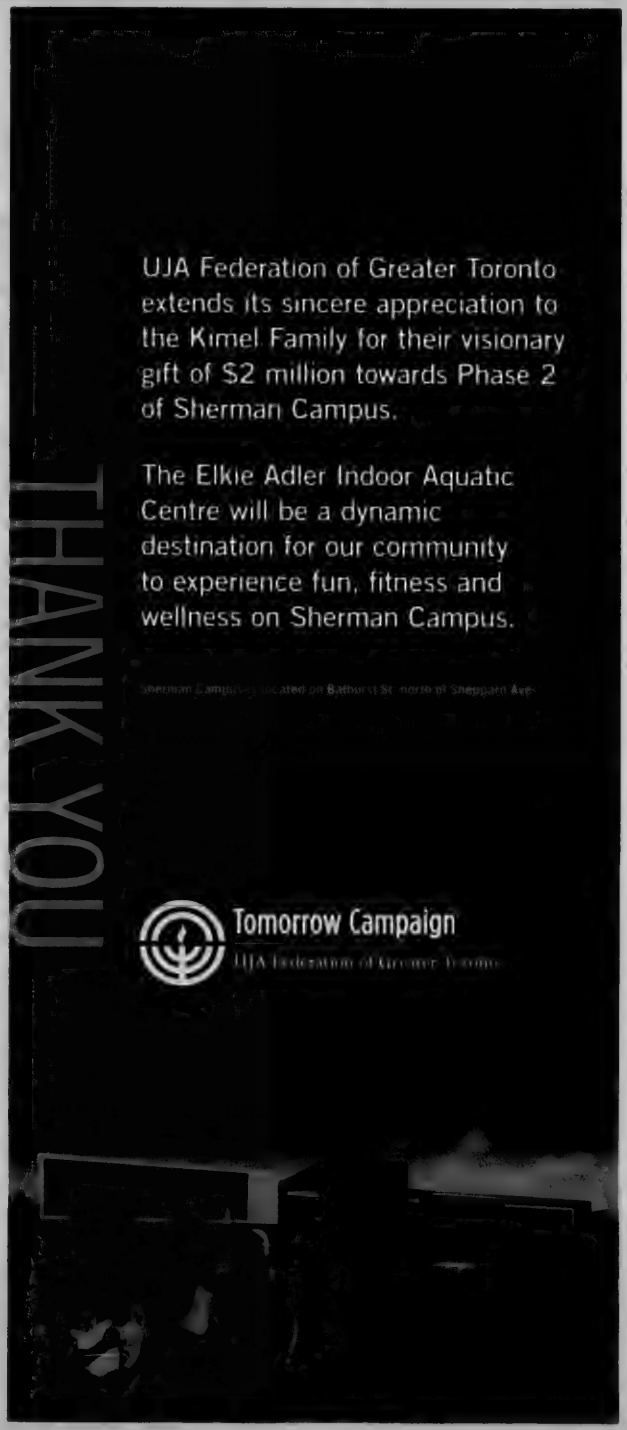
Guttman said making changes to accommodate the congregation makes sense. "We're an aging community and as people age, there will be more and more need for the ramp," he said.

Altogether the synagogue plans to spend $170,000 over the summer on renovations to make the building more accessible, Guttman added.

Rabbi Strauchler believes accommodating people with special needs goes beyond providing ramps and elevators.

"There is a certain accommodation of the soul as well," he explained. It is important for the able bodied "to look past the wheelchair and the physical and see the person and value them."

As for Rice, who serves on the Beth Tikvah accessibility committee, being able to manoeuvre his scooter up to the bimah gives him a feeling of freedom. "Freedom to be able to expand my participation in our society, by removal of barriers," he said. ■


THANK YOU
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto extends its sincere appreciation to the Kimel Family for their visionary gift of $2 million towards Phase 2 of Sherman Campus.
The Elkie Adler Indoor Aquatic Centre will be a dynamic destination for our community to experience fun, fitness and wellness on Sherman Campus.
Tomorrow Campaign

Noa plays sold-out Vancouver Yom Ha'atzmaut concert

LAUREN KRAMER
PACIFIC CORRESPONSENT

Despite the controversy in the months leading up to her Yom Ha'atzmaut performance at Vancouver's Chan Centre May 11, Achinoam Nini's concert attracted a full house and every one of the 1,185 seats was sold.

"After all the harrowing events leading up to this concert, I am so thrilled to be here and truly grateful to the Jewish Federation [of Greater Vancouver] for not folding and the Israeli Ambassador for supporting!" the Israeli singer, known as Noa, posted on her Facebook page soon after she touched down in the city.

Performing barefoot throughout, the left-wing singer thanked the audience, federation staff and the Vancouver Jewish community repeatedly during her show "for sticking up for me."

In February, the Jewish National Fund of Canada, an annual sponsor of Vancouver's community Yom Ha'atzmaut concerts, withdrew its support, saying it would take a one-year hiatus "due to the views of the entertainment booked for this year's celebration."

The organization's CEO Josh Cooper said that "the entertainer that has been hired does not reflect nor correspond to the mandate and values of JNF of Canada." Its decision followed an article in the *Jerusalem Post* that claimed Vancouver Jews were "outraged" over Nini's performance and alleged that she supports the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. She has repeatedly denied the allegation.

Achinoam Nini performed May 11 at the Chan Centre.

After JNF Canada withdrew, the Israeli Embassy and the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto promptly stepped in as sponsors. Irit Stopper, deputy consul general in Toronto, represented the State of Israel at the event. It was also attended by Linda Kislowicz, president and CEO of Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, Vancouver City Councillor Geoff Meggs and Burnaby-Lougheed NDP MLA Jane Shin.

Outside the Chan Centre, Michael Brosgart, president of the Jewish Defence League in B.C., stood with a small handful of supporters and a few placards declaring "Terrorists are obstacles to peace; Biblical Zionists are not."

A folding table held pictures of an Israeli couple murdered by Palestinian terrorists, and Brosgart distributed material to bystanders. The pages contained excerpts from letters expressing objections to Nini's performance from community member Frances Belzberg and IDF Lt.-Col. Eyal Platek, as well as links to articles about the singer.

"Noa is supporting the most divisive groups in Israel – B'Tselem, Breaking the Silence, BDS and JStreet," Brosgart said. "Unfortunately, Jewish Federation and the Israeli Embassy, because they're funding this, are supporting her. We think this is rotting the Jewish community."

On JDL's Facebook page Brosgart elaborated. "This performance will be extremely divisive, distasteful, disrespectful and does not represent the views and interests of the community. Especially at the time we need unity the most. This is not about free speech. Nini can sing her sh---y songs anywhere she wants. However, this is Israel's Independence Day. To bring an anti-Israel, terror-sympathizing, enemy-strengthening performer on this day is to spit in the face of all who have lost loved ones defending the nation of Israel."

One Israeli who attended the concert but asked not to be named said she disliked that Nini "does not separate her political views from her artistry. I'm sorry the selection committee didn't do more research before they chose her, but I think they learned a lesson," the woman said.

After seeing the Facebook responses of right-wing Israelis in Vancouver opposed to the performance, she decided to attend nevertheless. She added that once Nini was invited to Vancouver, "I think it was the best thing to keep her here instead of cancelling the performance."

A kosher restaurant, Shuk Eat & Play, hosted an alternative Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration dinner for 110 attendees the same night.

"I heard Noa's political sayings and I didn't appreciate it," said Shuk owner Alon Volodarsky. "So some people who didn't like her suggested we hold this dinner for those community members who still wanted to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut but didn't want to attend the concert." ■

Israel boycott motivated by hate: Rona Ambrose

JANICE ARNOLD
jarnold@thecjn.ca, MONTREAL

Interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose denounced the "grotesque slanders" to which Israel is subject in international forums and, in particular, the boycott campaign, when she spoke at Montreal's annual downtown Israel Day Rally on May 12.

"Across Canada and around the globe, seemingly respectable people call for boycotts of Israeli goods and, even more chillingly, academics and artists," she said from the stage in Place du Canada. "Let me be clear: what is portrayed as a disagreement over policy is, in fact, driven by something far darker.

"Those who repeatedly seek to single out Israel and hold it to an impossible double standard are motivated by an age-old hatred," Ambrose continued to the cheers of a crowd of close to 3,000.

Ambrose, who leads the official Opposition, said anti-Semitism is gaining ground, whether on university campuses, in places of worship, or even the "halls of power."

"We must expose, confront and repudiate this malignancy rooted in lies and fuelled by paranoia, whenever and wherever it appears, because it is an evil so profound that it is a threat to all of us."

Ambrose saluted Israel's vibrant democracy, and her personal admiration of its upholding of women's rights in a region where those rights "continue to be denied."

The Conservative party, she said, refuses "to make excuses for groups and states that seek to wipe Israel and the Jewish People off the map," and will stand by those fighting terrorists and extremists.

In a videotaped message projected on a Jumbotron, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada's friendship with Israel "will continue to be based on our shared commitment to peace and democracy," noting that Israel is "on the frontline of democracy in the Middle East."

This celebration of the 68th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, organized by the grassroots Jewish Unity Partnership, began at Phillips Square, where the young waved Israeli and Canadian flags and enjoyed music, led by DJ Dan Abitbol.

The weather was warm and sunny with little wind. The only detraction from the festivities was the presence, as usual, of about 20 members of the anti-Zionist chassidic group Neturei Karta, who held Palestinian flags. Police confined them to across the street in front of the Hudson's Bay department store.

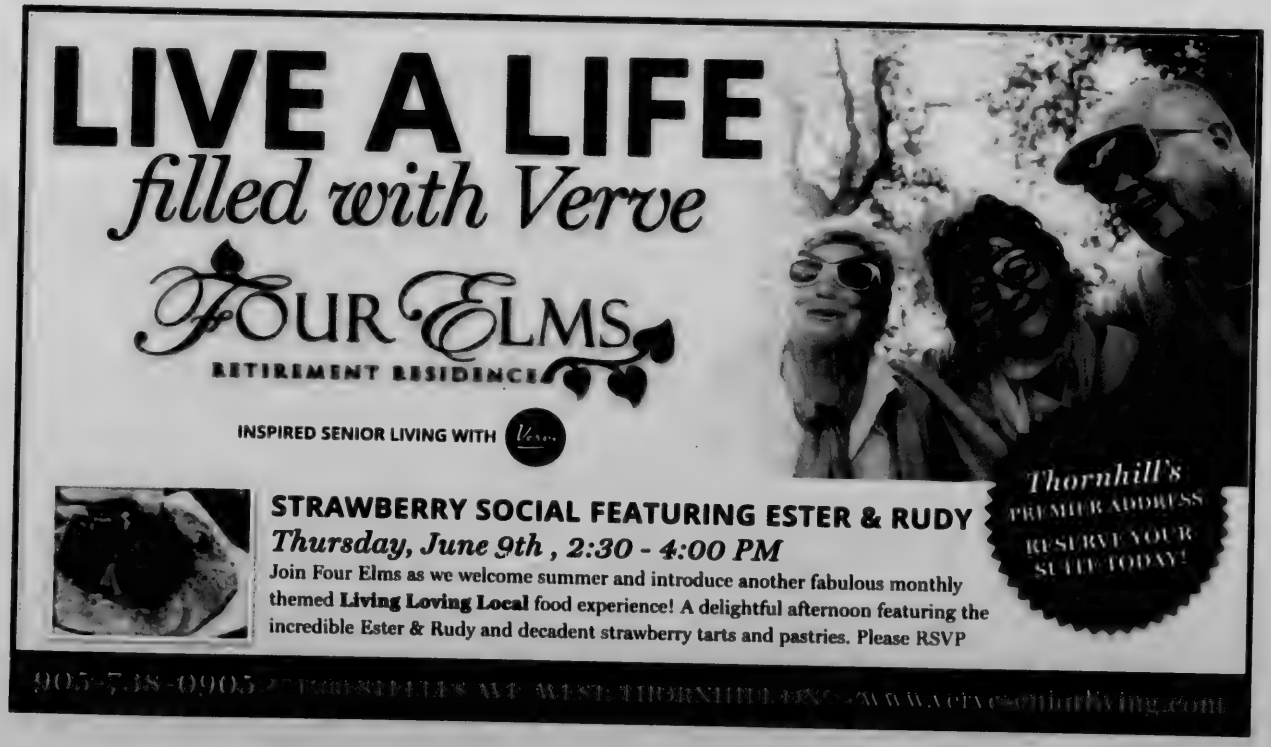
A massive of show of solidarity with Israel unfolds against the backdrop of the dome of Mary Queen of the World Cathedral.
JANICE ARNOLD PHOTO

Led by Israeli Consul General in Montreal Ziv Nevo Kulman, the crowd then walked along René Lévesque Boulevard to Place du Canada under heavy police escort. At that site, Jewish gospel singer Joshua Nelson of New York on keyboard, joined by Socalled (Josh Dolgin) on drums and two backup vocalists, kept things hopping with spirited renditions of well-known Hebrew songs.

Nevo Kulman stressed that Canada is a good friend of Israel, and that support for Israel is non-partisan.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked in his videotaped greetings for each person to take one new action in support of Israel. "Tell a friend the truth about Israel, defend the Israel Defence Forces on Facebook, visit Israel this year," he said.

Among the other dignitaries present were Montreal Liberal MP Marc Miller; Howard Liebman, an aide to Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre; and mayors Mitchell Brownstein of Côte St. Luc and William Steinberg of Hampstead. ■


LIVE A LIFE
filled with Verve
FOUR ELMS
RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve
STRAWBERRY SOCIAL FEATURING ESTER & RUDY
Thursday, June 9th , 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Join Four Elms as we welcome summer and introduce another fabulous monthly themed Living Loving Local food experience! A delightful afternoon featuring the incredible Ester & Rudy and decadent strawberry tarts and pastries. Please RSVP
Thornhill's PREMIER ADDRESS
RESERVE YOUR SUITE TODAY!
905-748-0905

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS 10

JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER TORONTO

WEALTH AND ESTATE EROSION, TAX AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016
Networking and Breakfast: 7:30 am | Program: 8:00 - 10:30 am
Lipa Green Centre, Tamari Family Hall | Sherman Campus, 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Registration: $95 | Space is limited (Kashruth Observed)
Email: jewishfoundation@ujafed.org | Phone: Rena at 416.631.5703

PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

Economic Update: What is on the Horizon? | Benjamin Tal, CIBC World Markets Inc.
Insurance Strategies Before & After December 31, 2016 | David Wm. Brown, AIG Brown & Associates
Recent Tax Changes for Business Owners | Ronnie Appleby, Robins Appleby LLP
Financial and Retirement Planning... Will I Have Enough? | Monique Madan, Financial Planner

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

2016 PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS LEAD SPONSOR:

SEMINAR SPONSOR: CIDEL

@JFoundationTO

Continuing education credits available

If accommodation is required please contact us at 416-631-5703

Corwin Mortgage Capital Inc.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

FSCO Lic. 12380

NOW ACCEPTING NEW INVESTORS!

At Corwin Mortgage Capital

We are always accepting new investors to join our family at Corwin Mortgage Capital - our commitment remains the same, providing you with a high yield investment opportunity secured by liquid real estate. *Call today to learn how you can earn a better return on your money.*

Kyle Fenwick, Principal Broker MUB0[illegible]
1298 kyle@corwincapital.ca www.corwincapital.ca

Dinner features recipes by concentration camp inmates

BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

A Taste to Remember, an evening of dining and remembrance hosted by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV), literally gave guests food for thought.

The dinner was prepared from recipes written down by Jewish women during their imprisonment at various Nazi concentration camps.

About 80 people gathered May 9 at the elegant ballroom of the Windsor Arms Hotel, where they dined on chopped liver and beef goulash as they learned about the lives of Jewish inmates who shared their recipes with each other at the camps.

Talking about food helped them keep a connection to their families and cope with the brutality of life in a concentration camp, Fran Sonshine, the national chair of CSYV, explained. "This year's theme was about maintaining the human spirit during the Holocaust.

"These women rose above the filth and disease, and the constant hunger to feel closer to their families. [They] maintained a sense of normalcy by sharing their recipes... It was a way for them to maintain their humanity in inhumane conditions."

Most of the recipes were written down in notebooks cobbled together from scraps, and some of these books have been preserved as original Holocaust artifacts in the archives of Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem.

Sonshine and her husband, Ed Sonshine, the event co-chairs, presented short bios of the seven women whose recipes inspired the various dishes served that evening.

The actual meal was a tasting menu, with many different dishes served in small portions.

The dinner was sponsored by Windsor Arms owner George Friedmann, who is the son of Holocaust survivors.

While his parents talked about the horrors of the war, he said, they also shared their memories of relatives who did not survive. "I have always felt a connection, almost as if I had met them."

He joked that the hotel's executive chef had never learned to make many of the dishes served at A Taste to Remember, so his mother, Alzbeta Friedmann, was on hand to supervise the preparation of such dishes as cabbage rolls and cholent with kishke.

The highlight of the evening was the personal story told by keynote speaker Nurit Stern (born Frantiska Quastler), a retired teacher for the blind who lives in Israel.

Stern was born in Slovakia and was only 12 in 1944 when she and her parents were rounded up by the Germans. She and her mother ended up together at Ravensbrück.

Nurit Stern's recipe diary from Ravensbruck
BARBARA SILVERSTEIN PHOTO

The women in the camp often talked about food and recipes in the barracks, Stern recalled. "Hungry people can only dream about food.

"I was a child. I didn't know anything about cooking. I memorized the recipes and wrote them down."

Stern said she was able to fashion a diary out of wire, cardboard, a torn stocking and some stolen paper. This diary included the women's recipes, which she jotted down from memory.

She said she risked keeping the diary, which she hid under her clothing, because if it would have been discovered, she would have been punished for stealing the paper.

Stern ended up in Sweden, where the authorities let her keep her diary after it was disinfected. Today it is part of the archives at Yad Vashem.

In fact, Dorit Novak, the director general of Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, brought Stern's diary to Toronto.

In her address, Novak said much of the intimate experience of Jewish family life has revolved around the dinner table.

"These women [who shared recipes in the camps] used their memories and imagination to memorize this most basic experience... Many chose this way to protect their sanity." ■

GUEST VOICE

Where's the kosher organic beef?

Hilary Edwards

The concept of kashrut refers to the manner in which an animal is slaughtered. Yet, how can we consider food kosher when it comes from animals who are treated as commodities with minimal concern for their welfare?

The basic laws of kashrut were derived from Leviticus and Deuteronomy. However, when the Torah was written, there were no factory farms or confined industrial factories. Animals were not injected with growth hormones and antibiotics or fed soybean, corn and grains. Meat and poultry were, by default, organic. It was unnecessary to worry about the composition of the animal. But now we do.

The existence of Jewish dietary laws suggests that God cares about the food we eat and what we put into our bodies. Surely this includes ethical concerns. Isn't it time dietary laws were overhauled to encompass ethical slaughtering, ethical eating, and the ethical care and conduct of animals while alive? And, after slaughtering, the ethical serving and presentation of food on a dinner plate?

You are not only what you eat, you are what your food eats, too. That is why grass-fed meat is better for you. The diet of cows and chickens we eat has a direct bearing on the nutritional quality and healthfulness of the food from the animal itself. And this is of ultimate concern to all of us.

I believe that ethical eating is directly tied to Judaism. The word "kashrut" is derived from the Hebrew root *Kaf-Shin-Resh*, meaning fit, proper, or correct. It defies purpose that kosher means "fit" to eat, and yet Jewish law is not particularly concerned with food being healthy and free of carcinogens. According to Jewish law, glatt kosher is defined as meat that has passed a test that checks the slaughtered animal is not defective. What sort of criteria are we testing for? Surely nothing could be as "fit" to eat as a meal of pastured beef or chicken from a grass-fed animal, which roamed free and lived a healthy lifestyle, free from hormonal growth promoters and antibiotic-laced food, genetically modified organisms or food based on grains laced with pesticides?

Yes, it is more expensive to eat grass-fed kosher meat, but, given its health and environmental benefits, I believe it is worth the price. Still, there is a major problem when it comes to accessibility and affordability.

> *How can we consider food kosher when it comes from animals who are treated as commodities with minimal concern for their welfare?*

It took six calls to various butchers across Toronto to locate a kosher organic chicken. And while a regular kosher chicken retails at around $7.30 a kilogram, a kosher organic chicken retails at approximately $20.70 a kilogram. Meanwhile, a non-kosher organic chicken sells at approximately $9.50 a kilogram.

So, what is a kosher, ethically-minded individual to do? What are the options for health-conscious Jews, without ready access to organic kosher meat and poultry, or without the desire to mortgage their home to regularly purchase kosher organic products? How do we balance the modern and the traditional; to eat according to both our beliefs and our values?

I don't have any ready answers. Perhaps kashrut organizations could upgrade their definitions of kosher to acknowledge that some animals are treated respectfully and ethically while others are not. Or, at the very least, there should be wider availability of organic meat and poultry, and more competition in price. Until then, eating smaller amounts of good-quality animal products might be the best compromise. ■

Hilary Edwards is an aspiring writer whose experience and research leading up to the writing of this article has affected her meat and poultry eating habits.

TEMPLE HAR ZION

The extraordinary life story of Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger

Sunday, May 29, 2016—7:00p.m.

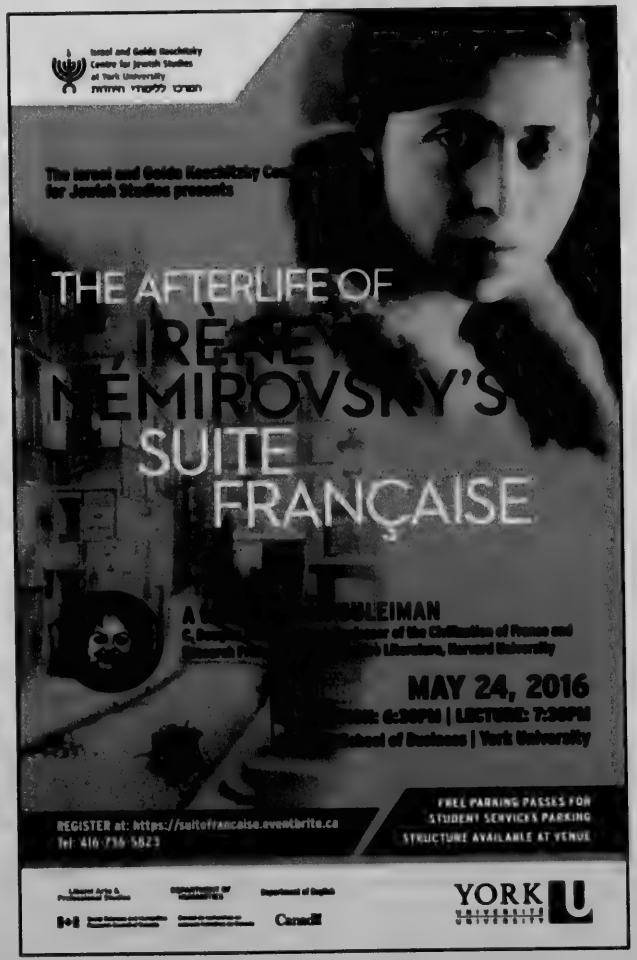
The President's Circle Speakers Series is proud to welcome... **Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger**, son of a decorated Nazi Tank commander—who became a Jew by choice, moved to Israel and served in the IDF

Dr. Wollschlaeger is a Miami physician and author of three books, including *"A German Life Against all odds change is possible"*.

Please join us...
Sunday, May 29, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.
Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill Ontario
For tickets*, please call 905-889-2252, Ext. #109
or charlottecantor@templeharzion.com
*Includes a Dessert Reception

$15 Temple members purchasing by May 26
$20 General public or at the door

Part of Jewish Heritage Month at Temple Har Zion



Reuben Cipin
HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY

Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property

Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living

- Newly upgraded suites
- 24 hour on-site
- Secure underground resident and guest parking
- Large social hall with a private dining room
- Fitness facility, with complimentary classes
- Street level garden and rooftop terrace
- Library with computer access
- Membership to the Wagman Centre
- Access to the Baycrest Campus Shuttle Bus and the community bus going to neighbourhood destinations

One and Two Bedroom suites Available

65+

Baycrest

Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6

For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

BETH DAVID
participate • learn • grow

Beth David Synagogue
congratulates

Rabbi Philip Scheim

on his installation
as
International President
of the
Rabbinical Assembly

May you go from strength to strength

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
An Egalitarian Conservative Community
55 Yeomans Road, Toronto, ON M3H 3J7

60

'It's not about restaurants anymore. It's about people'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"In my 12 years working in Toronto's kosher industry, I've found our kosher clients to be very open, and very loyal," he says. "We're seeing younger chefs being more creative and influenced by the kosher foodie scene in New York and Israel, which is obviously much bigger. I believe in the next few years we will continue to see big changes in Toronto's kosher food industry."

Marom also argues that having certain restrictions forces kosher chefs and foodies to be more creative.

"Limitation is the force of creativity," he says. "Because we are so limited, every time someone makes something new, we all get excited. There's nothing to be afraid of in the kosher industry, so kosher Jews always want to try new things. When a new kosher restaurant opens up in Toronto, everyone will go there."

Norene Gilletz, chef, food blogger and *CJN* contributor, notes that although Toronto has a burgeoning kosher food culture, it pales in comparison to cities like New York or Tel Aviv.

"Even with kosher food being so much more available today, with fresh produce coming in from all over the world, it's still so much harder here in Toronto than in the U.S.," she says. "There they have kosher restaurants for everything, and millions of choices. It's very different."

In Montreal, home to a Jewish community of about 90,000, the restaurant scene has more or less stayed the same for many years, says Michel Ben-Haim, manager of Chops Kosher Restaurant.

"A lot of restaurants have come and gone, and it's always the same places that have stayed open. The clientele is very limited. It's not like in New York, where anybody eats kosher. In Montreal, it's only members of the community or business meetings."

The Montreal community is fairly conservative when it comes to food, he continues. "People here like simple food, but prepared with great ingredients. Everything needs to be fresh, clean-cut, and prepared properly."

Daniel Davidzon, manager of marketing and communications for the Aroma Espresso Bar chain, says the demand for kosher food in Toronto has never been higher.

"We live in a time when people are more concerned than ever with what they eat, where it comes from, and how it's made. Many are looking for accessible, affordable, and healthy options when eating out, and are looking to do so in modern restaurants serving modern cuisine. The food culture in Toronto is especially strong. Diners are exposed to ingredients and cooking styles from around the world and are savvy enough to realize they can

be easily duplicated with special regard to dietary lifestyles such as keeping kosher."

The kosher restaurant scene in the city is also getting more attention. In fact, May marks the second Kosher Restaurant Month in Toronto, an initiative of the Kashruth Council of Canada. The first one was held in 2013. More than 20 kosher restaurants are participating this year by offering patrons a 10 per cent discount. According to Richard Rabkin, the council's managing director, Toronto is the only city in North America that has such a month-long event.

"Kosher restaurants are an important part of making a Jewish community viable, so we want to do our part to encourage people to visit their local kosher restaurants," Rabkin says. "The more people who visit, the more viable they will be."

"The kosher food market is definitely on the rise here," adds David Blum, corporate executive chef at Toronto's Savours Fresh Market kosher grocery. "Kosher consumers are more educated now, allowing companies to introduce new lines of different foods. Being a kosher foodie today is very exciting, because everything is new. No one was talking about beef bacon and kosher salami a few years ago. We're taking items from the non-kosher market and twisting it around to meet our dietary needs."

The rise in popularity of Food Network shows like *Chopped* and *Master Chef* has also helped, he says, because they influence and inspire Jewish chefs to do something similar.

"Being a foodie means you love to explore. When it comes to being kosher, it's equally doable, you just have a smaller market to work with," Blum says. "Just look at sushi. Twenty years ago, the only kosher restaurants were delis. Today, kosher sushi has become a staple in most Jewish communities."

So it appears my friend really was wrong: you can keep kosher and call yourself a foodie. ■

NEXT WEEK:
NEW TAKES ON JEWISH CLASSICS

INTERNATIONAL

Wynne's visit to Israel focuses on high-tech initiatives

JENNIFER TZIVIA MACLEOD
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, TEL AVIV

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne spoke with members of her delegation at the official welcome reception for her mission to the Middle East.

While snow fell over Toronto on May 15 and temperatures sank to 1C, over 150 Ontarians basked in the warm rays of Mediterranean sunshine as the sun set over Tel Aviv at a reception to kick off Premier Kathleen Wynne's business mission to Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The weeklong mission, is part of Wynne's agenda to create jobs and opportunities for Ontarians and to boost Ontario's presence on the global stage, and will include a focus on high-tech, environment, life sciences and biomedical initiatives. While many similar missions aim to match Israeli intellectual capital with Canadian financing, Wynne emphasized the collaborative nature of the partnerships to be announced over the mission.

"I think Ontario has intellectual capital," Wynne said at the reception. "We're in a very interesting relationship in terms of our ability to innovate, our ability to feed into and partner with the innovation and intellectual energy that is here in Israel."

Ontario Health Minister Eric Hoskins, who has joined in two previous trade missions to Israel, called the group "the largest delegation I've ever been a part of... not just in numbers, but in terms of quality." The group included a number of MPPs, corporations such as BlackBerry, universities like McMaster and York along with a number of private businesses.

"This is Ontario's opportunity to strengthen a relationship which is already strong," Hoskins told *The CJN*. "We have the opportunity to partner with Israeli innovation... incredible academic institutions, teaching facilities, hospitals, including the Weizmann centre and the Technion; there are so many examples where amazing things are happening."

Wynne's office credits the booming medical and high-tech fields in Israel in part to the fact that the country invests four per cent of its GDP per year into research and development.

On the first day of the mission alone, delegates signed 18 new business agreements and partnerships in the science and technology and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors, including a $50 million five-year deal between Ontario's Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine and six Israeli universities and research institutions. Wynne's office estimates that this project will generate an estimated 150 new jobs in Ontario.

> *This is Ontario's opportunity to strengthen a relationship which is already strong.*
>
> **Health Minister Eric Hoskins**

Other agreements signed on Monday include a $3 million deal between Toronto's University Health Network and Israel-based Insightec, and another worth $4 million between the Canadian Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation at Baycrest Health Sciences and the Office of the Chief Scientist in Israel.

Though the trip is strictly business for Wynne, who has led previous delegations to China, the United States, and most recently, India, in January, she said this trip had a personal aspect as well. Wynne, who will be celebrating her 63rd birthday in Israel, said "I'm almost embarrassed to say that this is the first time I've been here.

"Having grown up in a Judeo-Christian environment, it's impossible not to be curious about what I'm going to learn about my own history and my own roots."

Wynne's visit will include a trip to the Kotel. Besides spending time in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the group will visit Ramallah and Bethlehem over the course of the week.

Delegate Peter Mascher of Hamilton's McMaster University is excited to be partnering with four universities in the West Bank along with universities in Israel, increasing opportunities for McMaster students around the world. This was his third trip to Israel in a year, hammering out a new agreement with Tel Aviv University to promote collaboration in areas like nanotechnology and biomedical engineering, which he sees as a perfect fit between the two schools.

"The intersection of health sciences and engineering provides the greatest opportunities for joint research projects... This is a very exciting initiative," said Mascher.

Wynne herself visited Tel Aviv University where she was honoured with the President's Award.

Wynne also met former Israeli president Shimon Peres and Dr. Michael Hayden, president of Global Research and Development (R&D) and chief scientific officer at Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., to discuss future business opportunities and promote Ontario's life sciences sector.

Veteran MPP Monte Kwinter, who has joined numerous missions to Israel in his long tenure, said this trip was an acknowledgment of many shared cultural values. "There's no limit to what Ontario and Israel can do together," he said.

However, critics claimed before the trip that Wynne's business mission was less about jobs for Ontarians than about pandering to Ontario's 200,000 Jewish voters, most centred in Toronto, which is also home to over 60 per cent of Canada's Israelis.

The last Ontario premier to visit Israel was Dalton McGuinty in 2010. Other leaders making the trip in recent years have included former Nova Scotia premier Darrell Dexter in 2011 and then prime minister Stephen Harper in 2014. ■

The CJN *will be reporting on Wynne's visit online. www.cjnews.com*

IDF values under attack, defence minister says

JUDAH ARI GROSS AND MARISSA NEWMAN
JERUSALEM

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon urged Israel Defence Forces (IDF) leaders to keep speaking out against the "extremist minority" who, he said, were working to undermine the values of Israel's military.

In his address last Sunday, Ya'alon appeared to back Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Yair Golan, who seemed to liken "certain trends" in Israel to pre-Nazi Germany in an address on Yom Hashoah three weeks ago. Golan's speech was fiercely criticized by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also reportedly scolded Ya'alon in a "tense" phone call.

In sharp contrast to Netanyahu, Ya'alon has dismissed the widespread criticism of Golan, saying he had "full confidence" in the "valued and accomplished" deputy chief of staff. Golan clarified that he never intended to compare Israel to prewar Germany, and Netanyahu later insisted the issue was "behind us."

Ya'alon doubled down on his support for the army amid an ongoing public row over the manslaughter indictment of Sgt. Elor Azaria, who killed a disarmed Palestinian stabber in Hebron in March.

"In recent months, we found ourselves fighting against an extremist minority, working in the field and on social media. Some have infiltrated mainstream [Israeli] society, clandestinely and in disguise, and are trying to influence the image and values of the IDF," Ya'alon said, in an address to the IDF leadership at the defence ministry's headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The fight against this group "keeps me up at night," Ya'alon said, adding that it "makes me determined to fight this."

The issue is not one of "right or left," he continued. The army will not allow "trigger-happy [soldiers], revenge, or the loss of self-control," he said.

At the same time, he contended that "we will support those who made mistakes in good faith, but we will not tolerate those who reject authority and act against the law and [our] values."

Turning to the IDF's top generals, he instructed them: "Do not fear, do not hesitate, do not be deterred. Be courageous not only on the battlefield, but also in the briefing room. A good army is an army whose officers, junior and senior alike, feel safe in their ability to speak their minds at all times with the knowledge that they won't be hurt," he continued.

Moshe Ya'alon

"This is my demand of you, senior IDF officers, and this ought to be your demand of your subordinates: Keep acting in accordance with your humane conscience and moral compass, and not according to which way the winds are blowing," he added.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday said Netanyahu gives "full backing" to the IDF, but reiterated that Golan's comments were "inappropriate.

"IDF officers express their opinions freely, in the relevant forums and on the issues that are under their jurisdiction," the statement from Netanyahu's office said. "The IDF is the people's army and must remain out of political debates."

The prime minister "firmly believes that the comparison to Nazi Germany was an inappropriate statement, made at an inappropriate time, and caused Israel damage in the international arena," it added.

The debate over the army's values has dominated the public debate following Azaria's indictment and Golan's criticism of Israeli society.

On Israel's Memorial Day, Ya'alon said soldiers must show restraint, uphold their values, and not "lose their heads" even in the heat of fighting. "Even in the difficult moments, when your blood boils and the rage is great, woe to us if we lose our way and our values," Ya'alon said at the Kiryat Shaul military cemetery in Tel Aviv. Ya'alon cautioned that excessive force was liable to lead Israel to "the abyss." ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Na'amat Canada Toronto
Israel Day FESTIVAL
Indoor Facility in case of rain
israeldayfestival.com
SUNDAY JUNE 5th 2016
CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND PONY RIDES
LIVE AUCTION ENTERTAINMENT VENDORS FOOD
FACE PAINTING DODGEBALL FAMILY BINGO
WOOD VALLEY PARK
Lebovic Jewish Community Campus
Bathurst St. north of Rutherford Rd, Vaughan
Sponsored by:

CJN Giveaways
5 LUCKY READERS will win 1 PAIR OF TICKETS to
A JEWISH MUSIC WEEK EVENT
May 30 to June 5
(Total value $322)
To be eligible to win click on "Events/Contests" at www.cjnews.com and fill out the contest form with your name, address and daytime phone number or e-mail us the information. All entries received by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24th are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected at The CJN offices on Wednesday, May 25th, winners will choose from the available performances. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. One entry per person.
The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.
Email your information and contest code "JMW16 Contest" to "contest@thecjn.ca" or mail to: The Canadian Jewish News, 1750 Steeles Ave. W. Suite 218, Concord, ON L4K 2L7 or fax: 416-391-0949.
Employees and family members of The CJN, Canadian Primedia, Jewish Music Week Toronto are not eligible to enter

STAY UPDATED
anywhere, anytime at
www.cjnews.com
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

OPINION

On the Omer, sports and racism

Yair Lootsteen

This is a special time of year here in Israel. Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut are behind us and before we turn around Lag b'Omer and Yom Yerushalayim will be here. A complicated mix of sadness, contemplation, jubilation and good fun.

Summer begins as we complete this season. This year those who enjoy sports have much to look forward to.

The Rio Olympics begin Aug. 5. We're hoping to see Israeli athletes on the podium at this Olympiad and perhaps even hear *Hatikvah*.

Look for our competitors in windsurfing, sailing, gymnastics, wrestling, athletics, judo and more. Talented young people sacrificing much, for years, while training tirelessly. They bring hope and genuine pride to all Israelis.

Judo's my favourite. Maybe it's because Natan, my 16-year-old, has been at it since he was four. Or perhaps it's because Israel has become a judo powerhouse.

About a month ago Natan came running excitedly into my room, asking if I knew Timna Nelson Levy. Of course, I said. Timna and my daughter had been together in primary school and her parents are members of our synagogue. Turns out she had just won a bronze medal at the European Judo Championships. When I called her dad to congratulate him, I learned Timna has an outside chance of making it to Rio, although she's really setting her sights on 2020's Tokyo Olympics.

Earlier in the summer, beginning June 10, Europe's top 16 national soccer teams will compete for UEFA's Euro 2016 championship. Held every four years, this year's month-long tournament will take place in France.

Israel's national team didn't make it through to the final 16. It never has. Our soccer is simply not good enough.

Soccer is a tribal sport. You choose a team as a kid and stay with it for life. Rivalries abound. That's true in Israel too. Fans of Maccabi and Hapoel Tel Aviv should not be left alone in the same room.

But in Israel, the Middle East conflict also enters the playing field.

Jerusalem's premier team, Beitar Yerushalayim, has never had an Arab player. Games between Beitar and other "Jewish" teams and Bnei Sakhnin, the country's most successful Arab club, require the presence of hundreds of policemen. Because of violence, the Israel Football Association recently decided only home team fans could attend games between Beitar and Bnei Sakhnin. At the latest game between the two in Jerusalem that wasn't enough. Beitar fans hurled racist obscenities and real objects at Sakhnin's players and at referees when Sakhnin won 3-0.

Speaking at a Holocaust memorial event on the eve of Yom Hashoah, the IDF's Deputy Chief of Staff, Maj.-Gen. Yair Golan, caused a brouhaha when he stated that " if there is something that frightens me about the memory of the Holocaust, it is seeing the abhorrent processes that took place in Europe, and Germany in particular, some 70, 80 or 90 years ago, and finding manifestations of these processes here among us in 2016.

"Indeed," he continued, "there is nothing easier than to simply hate the other, there is nothing easier than to provoke fears and strike terror; there is nothing easier than barbaric behaviour, moral corruption and hypocrisy."

Golan was rebuked for his words. Calls were heard for his resignation.

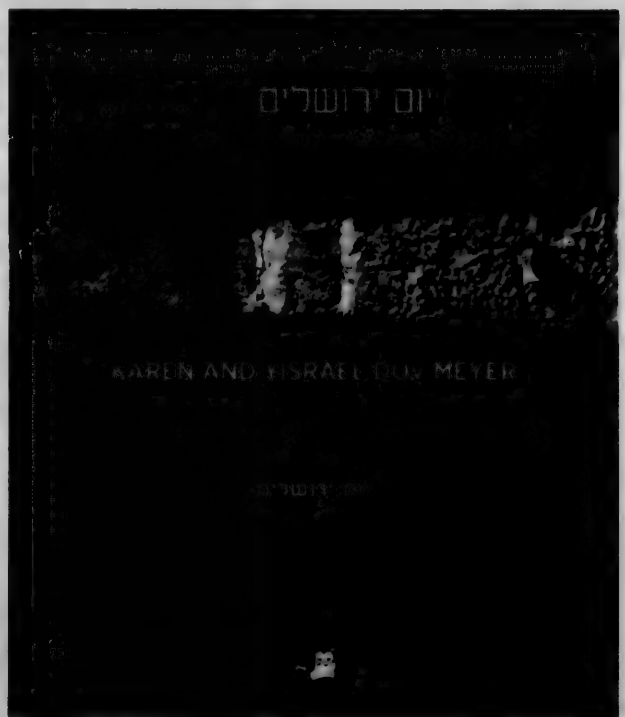
Even if he chose an inappropriate venue for his words and should have avoided any implicit link between yesteryear Germany and modern-day Israel – such a link is unacceptable - Golan expressed legitimate moral concerns about where Israeli society is going, when fear and hatred abound and yes - racism too.

Having lived in Jerusalem for 37 years, I've never attended a Beitar game and have no intention of doing so.

I am looking forward to a great summer of sports. I'm hoping to see Israeli athletes with medals round their necks.

Good luck to Timna and her colleagues. Do us proud. ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
Recently Married ?
In honour of your marriage,
The Canadian Jewish News
would like to give you a 12-week subscription *
Go to www.cjnews.com/weddings-promo/ and complete the subscription form.
*CANADIAN DELIVERY. NEW SUBSCRIPTION ONLY



IF I'M SEPARATED, WHAT IF I DIE?

By: Martin Zeidenberg and Jessica Elle; Introduction by John T. Syrtash

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

B. A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Counsel
Garfin Zeidenberg LLP
Family Lawyer & Mediator
for 35 years

So imagine you are going through a separation but you're not yet divorced. Like most people your current Will likely leaves most everything to the spouse you once loved and have now grown to hate. If there is no Will the same thing could happen. And guess what? Before divorce, if you don't do something about it and a bus hits you crossing Bathurst Street ,well, you may have missed your chance to leave it all to someone else, like your kids, your siblings, Baycrest or your favorite pet.

It is a popular misconception that a legal separation will have any effect on the appointment of an estate trustee or the distribution of an estate under a will. When spouses are divorced, section 17(2) of the Succession Law Reform Act ("SLRA") states that any provision of a will which appoints the former spouse as executor or estate trustee and any provision which provides the former spouse with a beneficial interest are revoked. However, there is no similar provision with regards to spouses who are separated but not yet divorced or subject to a finalized separation agreement, which means that separated spouses maintain their entitlements under the will unless it has been changed. The same holds true if there is no will – in the case of an intestacy – as the former spouse could stand to inherit the entire value of the estate in accordance with the provisions under Part II of the SLRA.

So what should be done upon separation? With regards to wills, it is important that any existing wills which appoint your former spouse as executor or provides him or her with a beneficial interest be revised or that new wills are created. Often spouses will have created reciprocal or mutual wills, which are wills that are essentially mirror images of each other where the spouses agree to dispose of their property in a certain manner and there is an implied mutual agreement that the surviving spouse will not revoke his or her will after the other spouse's death. These wills often bequest all assets to the surviving spouse upon the death of the first spouse, and then all assets are to be distributed equally among the children upon the death of the second spouse. When these types of wills exist it is important that they are properly revised upon separation, as the beneficial interest will otherwise pass to the now former surviving spouse.

While a separation is being finalized and even when going through a divorce, one option for former spouses who want to make changes to their wills quickly is to create a holograph will. Holograph wills are handwritten wills that are signed by the testator. Creating a new will, even a holograph will, automatically revokes your previous will and ensures that bequests are made directly to your children or any other designated beneficiary. This allows your assets to be properly dealt with and excludes your former spouse from the will in the interim until there is time to have your lawyer create a more detailed formal will. A lawyer should be consulted to ensure that the proper steps are taken before creating a holograph will.

Another important issue to consider during a separation is severing any joint tenancy that exists between you and your former spouse with regards to joint ownership of any real estate, most likely the matrimonial home. Property that is held as a joint tenancy most times will pass entirely to the surviving owner by right of survivorship, unless there is evidence to the contrary, as opposed to a tenancy in common which allows ownership to be held as an undivided interest which can then be left to beneficiaries under a will. In the case of Hansen Estate v. Hansen, the court confirmed that there are three ways of severing a joint tenancy; by a person acting on his/her own share (i.e. transferring their interest to themselves as tenant in common), by mutual agreement, or by a course of dealing which indicated that the parties intended the property to be held as tenants in common. The definition of "course of dealing" was further clarified by the Ontario Court of Appeal, which determined that it is an inherently fact-specific assessment. For this reason it is important to seek legal advice in order to ensure that any existing joint tenancy is properly considered.

Upon separation it is also important to review your continuing power of attorney for property and power of attorney for personal care. If a former spouse was appointed as power of attorney, steps must be taken to revoke the current powers of attorney or execute new ones. Section 12(2) of the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 requires that a revocation be in writing and witnessed by two people. Finally, you should take the necessary steps to consider the beneficiaries listed on any life insurance policies, benefit plans, pensions, RRSPs and TFSAs, if necessary.

Whatever your individual circumstances, it is important to discuss these issues with a both a family law lawyer and an estate lawyer if you are anticipating separating or after it to ensure that your estate planning is done in contemplation of your individual circumstances and in accordance with your wishes.

Martin Zeidenberg is a Partner, Wills & Estates lawyer and Jessica Elle is one of our associates

Mr. Syrtash is Counsel to Garfin Zeidenberg LLP, celebrating 35 years as a Family Law lawyer this year.

Suite 800, 5255 Yonge Street (at Norton) just north of Mel Lastman Square, Civic Centre Subway station, Toronto, ON M5G 1E6. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 642-5410, Cell (416) 886-0359. Visit

www.freamychild.com; www.spousalsupport.com; www.garfinzeidenberg.com.

Neither Garfin Zeidenberg LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.

Sponsored by the Community for Jewish Culture of B'Nai Brith Canada.

Peace summit will occur French minister insists

JTA
JERUSALEM

The foreign minister of France said that the international Middle East peace summit will take place despite objections by Israel.

"Action must be taken," Jean-Marc Ayrault said May 15 at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport at the close of a one-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). "[Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu said he only wanted direct negotiations, but that option is stalled.

"It's clear to us – and I said this to Netanyahu and Abbas – that we cannot fulfil the role of the two sides," he said, referring to PA President Mahmoud Abbas. "They will need to carry out direct negotiations but because the process is stuck, they need external help. The goal is to encourage them to return to the negotiating table.

"I know that there is strong opposition," he said, appearing to be referring to Netanyahu. "This is not new and it won't discourage us. The conference will take place."

Ayrault said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke positively of the idea of the conference and that France would be willing to postpone the meeting, scheduled for May 30, which is Memorial Day in the United States, so that Kerry could attend. Kerry reportedly has spoken in recent days with Abbas and Netanyahu about the proposed summit.

Netanyahu said at the weekly cabinet meeting Sunday that he made it clear to Ayrault during their meeting that he opposed the summit and attempts by France to broker a peace process.

Netanyahu said he told Ayrault that "the scandalous UNESCO decision, which was supported by France, that does not recognize the Jewish People's ties – which are thousands of years old – to the Temple Mount, casts a shadow on the fairness of any forum that France tries to convene. He told me that this decision stemmed from a misunderstanding and that he would personally see to it that it does not recur. I told him that the only way to advance a true peace between us and the Palestinians is by means of direct negotiations between us and them, without preconditions.

"Our experience with history shows that only this way did we achieve peace with Egypt and Jordan and that any other attempt only makes peace more remote and gives the Palestinians an escape hatch to avoid confronting the root of the conflict, which is non-recognition of the State of Israel." ■

FLASH 90 PHOTO

Choppers on the beach

People at a Tel Aviv beach watch a helicopter fly-over, part of the military airshow on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 68th Independence Day, on May 12.

Jewish Life

MUSIC BOOKS ARTS FOOD NEW PARSHAH

Shul's fundraiser to pay tribute to Jewish composers

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

A growing congregation north of Toronto is holding its first-ever fundraising musical production that will feature pieces from the Renaissance to Yiddish folk tunes to George Gershwin classics.

On May 28, Am Shalom Congregation, a Reform synagogue in south Barrie, is presenting *Simcha*, a show that pays homage to Jewish composers from the 17th century to the present day.

"We thought it would be nice to celebrate Jewish composers over the centuries and have a broad spectrum of music that is Jewish-oriented, with relation to the composers or the music itself," said Shirat Am Shalom choir director and pianist Marilyn Reesor, who has been leading the 15-member choir since it formed in 2013.

In addition to pieces by the famous Italian Renaissance composer Salomone Rossi, 19th-century German siblings Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, German Jewish liturgical composer Louis Lewandowski, German-born French composer Jacques Offenbach and Russian-born American pianist Mischa Levitski, the event will also feature musical guests such as Anna Trubashnik, cantor emerita at Temple Emanu-El in Toronto, and cellist Alyssa Wright.

Howard Bloom moved in 1998 from Toronto to Simcoe County, where he and his wife bought a farm north of Barrie and raised two children. He said the congregation – founded in the 1970s and formerly known as the Simcoe County Jewish Association, before its building was erected around 2003 – is growing.

"There are about 80 to 90 member families... I noticed the other day that we have 30 children in the Jewish school, and that is a prime example of a growing community when you see small children in the system," Bloom said.

As important as it is for Am Shalom to serve the Simcoe County Jewish community, Bloom and Reesor see the fundraiser as an opportunity to reach out to the broader community as well.

"I think it's important that we share the Jewish music, the Jewish composers with the Barrie and Simcoe County community... We invite the cottagers that are up on a Saturday night to come out and to be part of a beautiful evening that will close with a *Havdalah*, and to share the music that is happening in the congregation," Bloom said.

"There are a lot of people in Barrie who have not been to this synagogue and are interested in coming in and having a little bit more of a connection with the Jewish community. We're reaching out to all of Barrie, and you can almost consider this an open house. We've had a lot of response from people outside the community who are very excited to come in and experience a bit of the Jewish culture and Jewish music," said Reesor, who isn't Jewish but connected with the shul through "musical friends" who are Am Shalom members.

She explained that Gerald and Liz Levine reached out to her when they decided to establish a fund in memory of Gerald's parents to facilitate a formal music program at the shul.

The funds raised from the May 28 event, which she hopes will attract about 200 Jews and non-Jews from the local community and beyond, will go toward enhancing the music program and purchasing new instruments.

Bloom praised Reesor for her talent and dedication to bringing the best out of the three-year-old choir.

"Marilyn is very accomplished. Being a choir leader and a musical director who isn't Jewish makes it even more special, because she is very talented musically. She brings a musical direction that is unbiased, that really speaks to music and quality and something that fits us as a choir, and she's taken us from a lay choir to an emerging talented group of people." ■

For more information, email amshalomcongregation@bellnet.ca.

Shirat Am Shalom Choir, pictured, was formed in 2013.

Matti Friedman's new book explores events that presage wars of 21st century

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

For author Matti Friedman, the most noteworthy takeaway after interviewing several dozen soldiers stationed during the 1990s at a remote military outpost in Lebanon, was their surprise simply at being asked.

Israel's presence at "the Pumpkin," the hilltop base in southern Lebanon that the Israeli military held from 1994 to 2000, exists in individual, but not collective, memory, Friedman said.

He added: "These experiences haven't been considered important [by the Israeli public]. There's no monument there...Most of the guys I spoke to had internalized the idea that nothing important had happened there...telling me I was the first to ask them about it since they'd left Pumpkin."

The Toronto-born writer, who himself served two tours at Outpost Pumpkin as a platoon sergeant, has written a new book, *Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier's Story*, published May 3 by Algonquin Books.

Part memoir and part journalism, it's about Friedman and other soldiers' experiences at the base, as well as the implications of what happened there.

On May 19, Friedman will be in Toronto for a book launch held at the Leo and Sala Goldhar Conference and Celebration Centre.

Presented by UJA Federation of Toronto and the Schwartz/Reisman Centre, the event will feature a discussion about writing, Jewish identity and Israel's present and future with Friedman and fellow Canadian Jewish author David Bezmozgis, as well as Rafi Yablonsky, manager of Strategic Initiatives & UJA Young Leaders at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Pumpkinflowers highlights a particularly traumatic incident that occurred in 1994, several years before Friedman got to Outpost Pumpkin: Hezbollah fighters attacked the outpost with shells and rocket fire, killing one Israeli soldier and wounding two. Four guerrillas scrambled up the hill followed by a cameraman, who documented their planting a Hezbollah flag in the ground.

Set to martial music, the video was then broadcast to millions of viewers across the Islamic world.

Friedman, who arrived at the outpost four years later, said the event became among those who served there like a "story you tell kids at bedtime to scare them."

Because it was believed that the soldiers who'd been attacked and humiliated by Hezbollah hadn't been sufficiently alert, Friedman said that recounting to his soldiers what had happened was "a way to get them to stay awake in the guard post."

Friedman described guarding an outpost as "a dreary routine."

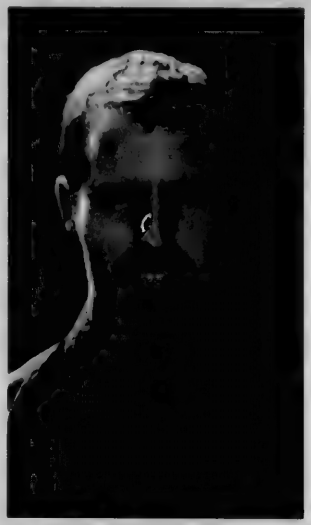
"Usually nothing happens," he added, "so it's deadening and exhausting. After a few weeks or months your guard can slip."

In addition to wanting to tell a universal story of war, of young people fresh out of high school thrown into "a pretty extreme and interesting place," Friedman said, he wished to capture a period that saw a type of warfare that he believes "presaged much of what has happened since Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000 and since the attacks of 9/11."

In that sense, the book is "a kind of prologue to the wars of the 21st century," he explained.

Those years in Lebanon are significant, he said, because Israel's experience fighting an enemy that was markedly weaker yet used improvised explosive devices (IEDs), videotaped hit and run attacks, and were essentially, "not afraid to die" foretold the type of wars the West would be fighting in the Middle East in this century.

"After 9/11 Western armies have found themselves in the Middle East fighting wars that look a lot like this war in Lebanon did, fighting these Islamic guerrillas who are using hit and run tactics, who are savvy in the use of media and acting according to religious ideology that makes very little sense to people in the West," Friedman said.



Matti Friedman

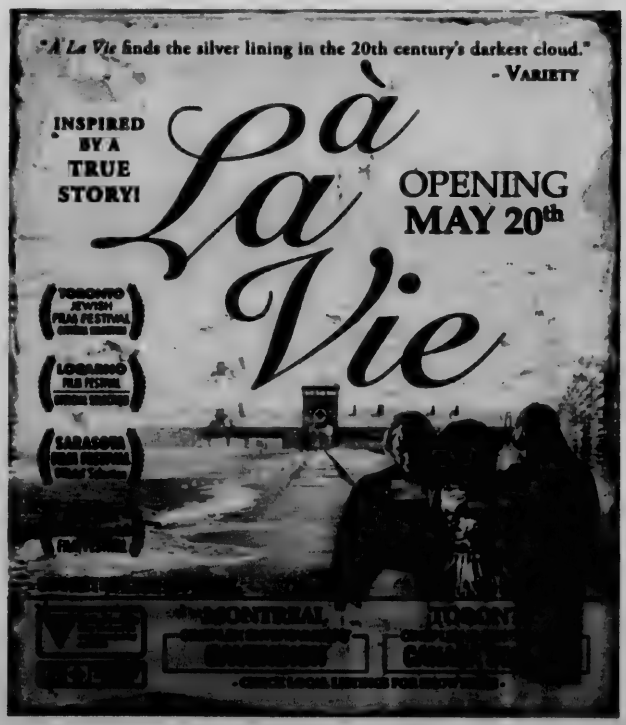
Born in 1977 in Toronto, Friedman attended William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute for high school and moved to Israel at age 17.

Although he'd initially planned to work on a kibbutz for a year, he fell in love with the country and has lived there ever since.

He currently resides in Jerusalem with his family.

Friedman's first book, *The Aleppo Codex*, was published in 2012 and won the Sami Rohr Prize and the Canadian Jewish Book Award.

His journalistic writing has appeared in publications including *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times* and *Tablet Magazine*. ■



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

The Canadian Jewish News is an independent not-for-profit corporation publishing weekly newspapers in Toronto, Montreal, and online to serve the Canadian Jewish community.

Come intern for The CJN this summer

Are you a journalism student, recent grad or budding writer looking for an internship? Join *The CJN* this summer. You'll gain valuable newsroom experience and work closely with our editorial and online teams. Interested?

Send your resume to ***cjninfo@gmail.com.***

Please use "Summer Intern" in the subject line. Honorarium included

We thank all for their responses, but only candidates of interest will be contacted.

ARTS & CULTURE

Remembering a 'renaissance' rabbi

Evelyn Tauben

Rabbi Ronald Aigen

With profound humility and sadness, I write this month's column. Last week, the Jewish world, and Canadian Jewry in particular, quite suddenly and entirely prematurely, lost a shining *neshamah* who was, among a great many other things, a tremendous advocate for Jewish arts and culture.

In fact, Rabbi Aigen (it was my own conservatism that never allowed me to called him Rabbi Ron as everyone else did) gave me my first real job in the sphere of Jewish arts, in an arena where such jobs are not plentiful. He had a long-held dream of establishing a contemporary art gallery embedded within his Reconstructionist community, Congregation Dorshei Emet in Montreal. I signed on as the first curator and together we created the Emet Gallery.

The gallery's name not only stood for *emet* (truth) as in the congregation's moniker but it's also a Hebrew acronym for *emunah* (spirituality), *musar* (ethics) and *tarbut* (culture) – tenets inherent in Rabbi Aigen's conception of a multi-faceted, dynamic and flourishing Jewish future. He was equally invested in developing meditation and mindfulness practices within the shul community and fostering social justice as in establishing a space for contemporary art filtered through a Jewish lens. In the Emet Gallery, we exhibited video art and photography by established Canadian and Israeli artists.

In advancing his ideas, Rabbi Aigen had a gentle touch but a fiery heart. He was responsive to his congregation, highly creative and thoughtful in their own right, but also dared to be an agitator and to insist on risk-taking even when others did not fully appreciate the gallery concept. As with many forward-thinking cultural experiments, the Emet Gallery did not last long. But when it was running, it was an energetic addition to the Jewish cultural landscape of Montreal, sparking dialogue and collaborations. It is a reminder at this deeply sad time that longevity is not the only marker of a lasting impression.

As we laid the groundwork for the gallery, Rabbi Aigen wrote in the November 2006 synagogue bulletin of arts and culture. It is only fitting to draw attention here to his own words on the topic: "The arts and culture are an important gateway into Judaism, allowing more people to enter 'our' world. It's a significant new gateway not just because it's 'fun' and 'easy,' but because arts and culture engage people emotionally as well as intellectually, often creating an essential fusion of the two. However, in order to really attract people, especially the younger generation, we must get beyond the nostalgic kitsch that has passed for Jewish art and culture in the past. Jews today will no longer be satisfied with Jewish culture if it is not as emotionally and intellectually engaging as the culture available to them in the rest of the world. We must demand better if we want our Judaism to go beyond survival and to really thrive."

I am inspired anew, revisiting his sentiments a decade later, by his charge to us to thrive as a people through creativity. Part of his greatness as a rabbi was in forging a voice of leadership in many arenas of Jewish experience vital to a thoughtful, holistic Jewish life.

In another article, Rabbi Aigen referred to the teachings of the prophet Joel: "Your elders will dream dreams; your youth will see visions." This text resonates with Rabbi Aigen's impact on my life at a formative moment when I chose to leave the mainstream art world to help shape an "emotionally and intellectually engaging" Jewish arts scene in Canada.

Rabbi Aigen dreamed – he dreamed big and bold. Those of us "youth" who participated in his dream saw the vision realized and reverberating profoundly. If only he could have grown into the elder that the prophet speaks of, creating into the retirement he was to begin next month. Now that dream has died but the Rabbi's vision lives on. ■

Originally from Montreal, Evelyn Tauben is a producer, curator and writer in Toronto.

"AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX AND DARING HOLOCAUST PLAYS I'VE SEEN"
THE MODEL APARTMENT
MAY 7 - 29, 2016 · THE GREENWIN THEATRE · TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
BEST ACTRESS
WILLIAM GIBSON
JUNE 6 - 19, 2016
HAROLD GREEN JEWISH THEATRE COMPANY

Film's emotional pull mixed with humour and romance

JOSEPH SERGE
jserge@thecjn.ca

Three Jewish women, Auschwitz survivors, reunite in 1960 for the first time at a beach resort in northern France in *To Life (À La Vie)*, a warm, touching movie opening in Toronto and Montreal on May 20.

To Life opens in Auschwitz as the Nazis are clearing the camp and ordering the infamous Death March at the end of the war. Then we see Hélène, one of the three women, return to her home in Paris. She has lost contact with the two women she was close with in the camps, Lili and Rose. She believes that while Lili survived, Rose perished during the chaotic camp evacuation.

In Paris, Hélène marries her childhood sweetheart, also a survivor, who is impotent due to sterility tests conducted on him in the camp.

Hélène, admirably played by Julie Depardieu (Gérard's daughter) is determined to reunite with Lili and puts a classified ad in the deportees newspaper each year until finally, 15 years later, she hears from Lili and the two plan to reunite at the resort in Berck Plage.

To Life, the story of three Holocaust survivors, opens in Toronto and Montreal May 20.

In Berck Plage, Lili (Johanna ter Steege) surprises her by bringing Rose, who did in fact survive the war, and is now living in Montreal.

Hélène is thrilled, yet understandably upset at the surprise. "What if I had a weak heart?" she admonishes Lili. "Why didn't you tell me?"

If the three women weren't in their mid-30s now, one could easily describe what follows as a "coming-of-age" movie. Hélène, who admits to still being a virgin despite being married, is courted by a couple of men, including the young Pierre, who oversees the Mickey Mouse Club, a play area for children.

But behind the playfulness of the resort setting, replete with vintage late-'50s automobiles and roller-pinned coiffures, lurks, as one would expect, survivors' guilt and secrets.

Rose (Suzanne Clément) refuses to even talk about Auschwitz, making the other two promise not to bring it up at all. As with many survivors, she hates waste and makes them all use one teabag for the duration of their vacation.

And so, as far away from the Holocaust as possible, amongst the flirtations, the sunny weather, the Twist, bikinis and floral dresses, the three friends come to grips with their past and the secrets they buried there. Questions are slowly answered. Why didn't Lili tell Hélène that Rose survived? Why does Rose refuse to talk about Auschwitz?

Directed by Jean-Jacques Zilbermann and inspired by his mother's life story (he previously filmed the documentary *Irene and Her Sisters* about her), the feature is very moving and, at the same time, sprinkled with humour and romance. The setting, a French beach resort in the early '60s, also adds a sense of joie-de-vivre to this otherwise emotional story. It meanders at times, especially with the storyline of Hélène's communist suitor, but otherwise there's much to enjoy in *To Life*. ■

NOTICE
BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

BATHURST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK
6033 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5V 2N8

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE,
a cemetery operator, has filed a by-law with the Registrar of Cemeteries, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002.

The by-law is called *"Beth Tikvah Synagogue Cemetery By-Law-Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park"*.

Any interested parties may contact Doris Alter at 416.221.3433 for information, or to make copies.

This By-Law may be reviewed or copied at 3080 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 5L3

Subject to approval of the Registrar of Cemeteries, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act 2002, Cemeteries Regulation Unit, Ministry of Government and Consumer Services 416.326.8393.

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And More!!
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS

HOUSE TUNE UP!!!
In Business since 1985
Carpet Sales, Installation, Repairs, Ceramic, Laminate, Electrical, Interlock & Landscaping
Handyman Service
ANY small REPAIRS
416-399-4868
nick.borshovou@sympatico.ca

L'Chaim
CANCER SUPPORT FOR JEWISH WOMEN
Cancer?
We're "there" for you.
We are Jewish women cancer survivors who can "be there" for you during your cancer journey.
We provide confidential peer support to Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment.
Hotline: (416) 630-0203
A project of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

96th Birthday Sale Public & Dealers Welcome
Upscale Men Suits, Blazers
Reg. up to $1500 NOW $100-$300
Sizes 34 Short - 54 X Tall
Pants $30-$60 Regular $200
Finest Cotton Men Shirts, Made in Canada
Only $36, Reg. $150-$295, NINE SELECTION!
Sam Warner - by appointment please.
Hollywood Clothing Jobbers Inc.
Clanton Park Rd. • 416.593.0859

NER ISRAEL YESHIVA
250 Bathurst Glen Drive, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Celebrating close to 60 years of Torah Continuity
Provides for KADDISH SERVICES, OBSERVING YAHRZEIT and MEMORIAL PLAQUES
Please invest in the future. Remember Ner Israel in your will.
CALL 905-731-1224

Singer-songwriter pays tribute to his deceased father

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

On a spiritual journey that took him to Israel after his father's death, singer-songwriter Evan Malach wrote some of the songs on his new double English and Hebrew rock CD, recorded with a Grammy-winning producer.

While learning at Jerusalem's Yeshivat Darche Noam (also known as Shapell's) in 2012, Malach wrote *Ben*, a song that eulogizes his father, Howard.

"I think about him all the time," Malach said about the man who took him to his first rock concert, to see the Steve Miller Band.

Malach will be performing songs from this album at Jewish Music Week which starts May 29.

At the yeshiva, Malach gleaned some insights into songwriting from his study of the Talmud. "When you are learning a piece of Talmud, so much information is packed into so few words. I think that's what make strong songwriting as well, evoking a lot from a little," he said.

That summer, Malach, whose voice and singing style resembles Bruce Springsteen's, won the international Hallelujah Global Jewish Singing Contest for his rendition of *Blues Kna'ani*, which set him on the path to singing in Hebrew.

Malach, 31, studied Hebrew while attending Leo Baeck Day School and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Mark Levinson and his son, Shakhai worked with Malach on translating the Hebrew songs on the CD, *When All Is One*.

> *I think about him all the time.*

Ben, Malach's meditative tribute to his father, has a Hebrew version, as do *Save the World (Geulah)*, a rocker about redemption; *The One (Ha'Echad)*, a spiritual rocker about overcoming doubt; *Graceful Rose (Shoshana)*, a love song Malach wrote while sitting on the rooftop of the yeshiva, and *The Reason (Ha'Ya'ad)*, about recognizing the mistakes of past relationships and trying to learn from them. With help from Cantor Benjamin Maissner, the music director of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple, Malach perfected the Hebrew vocals for the CD.

Comparing Malach's new 17-track release to his 2012 CD, *Along the Endless Highway*, Malach's guitarist, Rich Grossman, in a video about the making of *When All Is One*, said, "There's definitely more of a spiritual vibe in these songs. It's more of a grounded project this time round... As opposed to taking different parts of his life and putting it together to make one record, there's a vision."

Malach and his band recorded *When All Is One* last November with Grammy-winning producer Malcolm Burn, who's worked with Emmylou Harris, Daniel Lanois and Bob Dylan. Malach met Burn, who also produced his 2012 recording, serendipitously, through Arzhang Ardavan, a physics professor with some cool friends, who came to a garage sale Malach held.

In the video about the making of *When All Is One*, Burn said he "enjoys creating something that perhaps the artist themselves hasn't envisioned." As an example of Burn's work, Malach said the producer helped turn his folk song, *The Mirror*, an allegory about Adam and Eve, into an "'80s New Wave evocative song."

Malach's main influences are Dylan, Neil Young and Springsteen. Malach has studied Springsteen's videos and has performed some of those songs, including *My City of Ruins*, which he cited as an influence on his songwriting.

"It's so easy to access performance now," he said. "It's almost this natural, organic way of absorbing as an artist, emulating that in a way that's authentic to yourself, and creating your own style around it." ■

Malach and his band, guitarist Grossman, bassist Tyler Emond and drummer Jeremy Kleynhans, perform both Hebrew and English tracks from When All Is One on June 2 at 7 p.m. at the Lula Lounge as part of Jewish Music Week. The Shinshinim, singing Israeli pop hits, open the show. Malach's CD can be downloaded from www.evanmalach.com. You can view the video, The Making of When All Is One, on Youtube. For tickets to the show, visit www.malach.eventbrite.ca. For more information, visit www.jewishmusicweek.com.

La TRAVIATA
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
La Traviata
where love means never having to say you're hungry
Present this voucher for
1 Complimentary order of our
Famous Homemade Bruschetta
Voucher has no cash value. Can not be used in conjunction with any other promotion. 1 voucher per table of 4 people
Accepting reservations 7 days a week!
552 Wilson Avenue, North York, ON
416.635.5691 www.latraviata.ca

PROTECT YOUR TABLE FROM
HEAT • SPILLS • SCRATCHES • DENTS
• Free in-home service • Made in Canada • Magnetic Locking System
PROVINCIAL TABLE PADS
TORONTO 416-283-2508
HAMILTON 905-383-1343
OTTAWA 613 247 3334
MONTREAL 514-943-0393
CANADA/USA 1-800-668-7439
PTP www.ptpads.com

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— or —
TRADE UP
If you don't mind getting more
MCD
JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 19, 2016

Tony Kushner's controversial appearance at Koffler

Playwright distinguishes politics from his art

A. DAVID LEVINE
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

The controversy surrounding the Koffler Centre's evening with Tony Kushner May 9 seemed poised to engulf the event itself, what with the UJA's disavowal of the event over Kushner's ties to pro-boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) group Jewish Voice for Peace (Kushner himself does not support BDS), and the playwright's subsequent accusations of censorship - but the Pulitzer Prize-winner took care to distinguish his political opinions from his writing process while reflecting on both in a broad conversation with Obsidian Theatre's Philip Akin.

Without explicit mention of the controversy, Koffler executive director Cathy Jonasson pushed back in her opening remarks, re-asserting the centre's support for inquiry, exploration, and "the right to free speech that allows us to have a healthy cultural dialogue."

Akin's first question followed suit. Presenting a photo of Kushner protesting at Columbia University in 1978, Akin wondered if the idea of protest might lie "at the heart" of Kushner's work.

While embracing the notion of protest and free speech (as has been reported), Kushner drew a line between his political opinions and his artistic output, rejecting the idea of writing plays with a "thesis" in mind. "If I have a point that I'm trying to make, I'm going to write something that's ultimately not going to be very interesting."

For Kushner, the unique appeal of the theatre comes from its ephemeral, uncontrollable nature. "They [plays] have a life of their own that's at least half composed of the life the audience gives them. And every audience is different, every night is different, and you surrender to that."

In fact, said Kushner, an audience is impacted by a play in much the same way as a dreamer is affected by a dream. "Your unconscious stages things, shows you things – meaningful things – in the form of allegories and riddles and metaphors, and you can then choose to remember them or not remember them, decipher them or not decipher them when you wake up.

"The thrill is when you've got something going that is spinning around a mystery, an unresolvable set of questions, and you generate meaning in conversation with an audience."

Kushner finds himself drawn to playwrights like fellow Pulitzer Prize-winner Susan-Lori Parks, whose work has "a richness and a strangeness and a complexity and an unpredictability" where "I'm not sitting waiting for an answer. I'm sitting and waiting for the right questions to take out of the theatre and bring home and brood about."

It was a question about Donald Trump that brought the discussion back to the political - asked if he could write a play that would "take down Donald Trump", Kushner appealed to the same dichotomy of politics and art."We don't need playwrights to take down Donald Trump. We need democracy."

Reflecting on Trump's success and the potential collapse of the Republican party, Kushner couldn't help but connect the dots."The thing that's so maddening – and this is why I get so angry at things like this UJA thing – there are such serious problems that the world needs to turn its attention to.... The survival of the state of Israel – something that I care about passionately – is increasingly endangered, not because I wrote liner notes for The Klezmatics. So much time gets wasted on nonsense. And the really difficult things that we need to be attending to as a global community don't get attended to.

"The system works," he says. "We just have to vote." ■

Philip Akin, left, in conversation with American Jewish playwright Tony Kushner
JORJAS PHOTOGRAPHY/KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS PHOTO

Writer says federation is silencing discussion about Israel

JODIE SHUPAC
jshupac@thecjn.ca

Addressing the controversy that preceded his May 9 Toronto appearance, American Jewish playwright Tony Kushner accused UJA Federation of Greater Toronto of trying to silence discussion about Israeli policy and the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Speaking in conversation with Canadian theatre director Philip Akin, Kushner criticized the federation for disassociating itself from his talk – which was presented by one of federation's beneficiary agencies, the Koffler Centre for the Arts – because Kushner advises a group that supports the BDS movement against Israel.

Kushner told Akin: "My opinions about the situation in the Middle East are pretty middle of the road. I'm not extreme in any way, so it's hugely depressing to think that somebody with the level of criticism I voiced about the treatment of Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli Defence Forces or the Israeli government should cause this kind of alarm and consternation...To say we can't have discussions about issues like BDS...anyone who believes that that makes Israel safer is a fool. Silence is the surest way to weaken policy."

Kushner, whose body of work includes the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* and the screenplays for Steven Spielberg's 2005 film *Munich* and 2012 film *Lincoln*, also said he believes the federation "has no business dictating how the recipients of its philanthropy spend their money as long as they're staying true to their mission... that seems to me a violation of its role."

In March, in response to criticism after its logo appeared on an ad for the Kushner event, identifying it as a Koffler sponsor, the federation released a statement distancing itself from the talk because Kushner is on the advisory board of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a group that supports BDS.

The federation said that although Kushner himself "has publicly stated that he does not support the BDS movement, UJA Federation has concerns about [his] association with JVP, and we will not support an event where there is any link to organizations supporting BDS."

Kushner responded to the federation's statement in an interview with *The Globe and Mail* published May 8, in which he accused the federation of "McCarthyism" and referred to its distancing itself from the event as a "smear campaign."

At the Koffler event, Kushner said that as a gay Jewish man who grew up in the American South in the 1960s when the civil rights movement was "reaching its apogee," he's always felt a responsibility to "say the truth."

While he stressed that he doesn't consider himself an expert on the "Israeli-Palestinian crisis," he said it's an issue he's thought a lot about, and that when people ask him about it, he feels, "a moral obligation that comes directly from the ethical teachings I received as a young Jewish kid to tell the truth as I see it and engage in discussion."

Kushner said that "in Israel, the [room for] debate is infinitely greater."

He added: "The UJA, in deciding that this event was too dangerous for Jews to listen to, is upholding a fantasy version of the State of Israel and a fantasy version of Israeli policy."

Morris Zbar, federation president and CEO, said later, "We refuse to offer a platform to anyone affiliated with an organization endorsing BDS, which aims for the destruction of the State of Israel. Mr. Kushner sits on the advisory board of a leading BDS organization in the United States. That is his right. And UJA has the right to affirm our fundamental principles and reject BDS in all of its forms." ■

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Frank Sirkin, president, JNF Pacific Region, Shirley Barnett and Ran Pilo, Jerusalem emissary and executive director

Arnold and Anita Silber

Larry Vinegar and Dr. Marcy Schwartzman

Sara Ferguson, David Barnett, Shirley Barnett, Jonathan Barnett and Heidi Soldman

David and Tanis Goldman

The Vancouver Shelter

Four hundred guests and dignitaries came out to the JNF Pacific Region gala in honour of Shirley Barnett. Funds raised will go to build a much needed, inclusive, women and children's shelter in Rishon Lezion to help meet the needs of victims of domestic violence. The Vancouver Shelter will provide a safe environment, regardless of background, where families can start over. ■ *– The Socialite*

Jody and Harvey Dales

Norman and Sandra Miller

Katie and Roy Hessel

Kris Pope, Jasmine Mooney and Jason Wertman

Penny Sprackman and Gary Averbach

Ruth Resnic, Shirley Barnett and B.C. Premier Christy Clark

Loren and Melita Segal

Michael and Lisa Averbach

ROBERT ALBANESE PHOTOS

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

GIVE A GIFT CARD FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS
KOSHER DINING • SPA • HOTEL • EVENTS
KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining COR
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MAY 19 - MAY 26

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, May 19

AMY SKY
Amy Sky performs songs from her new CD *Twilight Rose*, 8 p.m., Temple Sinai. Free.

ROOTS OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS
David Lipovitch discusses "The ancient roots of Jewish holidays," 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $5 for non-members, members free.

MAIMONIDES
Prof. James Diamond discusses "Maimonidean messianism: a rational blueprint for Zionism," 7:30 p.m., Beth David Congregation. Co-sponsored by Canadian Institute for Jewish Research. 1-855-303-5544.

Sunday, May 22

JEWISH HISTORY OF ROME
Ray Dolliner discusses "Eternal people, eternal city: untold stories of the Jewish history of Rome," 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation. $10.

Tuesday, May 24

SECOND PERSON SINGULAR
A review of *Second Person Singular* by **Sayed Kashua** takes place at Temple Sinai, 7:30 p.m.

The book is also being reviewed for Adath Israel Synagogue's book club by reviewer **Cynthia Good**, 8 p.m. $10/$15. **Beverley**, 416-499-6920.

LUNCH AND LEARN I
Lexicographer **Kathleen Barber** presents a humorous lecture on Canadian English, Temple Har Zion. Bring your lunch at noon, program starts at 12:30 p.m. $3/$6.

LUNCH AND LEARN II
Tom Quiggin discusses "The relationship between cyber-hate and Islamic extremism in Canada," 12:10 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

LUNCH AND LEARN III
Prof. Anna Shternshis discusses "The history and culture of Soviet Jewry," Beth Sholom Synagogue, noon. $18. RSVP 416-783-6103.

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of June 2 is May 23. All deadlines are at noon. Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

Pebbles for peace

Students at Goodwin Learning Centre in Trenton, Ont., have been trying to collect six million pebbles to represent the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust. They launched the program three years ago at the Leo Baeck Day School and had reached 5,119,110 pebbles until earlier this month when they returned to Leo Baeck's Thornhill campus to take part in a Yom Hashoah ceremony. Leo Baeck students parcelled out and contributed another 40,000 pebbles to the cause. Pictured are Goodwin student Thomas W., second from right, and Leo Baeck students from left Maya G., Naomi S. and Max S.

Wednesday, May 25

BUSINESS ETHICS FROM BOOKS
Lunch and learn series on "Business ethics from the bookshelf." **Rabbi Jonathan Ziring** discusses *The Merchant of Venice*, 12:30 p.m., Zeifmans LLP, 201 Bridgeland Ave. RSVP 416-256-4002, ext. 398.

JEWISH HISTORY
Hana Werner discusses "Elijah: a prophet of hope and despair," 1:30 p.m., dessert. Beth Tzedec Congregation. $10. RSVP 416-781-3511.

IS LIFE FAIR?
Rabbi Michael Skobac discusses "Is life fair? Grappling with the problem of suffering in the world," 8 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. 416-789-0020.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Hymie Reichstein discusses "Major discoveries in the quest to find my roots," with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, Temple Sinai, 8 p.m. 647-247-6414.

Thursday, May 26

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS
Dr. Nasreen Khatri discusses "Care for the caregivers," 10 a.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $5 for non-members, free for members. RSVP 416-221-3433.

ONLY BY BLOOD
Renate Krakauer discusses her new novel *Only by Blood*, 7:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women Toronto. $5/$10.

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Bernard Betel Centre needs volunteers to deliver meals to seniors or visit with seniors in their homes. Call **Cheryl Besner**, 416-225-2112 ext. 127.

JEWISH COMPOSER AND CONCERTI
Jerry Fink teaches a course on "Jewish composers and concerti," May 18 to June 8, 11:45 a.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue. To register, email nancywallack@gmail.com or call 416-633-3838.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com

- Adult children losing a parent: A 6-session group for adults who have recently lost a parent. Starts May 18, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre.
- Living with Adult ADHD: A 4-session group for adults who have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD. Starts May 19, 7-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre.
- Parenting the child/teen with ADHD: A 4-session group for parents of children/teens diagnosed with ADHD. Starts May 24, 7-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre.

BEREAVED JEWISH FAMILIES
Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario provides 8-week self-help groups to bereaved parents. Call **Beth Feffer**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6244, or email bfeffer@jfandcs.com

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, Tuesdays to June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required. **David Levine** discusses "Literature on film: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," May 19, 26 at 1 p.m.; Social games club May 19 and June 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP.; **Ralph Wintrob** discusses Yiddish performer **Jacob Adler**, June 9, 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. May 24, **Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "Great Jewish heroes: Eli Cohen," 10 a.m.; May 25, concert with the NYCO Symphony, 7:30 p.m.; May 26 wellness lecture on "Lower back pain," 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama June 8; Down memory lane with live entertainment, May 18, 2 p.m.; Social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; Bridge with partners, Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.
◗ **Lunch and Learn.** Singers **Lea and Leon** perform at a seniors' lunch and learn program, May 25, noon, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. 416-633-5100. June 7, The York Jazz Band performs at noon.
◗ **WEL Group (Women Enjoying Life)** meets monthly at Earl Bales Community Centre. Next event, June 8, is a day trip in Toronto. RSVP by May 25. **Shirley**, 416-661-4471 or **Lorraine**, 416-638-6828.
◗ New Horizons is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
◗ Adath Israel Congregation. Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
◗ Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
◗ Beth Emeth Synagogue. Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.
Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
◗ Temple Har Zion. Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
◗ Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4 p.m.
◗ B'nai Brith Seniors Program. Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Amy, 416-633-6224, ext. 134. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.

Prosserman JCC

Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
◗ Film appreciation with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, "Hollywood and society: refracting the issues through the movies," Wednesdays to May 25, 1 p.m.
◗ Mini memoir/legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl**, May 19, 1 p.m.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 25, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Examining contemporary Jewish standup comedy with **Rosalin Krieger**, June 4-28, 1 p.m.
◗ Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott**, "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.
◗ Family night. Join Shoresh Jewish Environmental programs for a hands-on look at the creatures that live in the ravine beside the JCC. Dinner will follow. June 20, 5:30 p.m.
◗ Children's outdoor art classes start June 22. Summer ceramics start June 28.
◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
◗ *The InterLove Project*, photos by **Colin Boyd Shafter**, is on display until May 25.
◗ ReelAbilities Film Festival shows *Anita* and *I am*, May 19 at 7 p.m., Al Green Theatre. Tickets at 416-599-8433.
◗ *The Love of Music* presented by the North York Concert Band, May 28, 7:30 p.m., Al Green Theatre. www.northyorkconcertband.ca
◗ MNJCC Community Choir performs its 20th anniversary concert, June 1 and June 2, 8 p.m. For tickets, call ext. 0
◗ **Harold Troper** and **Dimitry Anastakis** discuss "Why does history matter today?" June 6 and June 20, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
◗ Klezmer ensemble conducted by **Eric Stein** meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Open community choir meets Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ All-night Jewish learning, downtown Tikkun Leil Shavuot June 11. Community dinner, register by June 5. Full program, 8 p.m.-8:30 a.m.
◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
◗ Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl**, May 26, 1 p.m.
◗ Saggar firing workshop, June 2 and 9 at 1 p.m. Beginner and advanced ceramics courses start June 29.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 26, 7-9 p.m.
◗ Sports with Jay, outdoor soccer program starts May 24 for children aged 2-4.
◗ Learn to paint on clay, May 19, 26 at 1 p.m.
◗ **Sharyn Feldman** leads a "Listening mothers workshop," June 9, 7 p.m. ■

SEE YOURSELF HERE
We encourage the community to send us photos for the What's New page.
Photos must be high-resolution and have all the participants identified by name.
Email photos to whatsnewujc@gmail.com.

ASK ELLA

Young or old, parenting is never easy

Ella Burakowski
eb@thecjn.ca

Dear Ella,

My parents raised both my brother and me to be caring and responsible. We are both working adults with families of our own. My father died two years ago, and now, our elderly mother, who lives on her own, needs help.

I speak to her every day and see her at least three to four times a week. I do her shopping, take her to appointments and help with her hygiene. What does my brother do? Nothing! He barely calls, and she's fine with that, because he is a "busy man." Her care seems to have landed squarely on my shoulders. In her eyes, I'm the daughter, and it's expected of me.

How do I rectify this injustice without causing a rift between my brother and me?

Not Woman's Work

Dear Not Woman's Work

I don't think it's that unusual for people of your mother's generation to feel that taking care of anything domestic is women's work and bringing home a paycheque is men's work, which, to her, absolves your brother from having to help with her care.

This explains why she is happy with just a periodic phone call. There's little point in trying to change your mother's expectations. The family dynamics have been set, and it's clear your mom's relationship with you and your brother are very different.

The problem is lack of communication with your brother. He is going about his life very content that mom is well cared for, and there is no reason he needs to be involved. Perhaps if he realized the physical and emotional burden you are dealing with, he would step up.

It's your place to get that message across to him, but do it rationally and logically, not when you're emotional and heated. Have solutions in place to offer as suggestions, such as a schedule or perhaps pooling family money together to get support for caregivers, or, if you can afford it, even a retirement residence where your mother can also enjoy some social time to add quality to her life.

You've been a wonderful daughter. Don't let that turn into resentment. Believe me when I say you will never be sorry for doing all that you can for your mother.

Dear Ella,

I'm on the road a lot and often find it more convenient to meet with clients in restaurants rather than have them come to my office. I can't begin to tell you how often my meetings are plagued by the poor behaviour of children and even poorer behaviour of their parents. Sitting in a booth, I can be accosted by a child standing in the booth behind me, yelling, spitting food and making faces at my client. When I ask the accompanying parent politely to handle the situation, I am more often than not snubbed, ignored or told off.

I have asked waiters to help, and if possible, they move me to another table, which is disruptive during a meeting. The offending tot and guardian are the ones who should be moved. Don't you agree? I don't get why parents think this behaviour is acceptable in public.

Seen and Not Heard

Dear Seen and Not Heard

The convenience of conducting business in a restaurant nearby can save both you and your client valuable time. However, it is not an office, and you have no control of who will be there. Perhaps do a bit of investigating in the area where you plan to meet and stay away from family-type establishments. Try a coffee shop or neighbourhood bar instead. For lunch, go to an upscale restaurant and be prepared for a larger tab. The choice is yours. You can only control so much, and if you choose to meet at a family restaurant, you are taking your chances. Not all parents will meet with your approval. Don't try to change them. The changing in this case rests with you and your choices. ■

Ella is the author of Hidden Gold - A True Story of the Holocaust. *Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
93 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-8487

Mazel tov Charlotte (Lottie) Sheinbaum on your birthday. Much love and very best wishes from your children and grandchildren.

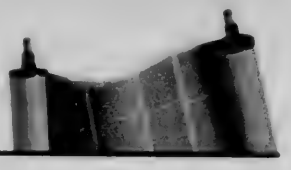
Mazel tov, wishing Zelda Jones a very happy and healthy special 90th birthday. With all our love, your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mazel tov Michelle Marants on your bat mitzvah, with lots of love from your entire family! Wishing you an abundance of health, happiness and love.

Happy birthday to Seymour Zweig on his 95th birthday. With love from his children, grandchildren and great-grand children.

Parshah

Emor | Leviticus 21:1-24:23



Rabbi Ilan Acoca says an emphasis on education is one of the main reasons the Jewish nation has survived
Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl examines why the Omer period is a time of anxiety and anticipation
Rabbi Catharine Clark reflects on the physical and spiritual foundations of the holiday of Shavuot

Rabbi Ilan Acoca

This week's parshah starts with a commandment given to the kohanim.

The Torah says, "HaShem said to Moses: Say to the kohanim, the sons of Aaron, and tell them: each of you, shall not contaminate himself to a [dead] person among his people."

It seems as if the language is redundant, since the Torah says to "say" to the kohanim and repeats again the instruction to "tell" them. Rashi answers that it was not enough for the adult kohanim to keep this commandment, but it was also intended that the children of the kohanim should observe the commandment. The Torah therefore repeats it a second time. The first is for the adult kohanim, the second is for their children.

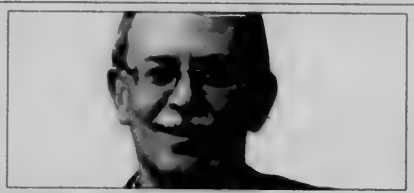
What Rashi is teaching us is something that the Jewish People have always excelled in – education. Education has always been a priority wherever we lived. In fact, I believe that one of the main the reasons the Jewish nation has survived was that they put great emphasis on education.

As a Sephardi rabbi of the only Sephardi congregation west of Toronto, I have numerous opportunities to educate about Sephardi Judaism.

I am often asked why I spend so much time teaching, writing and speaking about Sephardi Judaism. Wouldn't it be simpler to be part of a big melting pot? My answer is simple. I do it because I owe it to my ancestors. I believe it is the responsibility of every Sephardi Jew, and especially the rabbis and lay leaders, to do whatever they can to keep alive the rich Sephardi Judaism of the past by educating the new generation and transmitting it to them. As challenging as it might be at times, we have to do it.

May God give us the opportunity to educate and live harmoniously by respecting our differences. ■

Rabbi Ilan Acoca is rabbi at Congregation Beth Hamidrash in Vancouver.



Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl

The Torah portion of Emor includes in it the mitzvah of the offering of an omer of barley and the counting that links Pesach to Shavuot. It came to be associated with the span of days designating the passage from the servitude of Egypt to the proclamation at Sinai of God's word and command.

Anxiety, according to psychologists, is often evidenced by counting. People count days, anticipating something big with excitement, as well as anxiety. Rabbi Jacob Milgrom suggests that our agricultural ancestors may have counted the days of the Omer as a ritual response to anxiety about the agricultural yield of the season. The period of *chamsin*, which also means 50, occurs from late March through late May, when the hot dry winds sweep desert dust throughout the Middle East.

The harvest would be affected if there was too much moisture or too little rain. As the Mishnah (Rosh Hashanah 1:2) teaches, "The world is judged regarding grain on Pesach."

The rabbis of the Talmud remembered the 50-day interval not only for the anticipation of the love-embrace of God and the people of Israel at Shavuot, but also because of the fearful period of Roman persecution in the first half of the second century. In medieval Christian communities, the Omer period became a time when Jews feared attacks because of the "teaching of contempt" linked to Easter.

In the 20th century, the period between Pesach and Shavuot became associated with contemporary trauma. Holocaust remembrance (Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah) and the sacrifices to create and defend the State of Israel, marked on Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), added new layers of angst. Thankfully, these 50 days also include the celebration of Lag b'Omer and, in contemporary times, of Israel Independence Day.

The Omer period remains a time of anxiety and anticipation. ■

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl is senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Toronto.

Rabbi Catharine Clark

In our siddur, the sages refer to Shavuot as *Zman Matan Torahteinu*, "the time of the giving of our Torah." However, Parshat Emor describes Shavuot as falling 50 days after Passover and as the time when an offering of new grain is brought before the Lord. It never uses the term the sages give to the holiday.

In a strong statement that Judaism is a rabbinic, rather than a biblical, religion, a number of commentaries ask how the Torah could omit such an important rabbinic concept from its decree about the holiday.

Abarbanel, the 15th-century scholar and statesman, answers that the giving of the Torah is not the basis of the festival, because Shavuot was not given by God in remembrance of this event. Rather, according to Abarbanel, the basis of Shavuot is the beginning of the wheat harvest. Just as Parshat Emor says, Shavuot is an agricultural holiday.

Nechama Leibowitz, the 20th-century Israeli scholar, is harsh in her dismissal of Abarbanel's interpretation. According to her, those who consider Shavuot an agricultural holiday are pagans who elevate materialist indulgence above the spiritual concerns of the Torah. To her, Shavuot is important because it is when we entered into a covenantal relationship with God.

Our better approach is to celebrate Shavuot as a combination of Parshat Emor and the sages, and to view the holiday from a position in between that of Abarbanel and Leibowitz.

We are human. Therefore, we eat, and the agricultural cycle deserves our grateful attention. We are human, formed in God's image. Therefore, food is not enough, and we must celebrate the great gift of Torah that God has given us. The physical and spiritual are the paired foundations of our joy on Shavuot. ■

Rabbi Catharine Clark is the spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom, a Conservative synagogue in London, Ont.

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

Forest Hill

REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village 416 488 2875 • Central 416 785 1500
Bayview 416 226 1987 • Yorkville 416 975 5588
Signature 416 929 4343 • Downtown 416 363 3473
Yonge St. 905 709 1800 • Vaughan 905 695 6195
Muskoka 1 855 665 1200

OPPORTUNITY & LOCATION @ WOODBINE & DANFORTH!
40 Ft lot! 2 Mins walk to TTC, 5 mins to DVP, 15 mins walk to the beach! This 40 x 126 ft home w/ income opportunity! 5 + Bdrms, 5 bath, 2 kitchen. Gillian Goode* 416-785-1500

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE – DOUGLAS AVENUE $2,138,000
Beautiful custom 4+ bdrm, 5 bths. Fine finishes thru out, family rm on main, hrdwd in principal rms, large eat-in kit with w/o to zen like garden. Double garage. A must see. Brenda Westbrook* 416-488-2875

STRATHEARN RD / CEDARVALE $2,695,000
Reno'd exec 4+bdrm centre hall, mn flr features living rm with fplc, dining rm o'looking lush grn, gourmet kit + brkfast area. Hrdwd on main flr, lwr levl rec/games rm, beautiful grdn + paved patio. Demand neighbourhood. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

BRACONDALE HILL
Dramatic family rom, office/[illegible]m, 3 graciously sized, 3brs, magazine quality baths + laundry rm and 3rd flr showcases incredible mstr + office + splendid views, excavated lwr lvl nanny's ste, rec rm + storage. Dble garage. Escaped grdn. Marianne Miles** 416-488-2875

EXCEPTIONAL CEDARVALE HOME $1,849,000
Totally reno'd through out, 3+bdrms, 3 bths, large principal rms, stunning kit with o'sized island, top of the line appls, powdr rm on main, mud rm entrance, warm inviting family family home close to shops, subway, restaurant. Julie Golfman* 416-488-2875

FABULOUS 4+2 BDRM ON CUL DE SAC BACKS ONTO PARK $1,499,000
In high demand neighbourhood, large eat-in kitchen, w/out to garden, large lr, formal dr, near synagogues, schools, transit. Marilyn Merrick* and Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

RESIDENCES OF PROMENADE PARK $998,000
Elegant and spacious, 2+1 bdrm, 2 bth condo, beautifully finished, parking & locker, concierge, indoor pool, fitness room. Brenda Westbrook* 416-488-2875

STUNNING CUSTOM RENO – JUST COMPLETED $549,000
Sunfilled 2 bdrm in classic boutique Forest Hill low rise. Open concept new kit s/s appls, new ins laundry, pot lights, plank firs, spa style shower, undrgrnd parking. Right in Forest Hill. Valerie Lennox* 416-488-2875

902-310 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$3,670/Mo! Spectacular 2Br, 2Bth North/West Corner Suite W/ Panoramic Views! Fab Fi[illegible] Entertaining! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

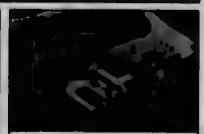
34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
Seldom Available! Your Choice Of Several Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,375-$1,450 Plus Parking+Utilities! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spacious N/St Clair! Brand New Condo Style Complex W/Incredible Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,870! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

386 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,225-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FAB 2 BED, 2 BTH CONDO. HEART OF FOREST HILL $4,400/MO.
Bright & spacious, s/s appls, colums, mouldings, master w/l closet, b/l in 2nd over 1500 ft, pool, gym, security 24hrs. Linda Reitzpple* 416-488-2875

***Broker of Record **Broker * Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com



A Magnificent Custom Built mansion in Kleinburg on 1.5 acres lot backing to raven. Over 12,000 sq ft. of living space. Grand foyer with 30 Foot ceiling, 6 bedrooms, 10 washrooms. Master bedroom with separate his and hers ensuite, 3 wood burning fireplaces, 4 indoor garages and plenty of outdoor parking, multiple terraces. 20x40 in-ground heated swimming pool + a cabana. A must see property for $4,188,888

IRIS GLESINGER
D. 647-436-1888 E: Iris@19@gmail.com
Forest Hill Signature Real Estate Inc - Brokerage
Tel: 416-929-4343 Fax: 416-449-1884
www.foresthillsignature.com

3636 BATHURST ST.

LARGE 1 & 2 Bedroom Suites. Large rooms, eat in kitchen, some with 2 bathrooms, lots of closet space, large balcony, central air conditioning, freshly painted and refinished floors. Ceramic tiles. Parking available.

Call: 416-931-2206 or 416-663-8662 for appoint.
Email: rentals@pinedaleprop.com
Web: pinedaleprop.com

Hallandale, Hemisphere Ocean North. 1 bdrm/1 1/2 bath, large balcony. Amazing ocean front & view. High 200,000's. Please call: 514-998-2655.

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

To Howard Rosen, sorry I punched you at Runnymede Public School in the early 1950's. Tom Caldwell.

Looking for Tibor Kleinman & Alex Frank. Pls. call: Arlene @ 216-544-7926.

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Sutton

Joan Kallmeyer
Sales Representative
Sutton Group Associates Realty Inc., Brokerage
Office: 416 966-0300
Direct: 416 274-1170

21 Dale Ave. Suite 844
This stunningly renovated suite is over 2600 sq ft and is a rare find on South Rosedale. It boasts 3 bdrms plus a library with fireplace and 3 balconies offering expansive views south, east and west. 21 Dale is very well loved for it 5.5 acres of exquisite gardens and an indoor and outdoor salt pools nestled into the ravine. 2 Minutes to the subway. **Offered at $1,795,000.**

Conservatory, 343 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry. indoor pkg., immed. 905-881-8380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS
Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For info/tours 647-786-4867 www.TwoNeptune.ca

3 bdrm townhouse @ Taboo Resort available July 2016. Call: 416-733-0411 ext. 23

CJN CLASSIFIED
- REAL ESTATE Sale/Rent/Lease/ Vacation Properties
- HOME IMPROVEMENT Furniture/Movers
- DOMESTIC HELP Health Care/Daycare
- ARTICLES Wanted/Sale
- AUTOMOTIVE
- CAREERS
- CLASSES/TUTORING
- PERSONAL
- AND MORE... IT WORKS!

416-391-1836

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER:

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

[redacted]

Professional house & apt. carpet cleaning w/over 20yrs exp. & offer affordable prices. Call: Wilson @ 416-806-0637

[redacted]

A-1 Handyman. Specializes in kitchen repairs & refacing & new kits., fin. bsmts., & elec. & plumbing, etc. Call 647-533-2735

[redacted]

cafe sheli
Catering • Restaurant
Online Catering
www.cafesheli.com
7700 Bathurst St. Thornhill
Promenade Village Shops
905 762 0640
www.cafesheli.com

[redacted]

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.8144

[redacted]

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905-738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! Insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

[redacted]

Trio electrical services. Specializing in knob & tube removal, & all your electrical needs. For free estimate call Brian 647-282 3380

[redacted]

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. Roman - 416-716-9084

[redacted]

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1363.

[redacted]

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglung, Custom, reas. 416-630-6487.

Mercantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

[redacted]

BATHURST CONCRETE AND REPAIR. Concrete stairs & veranda, Garage floors, Sidewalks, Wet basements, Brick, Tuck-pointing, Flagstone repair, Small jobs. Reas. 32 yrs. exp. Lic. NO HST. Joe, 416-461-6868.

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000

UPDATE, PAINT AND SELL YOUR HOUSE. ALL USING
CJN CLASSIFIED ADS
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 416 391-1836

European delicacies inspired Chimney Stax.

Mobile bakery turns its sights on bricks-and-mortar site

DAVID SILVERBERG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

When he was a teenager, Zach Fiksel could have never predicted his hours helping his mom bake challah for Shabbat dinner would be the prelude to his full-time career at age 35: being co-owner of the food truck Chimney Stax, where he sells hand-rolled, rotisserie-baked bread.

For two years, Fiksel and his business partner Matt Lindzon, 30, have been driving around Toronto with a truck chock full of savoury and sweet chimney cakes, a dessert made popular hundreds of years ago in Prague, Hungary and Romania.

Now, Lindzon and Fiksel are enjoying a profitable business that has inspired them to create their first bricks-and-mortar site, at Dufferin Street and Steeles Avenue in North York, to act as a company headquarters.

"We want a scalable business and didn't want to live and die in that truck," says Lindzon in a joint interview with Fiksel in a downtown restaurant.

"We're excited for this summer," adds Fiksel, "because now we're getting recognized and people are saying 'Oh yeah it's you guys!'"

If you frequent downtown Toronto concerts or events, chances are you'll spot their truck and that smell of fresh baked bread. They'll be selling their "stax" at the Good Food and Wine Festival April 23 and 24, at the Field Trip Music Festival June 3 and 4, and at Molson Amphitheatre concerts such as the Dave Matthews Band on July 19.

What makes their product unique is how simple it is, while also being fun to eat. Baked and never fried, the dough is rolled around in various ingredients, depending if the treat is savoury or sweet. The cheesy garlic bread option is often quite popular, as well as sandwich-type stax filled with meat and vegetables. Fiksel notes future stax will include high-quality ingredients such as brisket, and they also plan to launch braided challah stax in September.

Why are stax fun? You can peel off the dough like you're unraveling a spiral, chowing down on strand after strand.

"What sets us apart is we don't go overboard with ingredients," notes Lindzon. "We're not making a 15-ingredient garlic aioli. We like to keep it simple."

Lindzon and Fiksel became friends in Ryerson University's business program and quickly began to work on school projects together. When Lindzon travelled to Austria on business, he spotted a booth making chimney cakes and sent Fiksel a WhatsApp message at midnight, Toronto time.

It simply read: "We are doing this!"

Chimney Stax was quickly born, with the duo opting to go the food truck route instead of launching a physical site in early 2014.

"With Toronto's growing love of food trucks, getting in the market with a truck was a great way to launch this at various events and a good way to scale into an industry," Lindzon says.

It also made strategic sense: they had to prove their concept was going to win over Torontonians, and investing in a restaurant would be too risky. Educating foodies about these chimney cakes was an essential first step, and something that could be done easily with a food truck parked at dozens of arts and food-related events.

They have brought their truck to many concerts and sites such as the Christmas Market at the Distillery District, where they caught attention of Michele Henry of the *Toronto Star* and received some impressive media attention.

The pair say their skills complement each other, which helps them organize their schedules efficiently. Fiksel manages the operations side of Chimney Stax, such as running the hands-on management of the truck and the customer outreach. Lindzon applies his finance management background to the business, and is in charge of finding new opportunities.

Working together has enlightened both of them on their own entrepreneurial spirits.

"What I learned about myself is that I work better with a partner," says Fiksel. "And we're both great problem solvers, so when an issue comes up, we see them as challenges, not hindrances."

The truck has an aggressive summer schedule ahead, says Lindzon, and "I know we can pull it off, because we have faith in each other. And accountability is self-motivating." ■

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 19, 2016

Geoffrey Clarfield: on Israel and the 'family of moral issues'

LILA BARICK
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Geoffrey Clarfield is executive director of Mozuud, a Canadian non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of Israel, and a host of other social justice issues, including opposing female genital mutilation, the slaughter of African elephants for ivory, and the persecution of the Yazidi people, a minority religion in Iraq.

Clarfield, 62, spent 16 years in east Africa working in international development before returning a decade ago to his hometown of Toronto.

What does Mozuud mean ?

Mozuud is Urdu, which is the literary language of contemporary Pakistan, and means "to be accounted for, to be present."

We wanted to choose a name from the multi-ethnic fabric of Canada. It's a kind of call to self-examination and if that works and people go to our website and get attracted to the campaigns and petitions that we invite them to join, all the better.

How did Mozuud start?

It started officially just a year ago, but it had a 10-year gestation. Ten years ago, when the official institutions of Canada were somewhat anti-Israel, a number of people in the Jewish community felt that we weren't organized effectively to promote Israel, and it was felt that especially after the Holocaust, there will never be enough Jews to defend the State of Israel in the back-and-forth of politics and democratic debate, so there was a need to establish alliances, and it was felt that it was a reasonable thing to conceive of Israel as one of a number of threatened democracies.

So a number of people got together and formed the Canadian Coalition for Democracies, which would lobby in favour of Israel, Taiwan, South Korea, India, and not only threatened democracies, but threatened people around the world.

The CCD dissolved because it succeeded beyond its wildest expectations. They unconsciously felt that things were going so well that some of the verve and some of the focus was lost.

About five years ago, I felt that just writing in the papers here and in the United States and England was not enough, and Irving Weisdorf, a founder of CCD, showed up and started planning Mozuud. He felt it would be similar to the CCD, but much more 21st century and much more website-based, much more petition-based and reaching out to various interest groups, because in the digital age, not everyone supports all the campaigns, and individuals are a configuration of moral commitments.

Geoffrey Clarfield, executive director of Mozuud

> *We've done an enormous amount of lobbying at the government level with the previous government*

So Mozuud is designed with that in mind, to have a very strong central pro-Israel content, but also to relate to those issues that are morally similar to Israel, and the most outstanding are the Yazidi, which is a major campaign we're involved with.

Does Mozuud have a political stance?

No, we're much more issue-based. We feel that whoever is pro-democracy and pro-human rights is going to be pro-Israel, and so we're looking for those people. We're not in support of any particular party.

How many members do you have?

It's a digital world. We have a reach of 8,000 people through our website, email blasts and Twitter.

What are the organization's goals?

We hope to provide an organization that allows not just Canadians, but people from around the world to recognize that there's a configuration of moral issues. Israel's at the centre of it, because after the Holocaust, it's still disproportionately threatened, but it has allies, and there are other countries and peoples in similar situations.

We're trying to grow the organization so that it becomes an umbrella for people with overlapping and complementary moral outlooks who can act in a certain way. Very often people will see a certain issue, they'll write a letter to their MP, they'll have a house meeting, they'll find a charity to donate some money, and then it stops.

We're a kind of incubator for 21st-century moral activists.

What are you currently doing?

The website is central. We have petitions and campaigns and we get people to sign them and write to various authorities. We're very concerned with the Yazidis. The similarity between the way the Yazidis are being treated and the way the Jews of the Middle East, specifically the Jews of Iraq, were treated historically, is just stunning. Very early on, we came to the attention of the Yazidi human rights organizations and they came to us and said, "What can we do together?"

We've done an enormous amount of lobbying at the government level with the previous government. We've tried to find out who the players are in Yazidi human rights. We're also helping Yazidis to bring their families to Canada. Thousands of Yazidis are in refugee camps in places like Turkey and Jordan, and if they experience the persecution of jihadis when they were on the run and being chased by ISIS and enslaved and raped and killed, they're not treated very well in the camps, either, because they're often run by people who are sympathetic to radical Islam.

We're trying to get some immigration equality here. The government has decided to almost solely focus on Syrian refugees. We know from inside the refugee organizations that 99.9 per cent of the people coming from Syria are Sunni Muslim Arabs. And that's not to say they haven't suffered in this terrible civil war, but the people who have suffered equally, if not more, are the minorities.

The reason why the government has closed down on Iraqi refugees and opened the spigot on Syria is un-transparent and unfathomable.

What if people support some of the causes Mozuud represents, but not its position on Israel?

We believe these are a configuration of moral issues that are related, but that doesn't mean they are identical. You choose the issue or the range of issues. If you agree with us all the way, that's great. If you agree with us some of the way, that's great.

With regards to our position about Israel, it's really about international law. Israel has rights to all land west of the Jordan River. That does not mean that Israel, when it is negotiating final status, has to keep all land west of the Jordan, but if the general public, Jewish and not Jewish, is not sufficiently aware that Israel has rights there and they are there by right and not might, then we are contributing to the big lie. It's historically and legally informed, and it's an absolutely essential piece of truth that we, and many of the organizations we work with, feel has to go out there because we feel that it will contribute to a just and lasting solution in the region.

What is the unifying thread to the causes you support?

Many of the campaigns that we have adopted or support are morally related to Judeo-Christian ethics on a number of levels.

For example, there's a passage in the Bible that says something like God gave humans the reign over animals. Animal activists might argue about what that means, but I think it means responsible stewardship. Something like the ivory trade, which is perhaps going to destroy the existence of the elephant itself, also causes enormous violence to the villagers who live near elephants. I know this from my personal experience in Africa.

Unfortunately, Al-Shabaab, an Islamist group in Somalia, is deriving 40 per cent of its funding by poaching elephants and creating havoc and terror in the Horn of Africa.

How does your Jewish background inform the work that you do?

It goes back to the Judeo-Christian ethic. The international development and NGO movement and far too many charities are powerfully influenced by Marxism, and Marxism has a powerful anti-Israel subtext to it. I feel that in doing this work, I'm fulfilling not only the Judeo-Christian ethic, but we're also showing responsibility to a variety of international issues that should not be monopolized in any way by any specific ideology. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

Toronto's fleet-footed Jewish maiden

Backstory

ALLAN LEVINE

Recently, the Bank of Canada announced its list of 12 distinguished Canadian women, one of whom will be immortalized on a new series of bank notes. Predictably, the list includes Nellie McClung, who battled for women's voting rights, artist Emily Carr, and Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author of *Anne of Green Gables*. Among the long shots – and the only Jewish woman to make the cut – is Fanny "Bobbie" Rosenfeld, one of Canada's greatest woman athletes.

Rosenfeld, who died in 1969 at the age of 66, would have relished the challenge of the contest. An all-around athlete, she excelled at track and field, ice hockey, basketball, softball and tennis. Her most celebrated achievement was at the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam, as one of the "Matchless Six," the six Canadian women who competed for the first time in track and field events. She won a gold medal as a member of the 400-metre relay team, a silver medal for the "disputed" 100-metre sprint, which she in fact likely won, and placed fifth in the 800-metre race and allowed an injured teammate to finish ahead of her in what was considered at the time a magnanimous act of sportsmanship. A *Globe* sports reporter called her "Toronto's fleet-footed Jewish maiden."

She held many Canadian sports records and in 1950 was named Canada's outstanding female athlete of the first-half of the 20th century. By then, she had been writing a popular sports column for the *Globe and Mail* for many years.

Rosenfeld was born in February 1904 in a town in the Pale of Settlement. Her parents, Max and Sarah, brought her and her two-year old brother, Maurice, to Canada in late 1905. Max's elder brother lived in Barrie, Ont., so that's where the family ended up.

Max and Sarah had named her Fanny. But after she "bobbed" her hair as a young woman – more out of practicality for sports purposes than as a fashion statement – she was dubbed "Bobbie." Her skills and talent as an athlete were evident by the time she was in Grade 9. "Wiry, strong and quick," as her biographer Anne Dublin describes her, Rosenfeld started winning track and field competitions in junior high school and never looked back.

> *Rosenfeld helped to pave the way for the emergence of the modern woman of sport.*

The family relocated to Toronto in 1922, where she quickly became a sports star at Harbord Collegiate, the YMCA and later at the YMHA on Brunswick Avenue. In those days, as Dublin also notes, young women, who wanted to compete in sports were compelled to wear long skirts or bloomers. Not Bobbie, however. Causing controversy, she wore her brother's baggy shorts and a T-shirt or jersey. "What was a gal to do?" Rosenfeld wrote in a January 1940 column on the subject of her attire. "With unflagging effort we tried all over town to purchase raiment in accordance with what the best-dressed sprinter was wearing, so that we could discard our modesty-preserving pup-tent bloomers, spinnaker middy and hip-length stockings. But girl athletes were as yet in the neophyte stage and sporting goods houses proved an absolute blank... so we had to improvise our new and less blush-saving garments."

Fiercely competitive, she rarely backed down from a sports competition or a challenge. One obstacle, however she could not overcome was arthritis, which afflicted her for the first time in 1929, when she was only 25 years old. Ultimately forced to retire as an athlete in 1933, she reinvented herself as a sports columnist. In her writing, she rarely missed an opportunity to advocate for women and minorities in amateur and professional sports.

Bobbie Rosenfeld Park was established by the city of Toronto in 1991 in an area between Rogers Centre and the CN Tower. In a 2013 academic article about her life and career, University of Windsor historians Christina Burr and Carol A. Reader assert that in the larger perspective, "through her displays of outstanding athleticism and techniques of appearing, Rosenfeld helped to pave the way for the emergence of the modern woman of sport in interwar Canada – a representation of womanhood that was hugely contested at the time." ■

Historian Allan Levine's most recent book is Toronto: Biography of a City.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Marianne Gondor	Apr 30/16	1100 Eagle Ridge Drive
Doris Miller	Apr 30/16	800 Sheppard Ave., West
Dr. James (Jimmy) Bursie	Apr 30/16	431 Glengrove Avenue
Dr. Henry (Herschel) Mel	Apr 21/16	
Lawrence "Laurie" Richma	May 3/16	88 Promenade Circle
Sybil Litman	May 3/16	623 Briar Hill Avenue
Ruth Polly	May 3/16	5035 Bathurst Street
Samuel Lyon Leviator	May 2/16	300 Centennial Drive
Ava J. Stone	May 3/16	208 Merton Street
Marlene Obayon	May 5/16	12 Rockford Road
Ruth Cait	May 4/16	645 Castlefield Avenue
Emile Attar	May 4/16	97 Mill Street
Hinda Kolman	May 4/16	85 Skymark Drive
Beth Lynn Klein	May 2/16	485 Glencairn Ave.
Jennie Podatt	May 5/16	100 Canyon Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Segal, Chaim Harry	May 5, 2016	662 Sheppard Ave
Lebowitz, David Jeffrey	May 5, 2016	74 Dana Cres
Reiser, Moishe	May 6, 2016	9700 Bathurst St
Berger, Leonard	May 6, 2016	7071 Bayview Ave
Mirels, Morris	May 6, 2016	7905 Bayview Ave
Buckman, David Elliot	May 7, 2016	34 Tomlin Cres
Monson, Michael	May 7, 2016	134 Overbrook Place
Jacobs, Nolan	May 7, 2016	755 Steeles Ave W
Hazan, Rachel	May 9, 2016	3500 Bathurst St
Benchimol, Rica	May 10, 2016	Private
Long, Clarice	May 10, 2016	7 Towangate Dr

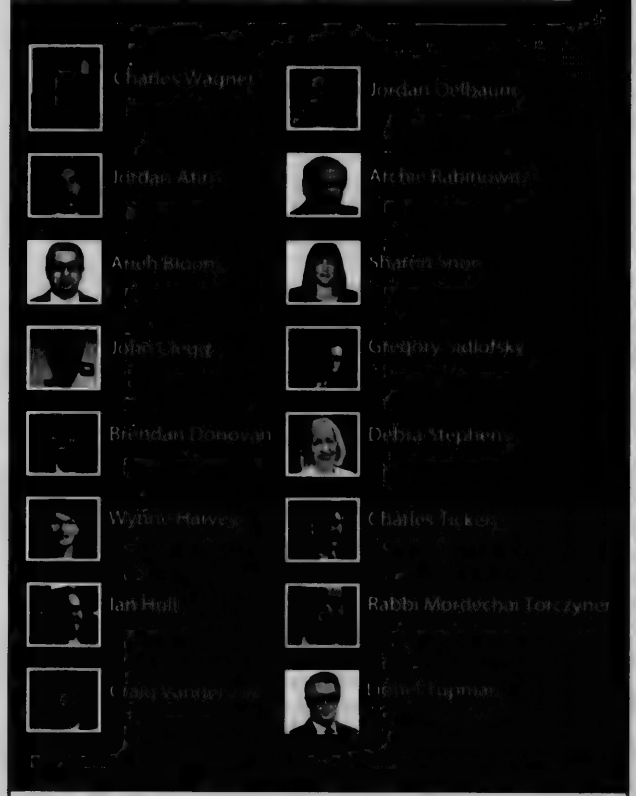
The unveiling of a monument in the memory of
ABIE and EVA ASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29, at 12:30 pm
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park (BLMP)
6033 Bathurst St., Toronto | Warsaw Lodzer-Section 46
Relatives and friends are invited to attend
A light lunch will be held in the BLMP Reception Room

The unveiling of a monument in the memory of
RITA KUGLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 22, 2016
at 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

CLE for Lawyers & Accountants
Estate Disputes & Prenuptial Agreements

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

PRESENTERS



Sponsored By: B'nai Brith Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, Dentons, Hull & Hull LLP, Wagner Sidlofsky LLP and Whaley Estate Litigation

HULL & HULL LLP Barristers and Solicitors "Trust Experience"

Scotiabank

B'NAI BRITH CANADA

大成 DENTONS

WHALEY

WS WAGNERSIDLOFSKY LLP

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue • 470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto

Entitlement to Support despite Prenuptial Agreement

CLE Seminar

Charles Wagner
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP
Chair, Trusts & Estates

Most people would be surprised to find out that the best prenuptial agreement in the world will not stop the surviving spouse from successfully suing the estate for support. In the upcoming B'nai Brith Estates and Trusts CLE seminar, lawyers and accountants will review this issue in a moot court setting.

Charles Ticker
Charles B. Ticker Law O-ffice

When wealthy people marry, their lawyers often advise them to ensure that their fiancé signs a prenuptial agreement. The goal is to protect the wealthy person's family in case, the marriage breaks up and/or the wealthy spouse dies. So, if the couple each hire good lawyers and the prenuptial contract clearly spells out their agreement, is that 'pre-nup' still open to challenge? Maybe. Let's look at the law.

Under the Succession Law Reform Act, a prenuptial agreement is only one factor the court has to take into consideration when deciding if the estate should pay support to a surviving spouse. The legislation specifically provides that the court has the discretion to ignore the agreement.

Brendan Donovan
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP

When a couple sign a prenuptial agreement and the surviving spouse feels she wants to sue the estate, lawyers ask a lot of questions which include: (1) does the prenuptial agreement provide adequate support; (2) if not, does the obligation to support your spouse under the Family Law Act and common law get cancelled by the domestic contract? One case that dealt with this issue was the Butts Estate v. Butts case ("Butts"). In Butts Estate v Butts, despite the fact that there was a contract where both parties fully understood the terms of their agreement, the court decided that the support provided was insufficient and increased support payments to be paid by the estate to the separated wife by $1,000 per month.

Wynn Harvey
Touchpointe Strategies, Inc.

There are a number of other factors a court takes into account when determining the quantum of support. Part of the moot court will demonstrate how the surviving spouse might argue his or her case. Charles Ticker of Charles B. Ticker law office will be the lawyer for the surviving spouse examining Wynn Harvey of Touchpointe Strategies, Inc. Brendan Donovan of Wagner Sidlofsky LLP will be conducting the cross-examination. As an economist, Wynn has prepared a report on the case factoring in the surviving spouse's health, age and ability to support himself to arrive at a figure of what he will need to accommodate his lifestyle for the rest of his life. Attendees will learn what factors the courts take into account in these circumstances and how astute counsel conduct examinations in chief and cross-examinations.

The event will take place on June 21, 2016, at Shaarei Shomayim-Synagogue at 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6N 1V8, and is open to lawyers and accountants. Please contact Elyse Gruenspan at B'nai Brith Canada at (416) 633-6224 or email at egruenspan@bnaibrith.ca.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

CJN

MAY 26, 2016 • IYAR 18, 5776

$2.00 • 40 PAGES • WWW.CJNEWS.COM

Downtown Toronto's Finest Boutique Hotel
The GRAND HOTEL TORONTO
Reservations 1-877-32-GRAND
www.grandhotelstoronto.com
aeroplan

Inside

Kathleen Wynne reflects on weeklong Mideast visit

The CJN goes one-on-one with the Ontario premier about her trip to Israel. PAGE 22

Jewish Music Week has something for everyone

No matter what genre you're into, you'll find it at the sixth annual festival. PAGES 25, 26, 27

Today

[illegible]	8:20 p.m.	9:44 p.m.
[illegible]	8:13 p.m.	9:39 p.m.
[illegible]	8:21 p.m.	9:37 p.m.
[illegible]	8:30 p.m.	9:49 p.m.
[illegible]	8:08 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
[illegible]	8:28 p.m.	10:47 p.m.
[illegible]	8:48 p.m.	10:30 p.m.

Weighing the politics of social justice

What role does partisanship play when it comes to finding a link between Jewish tradition and our universal moral calling? PAGE 8

Ontario anti-BDS bill defeated in vote

Accusations fly after effort to boycott the boycotters fails at Queen's Park. PAGE 17

It's never too late to say you're sorry

A unique apology helps one man face up to his past. PAGE 12

PLUS: *Mea culpa* goes viral PAGE 6

Rachel Frenkel says she's no hero

Q&A: Mother of murdered Israeli teen drew strength from Jews around the world. PAGE 38

6 27843 39403 7

RSC ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL BEGINS JULY 5 ticketmaster.com

Rabbis make hoops wager, and terror suspect gets house arrest

A friendly bet on Raps-Cavs

There's more at stake than just a trip to the NBA finals in the playoff series between the Toronto Raptors and LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers: two Conservative rabbis are making things interesting with a friendly wager. Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Rabbi Stephen Weiss, of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation and Cleveland's B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, respectively, are betting either a bottle "of the finest Canadian Club" if the Cavs win or a selection of fine brews from Great Lakes Brewery if the Raps win. "Rabbi Weiss and I are friendly rivals for this series," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said. "The bet is mostly just for fun. Also, our supply of quality schnapps for Shabbat kiddush is running low," said Rabbi Weiss.

Shul bombing trial continues

A Lebanon-born former lecturer at two Ottawa universities who was extradited to France in 2014 to stand trial for killing four people in a 1980 Paris synagogue bombing was released to house arrest. In his ruling this month, a high court magistrate who reviews incarceration appeals cited "doubt on the fundamental question" of whether Hassan Diab was in Frarice when a bomb went off on Oct. 3, 1980, outside a synagogue on Copernic Street. The trial is ongoing and the prosecution intends to appeal Diab's release. Diab fought his extradition from Canada for six years. French authorities allege he was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and took part in the bombing. Diab, a dual Lebanese and Canadian citizen, denies the allegations.

Cleveland's Kyrie Irving dunks in Game 1.

French comic performs via video link

Controversial French comedian Dieudonné had what he believes is the last laugh when he presented a virtual show in Montreal on May 16, almost a week after border agents at Trudeau Airport returned him to Paris, apparently because of his lengthy hate speech criminal record. About 700 people reportedly attended his live presentation by video link from France, held at a reception hall in St. Leonard, paying $50 to $60 per ticket. The show was to have run for 10 performances at a small art gallery, then tour to Quebec City and Trois-Rivières. ■

Gematria

5

The number of shuls that were broken into in the Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue area of Toronto from Feb. 11 to May 17. One man was arrested and two were at large last week. No valuables were taken, police said.

2

The number of buried nuclear bombs among five unknown metallic objects German pensioner Peter Lohr, 70, says he found using ground-penetrating radar to probe abandoned Nazi-built tunnels near the city of Chemnitz.

Quotable

66

That was the thing that troubled me...I know I punched him because he was Jewish.

— Thomas Caldwell, 72, on the guilt he felt about hitting Howard Rosen in Grade 2, prompting a classified ad apology. See p. 12.

Inside today's edition

RabbiZRabbi 4	Comment 10	Jewish Life 25	Parshah 36
Perspectives 7	News 12	What's New 32	Food 37
Cover Story 8	International 21	Married With Kids 34	Q&A 38

COVER PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK

Steeles Memorial Chapel

www.Steeles.org

At Steeles Memorial Chapel, we take pride in providing the Jewish community with a service that is sensitive, caring and helpful in your time of need. Our professional staff takes every detail into careful consideration.

For some, it is the relief and peace of mind knowing that their wishes are now recorded and will someday be honoured by their family. For others, it is to unburden loved ones of financial decisions at an emotional time.

For information on prearranged funeral services, please call us at

(905)881-6003

or visit

www.steeles.org

Serving the Jewish Community since 1927.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Be an educated consumer,
compare quality and price.
We do not pay any funeral home commissions
for their recommendations.
Our prices are therefore lower.
We will not be undersold!

Serving generations of families in Toronto's Jewish community for over 90 years

We are a family owned and operated with informed, impartial Monument specialists
in a no-pressure, non-commissioned sales environment.

3173 BATHURST ST.
(4 blocks north of Lawrence)
416-787-0319

www.izenberggoldberg.com

Do you have a Financial Plan?

It is difficult to reach your financial goals if you do not know what they are. Let us help you take the confusion out of planning for your **Financial Future.**

Call

Sonny Goldstein
Certified Financial Planner
416-221-0060
Highest Quotes on RRIFs, etc.

Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Letters to the Editor

A message from the Shoah

On our way to the death camps in Transnistria, I saw messages left behind on the walls of the empty Jewish houses with the following words, "We are being killed. If you survive, please tell the world what happened to us, say *Kaddish* for us and don't ever forget us."

When I read these messages at the age of 12, I took an oath that day that if I survived I would to the best of my ability fulfil their last wish. I believe that most of the survivors of the Holocaust carried within their hearts and minds the need to tell their stories but there was no one ready to listen. It took 20 or 30 years, starting with the *Diary of Anne Frank* and the books of Eli Wiesel, before the Holocaust story took on a life of its own. Personal testimonies, documentaries, Holocaust education centres, thousands upon thousands of books and the establishment of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem brought to the attention of the whole world to what really happened to the Jewish People. The loss of six million, including 1.5 million children, was forever recorded into the darkest chapters of human history, never to be erased.

No sooner was the truth brought to the attention of the world, then the deniers started to discredit the story of the Holocaust. But the evidence was everywhere. Auschwitz Birkenau, the gas chambers, the crematoriums, the hundreds of other concentration and death camps, the mass graves at Babi Yar are all a stark reminder of what really happened.

The survivors, the witnesses to this greatest tragedy in the history of the Jewish People, have fulfilled their duty to tell the world what really happened. But in time, all the survivors will be gone to their eternal resting places. Who will then speak for them? The legacy that they left behind will be inherited by their children, grandchildren and future generations who will protect this legacy and make sure the last wish by those who perished will be honoured and never forgotten.

Leizer Hoffer, past president of Transnistria Survivors Association

Responses to Schulich

An open letter to Seymour Schulich:

We, a group, of Hasbara Fellowships student leaders and recent alumni of York University, are writing in response to the story in *The CJN*, ("Jews should stop 'whining' about York U, benefactor says," May 12).

We acknowledge your generosity toward Israel. You have donated tens of millions of dollars to Israel, and invested in its economy. There is no doubt that you are a devoted Zionist and proud supporter of Israel. For that we are deeply grateful.

For us, students and recent graduates of York, and Hasbara Fellows, York has been home to a staggering amount of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda in recent years, from boycott, divestment and sanctions votes to hateful graffiti to incendiary speakers, and much more.

We know all this because we have experienced it first-hand. We know the challenges facing Jewish students at York, and we are offended by your comments that we leave our identity at the door and accept that the solution for defeating anti-Semitic propaganda is to minimize our Jewishness.

Not only do we find the comments offensive, but they are not a solution. Hiding our identities as Jews will not satisfy the demands of anti-Semites, as history attests well. We ask that you apologize for your comments and that you use your power and influence at York to ensure that this university becomes a safe and welcoming place for all its Jewish students.

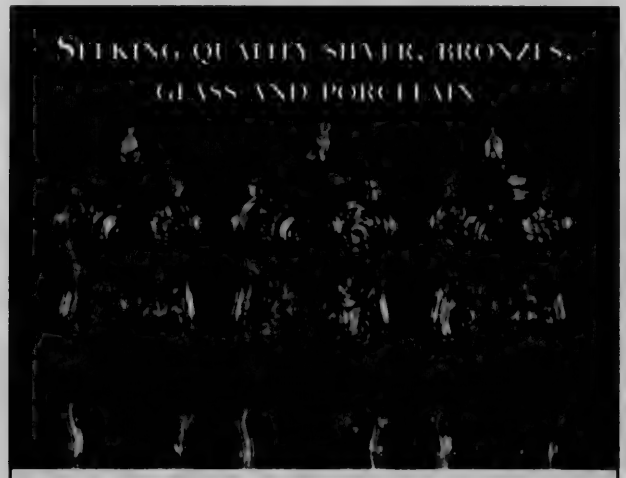
Robert Walker, national director, Hasbara Fellowships Canada
Ariella Daniels, campus advisor, Hasbara Fellowships Canada
Rona Silver, president, Hasbara at York
13 other signatories

How could we Jews have been so obtuse? Jews should just fit in, not stand out. Forget the Magen David around the neck, do not wear kippot or have hair with payot around the ears, and of course do not associate together in groups with other Jews. And I nearly forgot, do not take "arts courses" for a bachelor degree, as you will have too much free time to create problems that do not exist.

What else should we avoid? Do not make enough money to fund a school in a university with your Jewish name on it, since that only feeds the urban myth that Jews have all the money.

Murray Rubin
Toronto

Letters to the editor can be emailed to cjninfo@gmail.com. All letters must bear the sender's name, address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters.



AUCTION REALIZES THE BEST PRICES IN THE MARKET.

Please contact one of our specialists to learn more about selling through us.

Andrea Zeifman azeifman@ahwilkens.com

A.H. WILKENS
AUCTIONS & APPRAISALS

299 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1S7
416.360.7600 | info@ahwilkens.com
www.ahwilkens.com

ISRAEL

SUMMER DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM

(including taxes)
May 12 - June 19 2016/Sep 1-27 2016
Valid for specific dates only & subject to availability

COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES NEW ITINERARIES & LOWER PRICES

BEST FAMILY TOURS IN NORTH AMERICA

www.israelfamilytours.com

Family, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony Incl.
A True family itinerary • All inclusive
Deluxe Hotels • More days of sightseeing
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Child *FREE**
*Included in Family Rates, Excluding Air

Summer	Winter Break
July 03-14	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2017
July 24 - Aug. 04	March Break
Aug. 07-18	Mar. 09-20, 2017
Aug. 21 - Sep. 01	

Call Kathy 905.886.5610 ext. 345

ISRAEL PRIVATE TOURS
WE WILL BEAT ANY OFFER!! Don't pay more for less!!
Don't Be Tempted By a Guide - a One Man Operation
• We employ the Most Experienced Guides in Israel
• FREE - Exclusive $2,000,000 Liability Insurance
• TICO Insurance (Not available to a One Man Operation) • 24 hrs Emergency Service
• We do all the world We can design an exclusive itinerary with your budget and preferences!
• Preferred rooms in every hotel for less!!
WE KNOW ISRAEL BEST! 350 groups and private tours per year is our testimony

25th Anniversary PEERLESS YOUR TRAVEL COMPANY
UNIGLOBE Travel Partner Agency

NEW NUMBER
416.888.2828
905.886.5610
800.294.1663

www.peerlesstravel.com • www.peerlesstravel.com

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

A Non-Profit Organization

"We wanted to respect her values."

We needed a funeral that was economical. However, we didn't want to lose the Jewish traditions that were so important in our mother's life. Hebrew Basic Burial arranged a service that was fully observant. She would be proud knowing how we honoured her wishes.

3429 Bathurst Street, Toronto
416-780-0596
www.hebrewbasicburial.ca

RABBI 2 RABBI

Do Jews mourn too much?

Memorial customs are appropriate if they're commemorative, but we also need compelling reasons to teach Judaism that aren't about past losses

RABBI AVI FINEGOLD
FOUNDER, THE JEWISH LEARNING LAB, MONTREAL

RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM
BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION, TORONTO

Rabbi Scheim: The Talmud relates that following the destruction of the Second Temple, many Jews chose to deny themselves life's pleasures as a sign of their deep mourning. Rabbi Joshua chided them by saying: "Not to mourn is impossible… but to mourn too much is also impossible."

These words come to mind as I contemplate the heavy dose of mourning at this time of the Jewish year. Beginning with *Yizkor* on the last day of Pesach, continuing with the mourning traditions of sfirat haOmer, when weddings and celebrations are deferred, and including the contemporary additions of Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron, we find ourselves surrounded by sorrow. However, Lag b'Omer, now upon us, represents a respite from this mourning season – for some, marking its end, for others, just a one-day breach in the sea of sadness.

Don't get me wrong: I am not advocating the cancellation of any of these mourning traditions. But I am still troubled by Rabbi Joshua's warning. Do we, as Jews, mourn too much?

Rabbi Finegold: There seems to be a tightrope that we are asked to walk as educators today. On the one hand, "Never Forget" is a message we are supposed to tell the next generation as they mature, reminding them that soon there will be no more survivors who are first-hand witnesses to what happened in the Holocaust. On the other hand, the very same generation tells us they don't feel the narrative of Holocaust Judaism resonates and we need to find something more compelling to make Jewish life more attractive.

I do think we mourn too much as a community, and not because we have sfirat haOmer and Yom Hashoah and Tisha b'Av, but because we have turned those moments into reasons for being Jewish – as in, "Don't intermarry, we lost enough people in the Holocaust."

This is not a compelling reason, and I doubt it ever was. I think it would be fine and appropriate to keep every mourning custom we have, as long as they remain commemorations. But we should also be searching for compelling reasons to teach Judaism that have nothing to do with our past losses.

Creating a narrative of life, wisdom and love should be more than enough to overcome any sadness and loss.

Rabbi Scheim: In my congregational rabbinic work, much of my time is devoted to individualized mourning. Here, on the surface, the Jewish laws of mourning can seem intense and potentially overwhelming. But as you correctly suggest, the enduring narrative needs to be positive, centred in learning, in enjoyable religious practice and in a comforting spiritual environment.

Mourners who say *Kaddish* regularly find great comfort, friendship and support in the daily minyan. Even though sadness propelled them into the daily prayer ritual, over time, that sadness is transformed into a positive, optimistic, energetic involvement in Judaism that until then may have eluded the mourner, but now becomes the entrance-way to a new, revitalized, enthusiastic commitment to Jewish life and the Jewish future.

Rabbi Finegold: Imagine if the same thing happened with those who came to shul for *Yizkor* or for a Yom Hashoah commemoration. While not every *Kaddish* reciter continues to come to minyan after their year of *Kaddish*, many do, and we need to find out how they navigated that transition from sadness into joy and use those ideas to craft programs around *Yizkor* and the like.

A good place to start would be with those who have the custom to leave during *Yizkor* because they have living parents. The message currently being sent to them is that in times of communal mourning, you do not belong because you have nothing to be sad about. Maybe we could create a parallel program, however brief, that includes them in a different manner.

Imagine if after *Yizkor* we invite the next generations who have left the sanctuary to reflect on what the deceased meant to them and how they intend to do better in the world because of the example set by their grandparents and great-grandparents. This could open the eyes of the *Yizkor* reciters, as well as those that are silent during *Yizkor*, to have that new revitalized commitment to Judaism. ■

How to reach us

Vol. XLVI, No. 21 (2,247)*

HEAD OFFICE:
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Tel: 416-391-1836; Fax: 416-391-0949

Editorial e-mail: cjnedit@gmail.com
Advertising e-mail: adscjn@gmail.com **Website:** www.cjnews.com
Subscription inquiries: 416-932-5095
Toll Free: 1-866-849-0864 **Fax:** 416-932-2488
E-mail: cjncontact@gmail.com
Sales, National & Toronto Local: Canadian Primedia, 416-922-3605

Israeli Advertising Representative:
IMP, Tel: 02-625-2933, E-mail: info@impmedia.co.il

Circulation:
Total circulation: 31,304 copies
Total paid circulation: 23,529 copies
CCNA verified circulation:
March 29, 2016

Postmaster: Please return 2985 and changes of address to CJN, 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7
Postage Paid at Toronto Canada Post Publication Agreement #40010684
*Under current ownership

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Canadian Jewish News reserves the right to refuse advertising that in its opinion is misleading, in poor taste or incompatible with the advertising policies of the newspaper. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Canadian Jewish News. The CJN makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products in advertisements.

RIO CAN

Sunday May 29

with Israel

WALK RUN

runwithisrael.com

walkwithisrael.com

9:00 a.m.
Kick-off Party @ Coronation Park
Featuring Toronto native and Sheridan College graduate

Aaron Mackenzie

Shortly after his graduation from Toronto's Sheridan College in June 2007, the talented and animated Mackenzie was hired as a cast member with the Toronto company of Jersey Boys.

9:50 a.m. Run Start

10:00 a.m. Walk Start

12:00 p.m.
The Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival
at Ontario Place
Featuring Israeli Singing Sensation

Tal Vaknin

Currently one of the hottest acts in entertainment, Tal has performed on every stage in Israel and across the globe. His passionate and emotive singing style has resulted in a swelling fan base and is appreciated by listeners and musicians alike.

UJA's Walk and Run with Israel will take place rain or shine!

yogen früz

Renee & Irwin Nadal Festival

Jewish Heritage Month Ontario

Thanks to Circle of Care and Dignity Transportation, shuttle buses are available along the Walk Route.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints
Publisher and Proprietor: The Canadian Jewish News, a corporation without share capital. Head Office: 1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218, Concord Ont. L4K 2L7

President Elizabeth Wolfe

Chief Operating Officer Tara Feinstein **Editor** Yoni Goldstein

Managing Editor Joseph Serge **News Editor** Daniel Wolgelernter
Operations Manager Ella Burakowski **Art Director** Anahit Nahapetyan

Directors Steven Cummings, Ashira Gobrin, Ira Gluskin, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hartang, Igor Korenzvit, Howard Lichtman, Stanley Plotnick, Shoel Silver, Abby Brown Scheier, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Elizabeth Wolfe

Honorary Directors Donald Carr, Chairman Emeritus,
George A. Cohon, Leo Goldhar, Julia Koschitzky, Lionel Schipper, Ed Sonshine, Robert Vineberg, Rose Wolfe, Ruben Zimmerman

From the Archives | Lazy summer day

PHOTO COURTESY JERRY GRAY

Swimmers cool off at the Camp Naivelt swimming pool sometime in the early 1950s. At the time it was built, in 1946, it was one of the biggest pools in Ontario and is still in use as part of Eldorado Park, a part of the City of Brampton Parks & Forestry Department.

SeeJN | Lag b'Omer tradition

GERSHON ELINSON/FLASH90 PHOTO

Ophir, 8, prepares a wooden bow and arrow for the holiday of Lag b'Omer, which falls this year on May 26.

From Yoni's Desk

The time a CJN *ad taught Canada a valuable lesson*

It started with a tiny classified listing in the May 12 *CJN*: "To Howard Rosen," the three-line advertisement read, "sorry I punched you at Runnymede Public School in the early 1960s. Tom Caldwell."

Within days, one man's unique apology had gone viral.

The first outlet to pick up the story was *12:36*, a Toronto tabloid newsletter distributed daily by email, under the cheeky headline "New business model for newspaper classifieds." "The founder of Caldwell Securities could set off a new repentance trend with the ad he placed in *The Canadian Jewish News* to apologize for an elementary school incident dating back about 65 years," the story read.

Caldwell's *mea culpa* gained steam quickly. Soon after the *12:36* article, *BuzzFeed Canada* managed to get in touch with the Order of Canada recipient, who explained, "I didn't have any grand design here, it was just a little ad in a paper and if the guy happened to see it, fine… Maybe it's an encouragement for people who have been subjected to that [kind of treatment] at whatever age that sometimes people can change."

Some of *BuzzFeed's* mostly millennial commenters were suspicious of Caldwell's motivations, speculating that the ad was a clever ruse to drum up some publicity for his business properties. But one commenter offered a particularly bright – and wholly Canadian – assessment: "I sometimes get annoyed about Canadian stereotypes," she wrote, "but then I remember that time a guy took out an ad in a newspaper to say sorry about something that happened over 50 yrs ago. LOL Oooh Canada."

By the end of the week, the story of Caldwell's apology was being picked up by even more media outlets. Caldwell made an appearance on CBC Radio's *Metro Morning* in Toronto, and the public broadcaster later published a story online under the headline, "A man with regrets: Torontonian says sorry for anti-Semitic act in 1950s." According to the *Toronto Star's* version of story, "There was no reason for the punch, Caldwell admitted, though Rosen being a Jewish kid probably had something to do with it, which Caldwell said adds to his guilt now." *Le Journal de Montréal* opted for the headline, "Il s'excuse 65 ans plus tard pour un coup de poing." The news spread beyond Canada, too, with Minnesota Public Radio, the *Irish Sun* and *U.K. Mirror*, among others, getting in on the action.

One question still remained: where was Howard Rosen, and was he aware of his newfound fame?

As it turned out, he was.

"My niece was browsing through *The CJN*… and saw [the ad]," Rosen told *CJN* reporter Paul Lungen (for more, see page 12). And while he only had a hazy memory of being punched all those years ago, and seems to have had little trouble moving on after the event, – "It was one day in my life. Nothing out of the ordinary. There was a certain level of persecution in those days," he told Lungen – the retired teacher decided to call Caldwell.

They've now spoken several times, and even met face-to-face.

The moral of the story: it's never too late to say you're sorry. You never know who is going to be listening. ■ – YONI

ESSAY

Mozart, Casanova and a Jewish poet

Erol Araf

The Czech Museum's recent discovery of a long-lost Mozart composition on Lorenzo Da Ponte's poetry reignited my fascination with Mozart's Jewish librettist, whose "lines had both brilliance and flare," according to Mozart's biographer Marcia Davenport, "[and] struck themes from Wolfgang's imagination like hammers upon flint." This was a combination which gave us masterpieces like *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *Cosi Fan Tutte*: a partnership whose equal has yet to be surpassed.

Our story starts in a hot-punch tavern located on a cobblestone sleepy back alley buried in the immense shadows of Romanesque arches, Gothic ribbed vaults and triumphal Baroque towers ornamenting the ancient city of Prague in 1787. In the alehouse, three men dressed in breeches, powdered wigs, and tricorne hats, engrossed in a discussion, were putting the finishing touches to *Don Giovanni:* considered by many to be the greatest opera ever composed.

They were Giacomo Casanova, allegedly the greatest lover; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, indisputably the most sublime composer; and Da Ponte, a gifted poet. The opera's subject is universally seductive, the music surreal, the poetry redolent with pathos, and the story encompasses every emotion familiar to ordinary people ranging from fear to revenge; from lust to anger; and, from passion to tenderness. Little wonder that in a letter to Louise Colet, Gustave Flaubert declared Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, along with *Hamlet* and the sea, "the three finest things God ever made."

One suspects that such a perfect libretto could not have been written without the poet being intimately familiar with the subject. The Spanish film director Carlos Saura, in his fictionalized life of Da Ponte, *Io, Don Giovanni* , comes very close to the truth as he links his early life with the poetry of Mozart's masterpiece. But beyond Da Ponte's lifestyle, in the opera, we also see a canon of Jewish folklore come alive as in the finale when a huge marble statue is turned into flesh to exact vengeance on a murderer. Indeed, the oblique reference to the Yiddish legend of Der Golem was not lost on Czech audiences.

Born to religious Jewish parents in the Venetian ghetto, Da Ponte converted with his family and was baptized in 1763, just after death of his mother and before he reached bar mitzvah age. Although he became a priest, he entertained doubts about doctrinal and moral matters as he found his true spiritual vocation in temporal love. While priest of the church of San Luca, he took a mistress, with whom he had two children. At his 1779 trial, where he was charged with "public concubinage," it was also alleged that he had been living in and running a house of light virtues and gambling.

It was in such a milieu that he met his consigliere in all matters of amore, Casanova. After his expulsion from the Most Serene Republic of Venice, Da Ponte ran, with undiminished ardour, from scandal to scandal throughout Europe. In Dresden, he was caught having simultaneous affairs with his landlady and her daughters as he fell victim to "scheduling conflicts," reminiscent of opera buffa sitcoms. Finally, in Vienna with the help of the composer Salieri, he met Emperor Joseph II and subsequently Mozart, at the residence of Baron Wetzlar, a converted Jew, who supported the composer and wanted to help Da Ponte

Mozart (Lino Guanciale) and Lorenzo Da Ponte (Lorenzo Balducci) in a scene from *Io, Don Giovanni*.

whom he recognized as a member of the tribe. A renowned Philo-Semite, Mozart embraced his new talented friend. Mozart, had, after all, just like Michelangelo – who had magnificently concealed his love of Judaism in his Sistine Chapel painting – also criticized, obliquely, the anti- Semitism of his time, in his opera *Il Seraglio*, by depicting the hated Turk, Selim Pasha, as a compassionate man devoid of religious prejudices.

Having lost his position in court, Da Ponte wandered in Europe before landing on the shores of the New World. There, he became a wealthy merchant from Venice, a serious art collector, a sought after bookseller, a lecturer, a noted musicologue, an impresario and finally a devoted husband. Age has a way of taming the way of all flesh; he knew how to sublimate, his mentor Casanova did not.

As a noted Renaissance scholar, he introduced the works of Dante, Petrarch and Alfieri to thousands of students at Colombia College. As a philosopher historian, he continued to espouse the universal values of the French and American revolutions. As a poet of the Enlightenment, he promoted freedom of creativity in the arts. As a humanist, he fought prejudice and poverty by giving generously to many good causes in America. Finally, he staged *Don Giovanni*, in memory of his friend Mozart, in 1826, in a New York music hall that would eventually become the Metropolitan Opera.

To this day, we do not know where he is buried as his end is shrouded in mystery. However, we do know that he wore a golden Star of David and one can only speculate that he might have decided to return to the faith of his forefathers in the end secretly.

We also do not know where exactly Mozart's earthly remains rest in the Marxer Friedhof cemetery in Vienna, as mass paupers' graves were often disinterred and moved. The same goes for Casanova; his tomb no longer exists as a park was constructed out of the cemetery of St. Barbara's church just outside Castle Dux in Bohemia.

But it does not matter as their *Don Giovanni* will always remind us of Shelley's *The Triumph of Life*

".....a gentle trace
Of light diviner than the common sun
Sheds on the common earth, and all the place
Was filled with magic sounds woven into one
Oblivious melody..." ■

Erol Araf is a Montreal-based strategic planning consultant.

Happily
Celebrating
FAMILY
MIDTOWN TORONTO'S PREMIERE
RENTAL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
At the Dunfield, we have created an environment that is designed around fun and happiness. A place where you can enjoy exceptional surroundings, participate in exciting daily activities or take time to socialize with family in a relaxing, resort-inspired environment.
We invite you to experience our unique Un-Retirement lifestyle. Call us today to schedule a personal visit and enjoy a complimentary dining experience.
UN-RETIREMENT
the new attitude
Dunfield

Is social justice a partisan issue for Jews?

The merging of Jewish traditions with the moral callings of our times can be a struggle. And sometimes, politics gets in the way

LILA SARICK
lsarick@thecjn.ca

A new non-profit social advocacy group, that links elephant poaching, genocide of minority peoples in the Middle East and Africa, and a decidedly right-of-centre approach to the Palestinian-Israeli problem proves that when it comes to social justice these days, it's impossible to predict how political and religious alliances will line up.

Michael Diamond, a Toronto businessman and conservative commentator who is active in the Jewish community, is a supporter of the new group, called Mozuud, which is currently helping Yazidi families, an endangered religious minority group in Iraq, immigrate to Canada.

"You don't need to be uni-dimensional. I'm a very good example of that," says Diamond. "My view on the right to die is far more liberal than the government's, yet in the case of Israel, I don't believe we can implement a two-state solution."

After a divisive federal election campaign and in a time when partisan differences seem to be increasingly entrenched in the Jewish community, any assumption that denominations or individuals will align in predictable ways on social advocacy is problematic.

What is clear is that social action and advocacy are, for many, a key part of Jewish identity. The 2013 Pew survey of American Jews found that over half, 56 per cent of respondents, said "working for justice and equality is essential to what being Jewish means to them," ahead even of values like caring for Israel or being part of the Jewish community.

Rabbi Debra Landsberg, president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader at Temple Emanu-El, sees this attitude at her shul, where congregants range "from one end of the spectrum to the other" on how they vote in Canada or express their love for Israel.

"We are clear here that our Jewish commitments do not out of necessity align with political parties or even with particular political thinking," she says.

"I think the impulse to see it might be reflective of the highly partisan world in which we're living right now... but I think it's wrong."

SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTO

As an example, when Rabbi Landsberg's congregation wanted to sponsor a Syrian refugee family, she called her colleague at nearby Kehillat Shaarei Torah, an Orthodox shul, which ended up partnering in the project.

The Reform community has a long legacy of social action, and Temple Emanu-El is renowned for its own history of social activism, but Rabbi Landsberg says she made "a very conscious decision" to partner with an Orthodox shul on the Syrian issue, a cause both synagogues could support.

Rabbi Chaim Strauchler, who leads Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, a modern Orthodox synagogue in Toronto, says Judaism has always struggled to find the balance between particularism – caring for its own community – and universalism. Recently, however, as Orthodox Judaism has become more comfortable in the larger world, the movement has engaged in both social action and political activism.

"There's a social re-orientation in more traditional parts of the community, people are recognizing they can reach out."

He points to Canadian Orthodox Jewish leaders who have recently joined forces with the Catholic community in the national debate on physician-assisted death.

But even while Jews are often at the forefront of social activism, there are calls from both ends of the political spectrum for organized Judaism to do more in addressing the most challenging issues of our time.

Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, founder of the U.S-based Uri L'Tzedek, which he describes as the "first and only Orthodox social justice organization," says Orthodox Judaism has excelled in taking care of its own, but has traditionally shied away from engaging in larger political issues.

"Just as Orthodoxy has a lot to learn from liberal denominations on how to respond to moral imperatives of our time, liberal denominations have to learn from Orthodoxy how to deeply root social justice ideologically in Torah, intellectually and spiritually," he says in an interview.

Social action in the broader community sometimes competes in Jews' hearts and minds with advocacy for Israel. The rest of the world can worry about immigration reform or climate change, the thinking goes, but Jews need to focus on Israel.

Rabbi Yanklowitz dismisses this way of thinking as dangerous.

"If we were to only advocate for Israel, we would essentially make Judaism totally irrelevant," he says. "When we talk to officials, they should hear us advocating against genocide and poverty as much as they hear us advocating for Israel.

"On the other side, there are a lot of social justice activists who are not supporting Israel. It's our responsibility as Jews to support Israel's safety, but also to support Israel being as moral and upstanding as it can be."

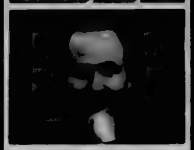
CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Allan Newman,
HBA, LLB, CIM
Greg Newman,
BComm, LLB, CIM
HELPING OUR CLIENTS
PRESERVE & GROW WEALTH
We are a team of committed, responsive investment professionals who put your financial goals first. After gaining a full understanding of your life goals, we build a customized investment strategy focused on consistent, long-term growth.
To find out more about our team and the services we offer, please visit our website:
www.NewmanGroup.ca
416-863-7750 / 800-387-0489
newmangroup@scotiamcleod.com
The Newman Group
ScotiaMcLeod*
* Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod
ScotiaMcLeod is a division of Scotia Capital Inc. ("SCI"). SCI is a member of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund.

Jewish Music Week in Toronto

A full week of musical events throughout the GTA, including these Gala Evening Concerts!

(ticket purchase required)

Sunday May 29	Monday May 30	Tuesday May 31	Wednesday June 1	Thursday June 2	Sunday June 5
					
THE TOAST OF BROADWAY Hugh's Room	**SHIRAT TIKVAH** Beth Tikvah	**MAISON MUSIC!** EFS	**A CAPPELLA POPS!** Glenn Gould Studio	**ISRAELI MUSIC TODAY** Lula Lounge	**MALACHEI MAMBO** Holy Blossom Temple

PLUS THESE EXCITING FREE DAYTIME EVENTS

MON MAY 30	TUES MAY 31	WED JUNE 1	THURS JUNE 2	FRI JUNE 3	SAT JUNE 4	SUN JUNE 5
JEWS & BLUES COLUMBUS CENTRE	PORTRAYAL OF JEWS IN OPERA LIPA GREEN BUILDING	CREATIVE PROCESS BAY/BLOOR INDIGO	FROM KITCHEN TO CARNEGIE HALL BARBARA FRUM LIBRARY	JEWISH MUSICAL COMEDY MUSIC GALLERY		
FLORY'S FLAME BAYCREST THEATRE	SOY SEFARDI BETEL CENTRE	ARBAH B'SHIR BARBERSHOP QUARTET PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTRE	PARSLEY SAGE 50 YEARS OF SIMON & GARFUNKEL [illegible]	AARON COPLAND PIANO MUSIC GALLERY	SATURDAY NIGHT MELAVEH MALKA & YOM YERUSHALAYIM COMMUNITY SINGALONG BETH TORAH	THE COOL KIDS CONCERT LEO BAECK
KLEZFACTOR TRIO BAYCREST TERRACE	JEWISH CUBAN MUSIC GARNET A WILLIAMS	YIDDISH JOURNEY THE REX HOTEL	REMEMBERING THEODORE BIKEL [illegible]	BARBARA FRENCH CABARET MUSIC GALLERY		PEEL ME A GRAPE JAZZ BISTRO

AND OUR RENOWNED JEWISH MUSIC WEEK STUDENT ART EXHIBIT!

www.jewishmusicweek.com 416-638-4492

CJN

Physician-assisted death heralds an unwelcome change

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka

It is almost a certainty that every religion will weigh in on the issue of physician- assisted death (PAD), if they haven't already. And why not? After all, what is a more important issue for religion than life and death? Pretty straightforward, it seems. But not really. As we wade deeper into these turbulent waters, the issue of any religion imposing its values on Canada becomes more contentious.

Personally, I agonize over this. On the one hand, I resist the urge to make any pronouncement on this or any other matter that would impose Jewish values on Canada. On the other hand, how can one remain silent on this critical matter? Is there room in between? Perhaps.

There are universal values shared by most religions that would be irresponsible not to share. These values, it can be argued, are not "right because God said them." Instead, God said them because they are right. This nuance makes a world of difference.

Classical Judaism has been very clear. In Jewish law, no one has the "right" to actively take their life. Suicide is seen as the murder of one's own self, a unique instance wherein perpetrator and victim are one and the same. At the same time, people retain the right to refuse treatment, a right that obviously is not encouraged, but is also not denied.

Parts of this general position do not coalesce with the Canadian consensus, if there is such a consensus. I am, therefore, sensitive not to suggest that Canadians embrace a Jewish position on this matter, even though I would not hesitate to convey to members of the Jewish community a principled opposition to suicide, and by extension, to PAD.

Yet I'm ready to share my concerns about this matter. I do so imbued with traditional Jewish values, deeply rooted religious values, but approaching it as a Canadian and addressing those of different faith persuasions, including those who are persuaded to the disbelief in God.

What is being contemplated in the proposed Bill C-14 runs diametrically contrary to the hallowed objective of physicians to save and enhance life. The implications on the psyche of physicians are enormous. With termination as part of the new medical vocabulary, medical practitioners will have their determination compromised. Naturally, patients will wonder whether their doctors are fully dedicated to their survival.

There are other concerns, including the impact this change could have on the behaviour of the general population. Will this engender a shift in attitude, from fighting through pain to taking the available escape?

Our country is filled with people who went through harrowing times, on the brink of giving up, who are today grateful they didn't take that step, a step from which there is no second chance. Again, this won't happen overnight, but the seeds will have been planted for a more resigned approach to life's challenges, leading to many missed fulfilments and true achievements.

Whether or not one believes in God, this shift is not a welcome change. It's not good for health care. It's not good for doctors and patients. It's not good for our approach to life. It's not good for strengthening our resolve to overcome challenges rather than giving up. Plain and simple, it's not good. Our understandable sensitivity to the suffering of others will come back to bite us.

Our reverence for life and our awe of its sanctity have defined us. The passion to save, the inexhaustible energy to treat, the infinite capacity to care to the last natural breath, these are not merely religious values. They are universal values, Canadian values. They are religiously imbued, but also stand on their own. These are values the right to which we deny at our peril. ■

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa and chair of the Trillium Gift of Life Network.

From admissions to recruitment: attracting the 'maybes'

Daniel Held

When you ask today's parents if they're going to enrol their children in Jewish programs, the resounding response is, "maybe." In a recent study of the Jewishly engaged of York Region, which garnered responses from 4,600 families, in every setting we explored – Jewish early childhood education, day and supplementary schools, day and overnight camps, and synagogues – when asked how likely they are to enrol their children, more respondents said "maybe" than "yes."

The response from the York Region study mirrors the findings of research conducted a year ago on the transition to high school. When we surveyed Toronto day school students in grades 7 and 8 and their parents about the factors weighing on their choice of high school, we noted a trend that the final decision of school was being pushed later and later into Grade 8 and that, increasingly, children shared the decision with their parents.

Couched in political terms, there are more and more undecided swing voters, still debating whether they will enrol their children in these powerful Jewish experiences or not. Whereas once a child's Jewish journey was somewhat prescribed, today, parents and children are undecided, waiting to be convinced of the extent to which they will engage in Jewish educational experiences.

Our community needs to draw a page from the politician's playbook and start campaigning for Jewish engagement. We need leaders who will wake up in the morning and go to sleep at night working to swing these undecideds our way. We need to pound the pavement.

The Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto is undergoing such a change. While the school historically ran an admissions department, mailing applications to middle school families and (very successfully) waiting for the forms to be returned, based on the findings of the transition study described above, the school is transforming its admissions department into a recruitment department, actively seeking out families and stewarding them towards enrolment.

The growth of the "maybes" points to the need for a new type of Jewish educational leader. In addition to being steeped in Jewish content knowledge and an expert pedagogue, today's successful Jewish educational leader must be an engager, a marketer and a community organizer capable of mobilizing others. The leadership of schools, camps, synagogues, and other Jewish organizations must concentrate not only on ensuring the highest quality (and affordability) of the programs they offer, but also on articulating the value proposition they offer to an increasingly discerning consumer and shouting it from the rooftops.

Centrally, we're working with organizations to hone these skills. For day schools we're collaborating with the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education and the Avi Chai Foundation to enrol schools in an 18-month fellowship program, Atideinu, designed to develop data driven recruitment strategies. For supplementary schools the first cohort of local professionals recently graduated from a recruitment and retention fellowship designed to develop and implement new tactics. We're working on similar professional development for camps, synagogues and others, each of which is being guided by comprehensive market research.

It's not enough, however, for the senior leaders of an organization to transform their own mindsets from admissions to recruitment. Rather, this mantra must reverberate throughout the organization to include teachers, students, parents, grandparents, donors, boards and others. Together we must all serve as ambassadors, turning maybes into yesses.

For decades, it was enough for educational institutions to focus on the quality of education, assured that there would be bums in seats and heads in beds. Today, in a market of maybes, we need pavement pounders, a new cadre of leaders who will focus on ensuring that we turn maybes into yesses, maximizing both the depth and breadth of impact of Jewish education on our community. ■

Theme of war underlies Yehuda Amichai's poetry

Jean M. Gerber

"Sword into plowshare, plowshare into sword..."

There is nothing like cleaning up for Passover. You find things that had long been lying in the bottom of that drawer you had not emptied, thinking that you would get to it soon. Thus it remained hidden until the urge to purge came upon you – that need to clean out all the chametz.

So in this process, I came upon a long-unopened folder of articles written ages ago for the *Canadian Jewish Chronicle*.

In it was an interview I was privileged to conduct with the late Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, a timely discovery, since this column appears in the issue for Lag b'Omer.

Actually it is not the Lag b'Omer celebration that I am thinking of, but rather the ugly, horrific, devastating and catastrophic war that the 33rd day of the Omer has as its backdrop: the Bar Kochba war, which ended so tragically at the last fortress of Betar.

Bar Kochba/Bar Kosiba: we have no information on his birth, early years, family, education – only on his leadership of the eponymous uprising. Obviously, he was a charismatic leader, since he raised an army of rebellion a mere 60 years or so after the debacle of 70 CE. What we usually remember about the war are stories of the 10 martyred rabbis, or his army's heroic last stand at Betar. These are stories crafted by wearied survivors of that time, including an account of the cessation of the plague that ravaged his army on Lag b'Omer.

Bar Kochba, despite his early successes, was no messiah. Rabbi Akiva's naming of him (his name was not Bar Kochba) as the messianic "son of a star" drew this reproof: "Akiva, grass will grow out of your cheeks before the Messiah comes."

And so it proved. Rome came down like the proverbial wolf on the fold and demolished Judea. Jerusalem, already half destroyed, was plowed under. Jews were sent fleeing north and west, leaving huge tracts of the land empty. It took several centuries for new towns to be built. The slave markets were over-subscribed with Jewish prisoners. Some ended up in the gladiatorial ring.

No doubt Bar Kochba's soldiers fought believing that they could evict the Romans from their beloved country, not realizing that they were living a dream – the Romans were living the reality. Bar Kochba became a symbol of two divergent trends: failed messianism, or heroic resistance.

For me, Lag b'Omer is a 24-hour period when we can catch our breath, and not a time for wild rejoicing. That said, I found the Lag b'Omer celebrations in Israel to be fun, with bonfires and kids' playtimes extended into the night.

Now back to the present and to poetry. It is no secret that Amichai was not a proponent of messianic expectations, or of the final efficacy of settling problems with war.

"People," he said, "always think their war will be the last."

A poem that he read the evening of our interview so long ago combined hope and reality. He told his audience that if there were any underlying themes to his poetry, they were wars – all the wars of many lifetimes of Jews – and the opposite to war, love.

Here is the version of the poem he offered:

The man under his fig tree
Telephoned the man under his vine
Tonight they definitely might come
Armour-plate the leaves
Secure the tree...
The white lamb said to the wolf
The human race bleeds
And my heart aches
No doubt there'll be close combat soon
At our next meeting we'll discuss it
All the nations – united
We'll stream into Jerusalem
To see if the law went forth from Zion
And meanwhile
Seeing it's now spring there
Pick flowers
And beat sword into plowshare
And plowshare into sword
Then back again and again without stopping
Maybe from so much beating and grinding
The iron of war will die out. ■

Iran deal spin central to controversy around Obama flack

Paul Michaels

Earlier this month a major controversy erupted, and continues to unfold, over David Samuels' lengthy article in the *New York Times Magazine* about Ben Rhodes, U.S. President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser.

In the May 8 print edition, under the title, "The storyteller and the president," Samuels profiled the 38-year-old Rhodes who, with a background as a fiction writer, worked his way up to become Obama's principal foreign policy adviser, speechwriter and communications strategist.

"Like Obama, Rhodes is a storyteller who uses a writer's tools to advance an agenda that is packaged as politics but is often quite personal... He is the master shaper and retailer of Obama's foreign-policy narratives at a time when the killer wave of social media has washed away the sand castles of the traditional press," writes Samuels.

No foreign policy issue has been more central to Obama's – and hence Rhodes' – agenda than the Iran nuclear deal, finalized last July after the 2014 interim deal, which were both preceded by (at first secret) talks between Washington and Tehran.

Samuels, who had Rhodes' co-operation, depicts Rhodes as disdainful of the journalists to whom he was "retailing" the deal. Rhodes' shockingly open derision, described by Samuels as Rhodes' "brutal contempt" for the media, has become one of the major controversies of the account.

After describing the immense media shift away from traditional to digital technologies and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, Samuels quotes Rhodes: "All these newspapers used to have foreign bureaus. Now they don't. They call us to explain what's happening in Moscow and Cairo. Most of the outlets are reporting on world events from Washington."

Rhodes continues: "The average reporter we talk to is 27 years old, and their only reporting experience consists of being around political campaigns. That's a sea change. They literally know nothing."

That last line in particular landed Rhodes in hot water with the Washington press corps, who felt insulted by the man responsible for, ostensibly, communicating the administration's position on key issues.

Even if there is an element of truth in what Rhodes claims, why insult them?

To be sure, some reporters uncritically cite what they're fed in White House briefings, but others have remained vigilant and skeptical, especially about the terms of the Iran deal and its background.

Yet Samuels agrees with Rhodes and his assistant, Ned Price that, as Samuels puts it, currently "the most effectively weaponized 140-character idea or quote will almost always carry the day, and it is very difficult for even good reporters to necessarily know where the spin is coming from or why."

So, the argument goes, the new technology, along with cutbacks in mainstream media, is making even "good journalists" dumb.

With respect to selling the Iran deal, Samuels relates that Rhodes deceived the (gullible) media by weaving a narrative according to which Obama began talks in 2013 after the "moderate" Iran president Hassan Rouhani was in charge against the "hardliners."

Nonetheless, as Samuels notes, negotiations actually began in secret in 2012 when the hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was still in power. Yet this is something numerous journalists knew and reported, disproving claims they'd been "spun" by Rhodes, as Samuels reports.

Samuels goes further regarding spin, claiming that "handpicked Beltway insiders like Jeffrey Goldberg of the *Atlantic* and Laura Rozen of *Al-Monitor* helped retail the administration's narrative."

Both Goldberg and Rozen have objected vigorously to Samuels' portrayal of them as administration stooges. In his *Atlantic* column, Goldberg laid out his objections in an exchange with Jake Silverstein, editor-in-chief of the *Times Magazine*. While conceding that Samuels should have contacted Goldberg for comment, Silverstein has stood behind Samuel's reporting, claiming – redundantly – that everything in Samuel's story is "true and accurate."

But just in case he's wrong, Silverstein assured Goldberg that he's decided to get a ruling from the *Times*' public editor – another development in this fascinating story. ■

Paul Michaels is CIJA's research director.

News

Former schoolmates reunite after apology ad goes viral

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

There are things from the past that Thomas Caldwell remembers as if they happened yesterday. Like the time back in Grade 2 that he spotted a Jewish kid in the school, Howard Rosen, sitting on a fence in the schoolyard and he decided to pop him one, just because.

Caldwell, 72, today a successful businessman, couldn't get over that schoolyard incident even after the passage of decades. And no wonder. On page 118 of his book, *The "Success" Dictionary*, he defines the word "past" with the following admonition: "Don't drag past hurts around with you like Jacob Marley's chains. Move forward from today, unburdened."

For 65 years, Caldwell had been dragging around that event from his past that most people would have long forgotten, but from which he has wanted to unburden himself. Back in Grade 2, the principal at Runnymede Public School called him into his office to give an account of what happened, and as a cheeky seven-year-old, his response was that his hand slipped.

Caldwell doesn't remember whether there were any further repercussions, but the incident bothered him over the years – like dragging around Jacob Marley's chains – and last week, after consulting with Jewish friends, he placed a classified ad in *The CJN* to try to make amends.

The ad read: "To Howard Rosen, sorry I punched you at Runnymede Public School in the early 1950's. Tom Caldwell."

The ad hit social media and quickly went viral, but Rosen said he learned about it through "the Jewish telegraph," the informal low-tech communications network in the Jewish community where one person simply tells another.

"My niece was browsing through *The CJN* that Friday and saw [the ad]," he said. "Word got around" and his family wanted to know, "Are you that Howard Rosen?" he said.

Since then, Rosen and Caldwell spoke several times on the phone, and last week, they met face to face.

"I knew he wanted to get in touch with me," Rosen said. "I thought it was good to talk to him."

"I'm glad I did it. It was like unfinished business," said Caldwell.

Today Caldwell is chair of Caldwell Financial, a diversified investment company. A past governor of the Toronto Stock Exchange, he was also named to the Order of Canada for his philanthropic endeavours.

He counts Jews among his business associates, charitable partners and friends. One of his charitable works was joining with several Jewish partners in funding Neshama Playground in Forest Hill's Oriole Park that is fully accessible.

Nevertheless, the incident from his youth stayed with him over the years. "I believe [Rosen's] name stuck in my mind because I felt badly about it at the time," he said.

Even in his business, Caldwell stresses acknowledging mistakes and moving on. "I tell portfolio managers there's nothing wrong with making mistakes. But clean it up. Don't remain wrong. Move on. It's the same in life."

Caldwell admits there were other things he did in his youth that he now regrets. As a kid, he used to take money from a local

Thomas Caldwell

Catholic church and spend it on movies and treats. As in the Rosen incident, his conscience bothered him about it, so a few years ago, he decided to make amends. He calculated how much he'd taken and added compound interest at 10 per cent. The sum amounted to thousands of dollars, but Caldwell cut a cheque and made a donation to the church.

Righting the wrong at Runnymede had been on his mind for years. He can't really recall why he hit Rosen. "I didn't grow up in an anti-Semitic world, but kids pick up stuff, like dust in the air.

"I didn't think I was anti-Semitic," he added, though he acknowledged there was anti-Jewish sentiment in the community at the time, and that was likely the underlying reason for the punch.

"That was the thing that troubled me. It was inside my head. I know I punched him because he was Jewish," Caldwell said. "I was thinking of the hurt it caused him and his parents."

But today, Rosen barely remembers the incident. "It's really hazy," he said. "It was one day in my life. Nothing out of the ordinary. There was a certain level of persecution in those days."

In fact, Rosen said, the incident with Caldwell takes a back seat to others involving an older boy at Runnymede, who tormented him by threatening to hurt him and chasing him around the schoolyard.

In that context, the Caldwell incident was, for him, forgettable. "I don't think I was as shocked by being hit. It was not out of the ordinary. There were people who would have liked to hit me every day."

Rosen recalls that the move to the west end neighbourhood near Runnymede PS was controversial – his mother, brother and sister weren't happy about it. But his father, who was a successful grocer, owning a store at Bay and Davenport, wanted a nicer home. They moved into the west end from their old "humble area" around Bathurst and Harbord.

After the move, the family felt "isolated" in that new neighbourhood and soon moved out, Rosen recalled.

His experiences at Runnymede, along with the fact he was a hyperactive kid, played a role in him becoming a teacher, he said.

"I wanted to get into a profession where I could influence people's lives," he said.

Now retired, he worked as a teacher for 37 years, including in inner city schools, with a focus on special education.

Not surprisingly, Rosen found the attention brought on by the ad as coming out of the blue. But after a few pleasant chats with Caldwell, talking about their school days, he's open to developing the new relationship. As it happens, they live fairly close to each other.

"I look forward to meeting Tom," Rosen said before they met. "I love to explore." ■

JEWISH
FOUNDATION
of GREATER TORONTO

Philanthropy for a strong Jewish future

LIFE IS BUILT ON
STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Let us help connect your passion to
community needs.

To create your Jewish legacy call us today at
416.631.5703 or email **jewishfoundation@ujafed.org**
www.jewishfoundationtoronto.com

UJA FEDERATION 100 1917-2017
Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

SPONSORED BY:

CIDEL
FINANCIAL GROUP

I love the location and amenities. It's easy for me to get around and visit my friends.

SAUL SILVERSTEIN,
AT CHARTWELL SINCE 2015.

CHARTWELL.COM

CHARTWELL | CONSTANTIA retirement residence

784 Centre Street
Thornhill

Make us part of your story. 289-588-0974

Conditions may apply

Toronto rabbi new head of Conservative rabbinical group

RON CSILLAG
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Toronto's Rabbi Philip Scheim says one of the advantages he brings to being the new president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the umbrella group for Conservative rabbis, is that he's not American.

As the first Canadian ever to head the 1,700-member, New York-based RA, Rabbi Scheim says his nationality will bolster his efforts to make the organization more international in scope and reach.

His being Canadian "accentuates the priority to strengthen ourselves as an international movement," Rabbi Scheim told *The CJN* in an interview. "Because a majority [of members] lived in the United States, there was a tendency over the years to be kind of American-centred."

The Conservative movement has developed a strong presence in Israel, South America and Europe, and Rabbi Scheim has made it a priority to go global.

"The fact that I'm not an American is helpful in that regard," he said.

Rabbi Scheim, spiritual leader of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue (known as Beth David) since 1984, was scheduled to be installed in his new post May 22 at an event in New York.

He "has emphasized the connection between his congregation and the State of Israel, and the importance of reflecting and exemplifying Canadian values in all of its congregants' endeavours," the RA said in a statement announcing his appointment.

Rabbi Scheim has been an officer of the RA for the past eight years and has served on its committee on Jewish law and standards. He's also a regular contributor to *The CJN*.

Founded in 1901, the RA has embraced change while adhering to tradition.

"It is precisely this traditional approach, which combines fidelity to inherited tradition and the courage to integrate necessary change, which motivates Conservative Judaism today," states the RA's website.

Conservative Judaism "insists on observance of tradition and respect for visionary change. [It] places its trust in its rabbis to be interpreters of Halachah and guides to Jewish life and learning. Each rabbi serves as halachic authority for his or her community, and our rabbis collectively give direction through the Rabbinical Assembly," the organization says.

The group encompasses both the Conservative movement in North America and its affiliated Masorti movement overseas.

Among Rabbi Scheim's priorities is to strengthen Conservative Judaism in Israel. He said the RA "is heavily involved" in Israeli policy on access to religious sites.

Rabbi Philip Scheim

Earlier this month, reports in Israel said leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements in North America are organizing a trip to tell Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in person of their strong opposition to any changes in the plan to build a new egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall.

A 2013 poll found 3.2 per cent of Israeli Jews self-identified as Conservative. Rabbi Scheim said there are about 75 Conservative congregations in the country, a seminary and some 200 rabbis.

Apart from the "major goal to strengthen ourselves as an international movement," another priority is strategic planning.

"We're really looking to increase our level of service to our members, and by extension, to our communities. Many [RA members] do not head synagogues, but do chaplaincy, academic and on-campus work," Rabbi Scheim said.

In the early 1990s, some Conservative rabbis bolted the RA and formed the Union for Traditional Judaism, a more right-leaning group. Rabbi Scheim said the hot-button issues that threatened to split the Conservative rabbinate have been settled. Among them was the role of women.

"We've moved past some of the really difficult issues of the last few decades," Rabbi Scheim said. "The movement is, by and large, egalitarian at this point, save for a few places in Canada [and] in Toronto that are not completely egalitarian. They have the right not to be, and I respect for them for that. We don't legislate. We are pluralistic. We represent and respect different approaches.

"The truth is, there are no major schisms at this point. I don't see a major split."

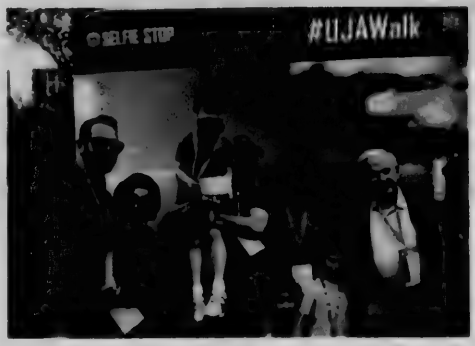
He said nearly all Conservative synagogues in the United States are fully egalitarian.

Rabbi Scheim conceded that his thinking on the subject took a long time to evolve. His own congregation is fully egalitarian, "which I would not have envisioned 25 years ago.

"Over a very gradual process in my own development, I've come to see that the argument used to deny women access to ritual was much weaker than the incentive to involve them and empower them. The results have proven that was the correct course, but it took me a long time to evolve. I pride myself on the fact that I'm willing to change a position on a certain key issue." ■

Man, 90, never misses a chance to Walk with Israel

CYNTHIA GASNER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN



Samuel Hershenhorn, pictured with his family, has taken part in the annual event for the past 45 years.

For the past 46 years, since the inception of Toronto's annual Walk with Israel, Samuel Hershenhorn has joined thousands of people of all ages to raise funds for the Jewish state.

Hershenhorn, who turned 90 on Feb. 25, plans to walk again in the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's event this year, on May 29.

"The annual fundraiser has become a family matter for me. My children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will walk with me to support this worthy cause."

He says that last year he raised $45,000, "and this year I hope to raise $60,000. Over the past 45 years, I have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Israel."

Hershenhorn has visited Israel 11 times and has also participated in fundraising walks in Israel.

He attributes his ability to participate to the fact that "I have been a relentless walker and I made good choices in my health care. I have a wonderful partner, Gert, who helped me explore my strengths."

Born in Tarnow, Poland, he left with his mother, two brothers and a sister in 1935 to join his father, who escaped the anti-Semitism there a few years earlier. His father had established a career as a tailor in Toronto.

When Hershenhorn was nine years old, he attended Orde Street Public School near the Kensington Market area where many Yiddish-speaking families settled in the 1930s. He was recently a member of the planning committee for an event celebrating the school's 100th anniversary.

After school, he sold newspapers and recalls that he would pay two cents wholesale for a paper and many people would give him a nickel and tell him to keep the change.

He went on to Harbord Collegiate, and after graduation, entered Central Technical School where he graduated as a draftsman.

In 1943, Hershenhorn joined the Air Force and became a radio operator. When he left the services, he joined his family in the women's fashion business. After almost 50 years, he retired from full-time work in 1994, and went to work at Tom's Place, where he continues to work at their large sales.

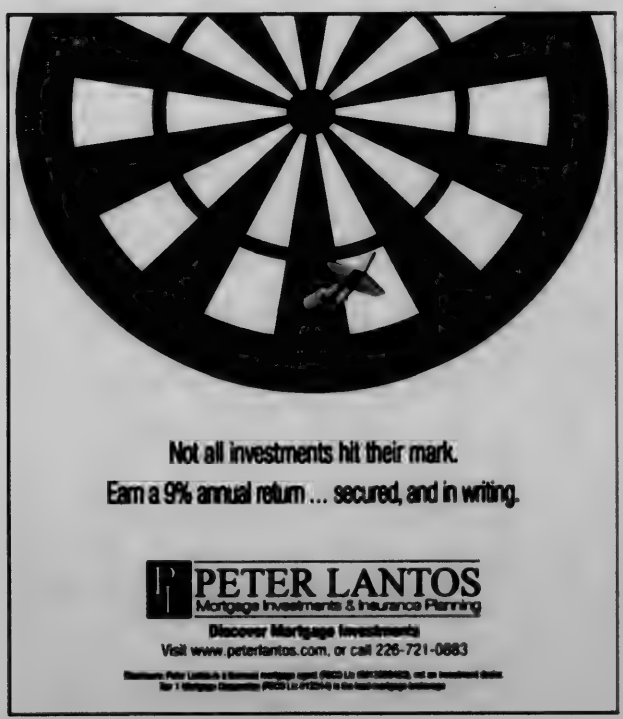
As a frequent visitor to Israel, he notes that this year's Toronto walk will be supporting projects in Sderot, Bat Yam and Eilat.

"I am looking forward to walking with thousands of Jewish people of all ages waving Israeli flags, and delighted that I am able to help my brethren in Israel. I am truly blessed and grateful to so many people who sponsor me every year, from small donations to thousands of dollars."

A true salesman in every way with a joie de vivre, Hershenhorn notes that he has established an online donation page inviting members of the community to donate to Team Hershenhorn.

He personally contacts each person who has supported him in the past. He adds that tax receipts will be issued by UJA for all donations. "And I will even pick up your donation." ■

To donate to the Hershenhorn team, contact samuelex@rogers.com or call 416-481-5988.


Not all investments hit their mark.
Earn a 9% annual return ... secured, and in writing.
PETER LANTOS
Mortgage Investments & Insurance Planning
Discover Mortgage Investments
Visit www.peterlantos.com, or call 226-721-0883

Parking in city lot next door

SAVE THE DATES

"Raw Colour"
First Toronto Art Exhibition by
J. W. Dimitry

Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2016

Coldstream Fine Art Gallery

80 Spadina Avenue, Suite 208, Toronto
Gallery hours: Fri 12-5 pm | Sat 12-4 pm | Sun 12-4 pm
Special VIP Showing: Sat evening 6:30-10:30 pm

All individual donations and all proceeds of the art sales will be donated to the Sick Kids Hospital Foundation

SickKids

For more information:
drjoel@rogers.com www.sickkidsfoundation.com

Miles Nadal JCC

WHERE SINAI MEETS SPADINA

SINAI SPADINA

COME FOR THE CHEESECAKE. STAY FOR THE LEARNING.

FREE AND ALL ARE WELCOME

The Downtown Tikkun Leil Shavuot is co-presented by these great community partners:

We gratefully acknowledge additional support from Nani and Austin Beutel, Brenlee Robinson, and Carole and Jay Sterling.

The MNJCC is committed to accessibility for people with disabilities. Please let us know in advance if you have any particular accommodation needs. Contact: inclusion@mnjcc.org; (416) 924-6211 x330

UJA Federation

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
Charitable # 140344243RR0001

Museum proposes to recall Jews of Radom

Curator Allan Fryman stands in front of artifacts to be included in the museum.
PAUL LUNGEN PHOTO

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

Allan Fryman is of an age when he starts worrying about future generations and whether they will appreciate the people who came before.

A member of Beth Radom Congregation's board of governors, Fryman, 68, has a plan to address that. He is hoping to create a small museum in the shul's lower lobby to recall not only the synagogue's storied history, but also the history of the Jews of Radom and their contributions to Jewish life.

Fryman, who serves as curator of the New Beth Radom Historical Society, has obtained an artist's conception of what the museum would look like. He envisions retaining a current glass-walled showcase featuring various artifacts and memorabilia related to the synagogue, but adding a wall-sized mural with a map of Radom, Poland, along with diagrams of immigration patterns and information about the city's Jewish population.

On the opposite wall, near the staircase, would be a big screen TV with a looping video presentation of Radom, along with more artifacts he is soliciting from Radom families, such as ledgers, photos, paperwork, letters, flyers and even landing papers.

"It would be like a time capsule with educational opportunities for the younger generation," Fryman said.

The Beth Radom synagogue was founded by emigres from that Polish city who departed the old country well before the Holocaust, he said.

Prior to the Holocaust, Radom, located near the larger city of Lodz, was home to an estimated 25,000 Jews. Some were fortunate to leave prior to onset of the war, but those who remained were killed either in the ghetto established in the town or in the death camp at Treblinka.

Currently the spiritual home for about 350 families, the synagogue got its start on Beverley Street in the mid-1920s. Fryman's immigrant grandfather, Isadore Green, was one of the founders.

Holocaust survivors who came to Toronto to set up their own shul, but later merged with the established Beth Radom Congregation.

Like other immigrants, Green went to work at a young age as a silversmith/metalworker.

At the time, Radomers created various societies to survive their community, among them the Radomer Friendly Society, the Radomer Mutual Benefit Society, the Radomer Aid Society and other Radom organizations, Fryman said.

Besides establishing communities in Toronto and Montreal, Radomers immigrated to the United States, Brazil, Australia and Israel.

Fryman's uncle, he pointed out, was on board the famed ship, Exodus, and ended up helping found a synagogue in Israel called B'nai Radom.

His uncle returned to Radom to find the community destroyed and even the cemeteries desecrated. The Nazis had taken the headstones and used them to pave aerodrome runways and roads. Thanks to an intervention with the Polish government, the headstones were retrieved and placed in a memorial in Radom to honour those who died, Fryman said.

Fryman has been in touch with Radomers around the world through social media sites and he hopes they will support the project, either financially or through the donation of memorabilia.

He estimates it will cost around $30,000 for the museum once completed, but "$10,000 would get me started."

Fryman believes only a handful of people know the history of the community and he would like to pass on the stories to new generations of people.

"The idea is for the younger generation to appreciate the older generation, keep their heritage and not stray too far," he said. ■

Anti-BDS bill defeated in vote at Queen's Park

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

A private member's bill that targeted the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel was defeated by a decisive 39-18 vote yesterday afternoon at Queen's Park.

Drafted by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies president and CEO Avi Benlolo, Liberal MPP Mike Colle and Conservative MPP Tim Hudak, "Standing Up Against Anti-Semitism in Ontario Act" identified the BDS movement as "one of the main vehicles for spreading anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of Israel globally and is increasingly promoted on university campuses in Ontario... leading to intimidation and violence on campuses."

Tories MPPs voted for the bill, while NDP MPPs voted against it, and Colle was its lone Liberal supporter.

When asked before the vote about the chances of the bill passing, Colle said, "I don't know. We'll see. I know the NDP are not supporting it, but we'll see what happens."

Thornhill MPP Gila Martow said she wasn't shocked the bill was defeated, but she was surprised the Liberals whipped the vote.

"It came from the higher-ups, ordering them to vote against it. They piled in. Almost everyone who wasn't on the Israel trip [with Premier Kathleen Wynne] was [in the legislature], which is very unusual for a Thursday afternoon... before a long weekend," Martow said.

"They weren't allowed to vote with their conscience, they were instructed. So while Kathleen Wynne is in Israel, her caucus is being instructed," she said, adding that when she looked at Colle, "he was fighting back tears."

"What a strong person to stand there while your entire caucus isn't supporting you."

Earlier this week in Israel, Wynne came out against BDS, but said Ontario must protect free speech. "The BDS position is certainly not mine, nor is it that of our government, and I entirely oppose the movement. In fact, I stand firmly against any position that promotes or encourages anti-Semitism in any way."

After the vote, Benlolo said in a statement he was "speechless by what he witnessed."

He said the Liberals showed up in large numbers to vote against the bill to send a strong message. "They could have given it a respectable defeat, let's say 21 to 18, but they wanted it to be decisive, and that's what's disconcerting about it," he told *The CJN*.

Although many of those who voted against the bill cited free speech, Benlolo said the bill intended to use the strategy of BDS supporters against them.

Liberal MPP Mike Colle

It called on the government to abstain from doing business with companies that support the BDS movement against Israel.

The act said provincial pension funds should divest themselves of investments in businesses that boycott Israel, and it also urged that colleges and universities be banned from supporting or participating in the BDS movement.

"It is a bill that is purely economic... It has nothing to do with free speech... It's really just about who you want to do business with. Do you want to do business with people who are anti-peace, or do you want to do business with people who are pro-Israel and allies of Israel?" Benlolo said.

Efforts to reach Colle after the vote were unsuccessful, but speaking to *The CJN* beforehand, he said he helped draft the bill to support his constituents.

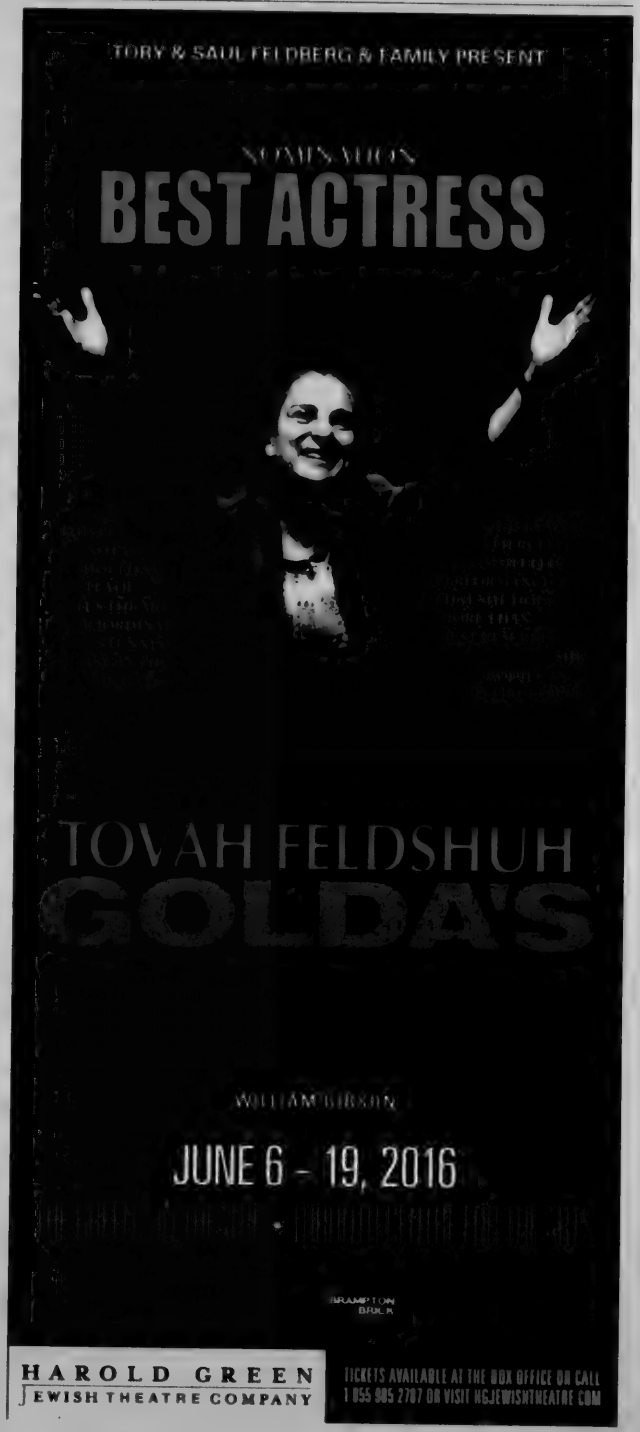
"I represent a constituency at Eglinton-Lawrence, which has the second-highest number of people of Jewish heritage in Ontario... and one of the largest Holocaust survivor communities... I'm very sensitive to anything that smacks of anti-Semitism and this whole so-called BDS movement is really a very insidious attack on Jewish people and the State of Israel," Colle said.

In a statement after the vote, Hudak said it's "discouraging for the many Ontarians who have felt threatened and discriminated against, whether it be on campuses or in doing business in this province, to accept that Ontario isn't willing to stand up for them... Sadly, too many legislators do not yet understand the growing threat and the underlying intolerance and hatred that is the true face of the BDS movement."

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East president Thomas Woodley said the bill "smears an entire movement of human rights activists by accusing them of anti-Semitism," and "is offensive in the way it attacks freedom of expression in Ontario, and the disinformation it creates about the BDS movement overall."

NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo declined to comment. Attempts to reach other NDP MPPs were unsuccessful. ■

For coverage of Premier Kathleen Wynne's Israel trip, see pages 21 and 22.



Court finds no copyright infringement in Holocaust book

PAUL LUNGEN
plungen@thecjn.ca

The Federal Court of Canada has ruled that a Holocaust book inspired by a documentary film and that relied heavily on facts revealed in the film did not infringe the filmmakers' copyright.

In a decision released May 10, Justice Keith Boswell ruled there is no copyright in the facts concerning the efforts by Polish-Catholic Franciszka Halamajowa to save three families of Jews from the Nazis. He rejected the filmmakers' assertion that the "small facts" contained in the documentary, which would not otherwise have been known, were plagiarized.

"Mrs. Halamajowa's story is not in and of itself covered by the applicants' [filmmakers'] copyright in the documentary," Boswell stated. "The factual details of her story are also not covered by the applicant's copyright. It is not the story that the applicants' copyright protects but, rather, the applicants' specific expression of it through the exercise of their skill and judgment."

"On a qualitative and holistic view, the book is not a mere imitation of or substantial taking from the documentary," Boswell ruled.

Boswell's decision dismissed a claim by filmmakers Judy Maltz, Barbara Bird and Richie Sherman, who produced and directed the 2009 film *No. 4 Street of Our Lady*. They had alleged that author Jennifer Witterick and her publisher, Penguin Books Canada, had infringed their copyright when they published the book *My Mother's Secret* in 2013.

The filmmakers alleged that the book copied the story they had told, which was based in large part on the diary of Moshe Maltz, Judy Maltz's grandfather. Moshe Maltz, along with other family members and a German deserter, had been hidden from the Nazis by Franciszka Halamajowa and her daughter, Helena in the town of Sokal, Poland.

"Ms. Maltz alleges that the book copies personal family stories as well as the structure and narrative devices of the documentary," Judge Boswell noted.

But Boswell stated that it is the expression of the story that can be subject to copyright, not the facts that underline the story.

"The material that is properly the subject of the applicants' copyright is their expression of Mrs. Halamajowa's story, not the story itself. It is difficult to see how [Maltz's] copyright has in fact been infringed at all by the book."

Jennifer Witterick speaks to teenagers in Scarborough about her book.

Witterick, a financial consultant, told *The CJN* her intentions in telling Halamajowa's story were always honourable.

"I believed right from the beginning that I'd done nothing wrong. I love underdog stories" – how people of various backgrounds can "perform feats of courage," she said.

"This story touched me in such a strong way, I felt compelled to share it," she added.

Only days after the judgment was released, Witterick presented her interpretation of the story to a "mixed community" of teenagers at a school in Scarborough.

"I was amazed at how enthusiastic and how warm the welcome was that I received from the kids," she said. "I think the message of courage and kindness is universal. No matter what is your background, you can identify with this [story]."

Witterick said the book has proven a resounding success. It has been printed in nine languages and has been distributed in Germany, Israel, Poland, Japan, Thailand and her native Taiwan.

She believes she has succeeded in telling a Holocaust story in an inspirational way and made it accessible to young readers.

"My intention in writing the book was always to spread goodwill... to share a story of courage, kindness and love, and encourage young people to see that's something to aspire to and share the story of what happened in the Holocaust," Witterick said.

Asked to comment on the case, Maltz replied, "We are studying the ruling." ■

Do You Have a Wise Wealth Plan?

The Wise Investment Group will work with you to build a customized wealth management strategy for sustained consistent long-term growth

Investments. Financial Planning. Wisdom.

Joshua M. Wise CFP
Director, Wealth Management
Senior Wealth Advisor
416.945.4861
joshua.wise@scotiawealth.com
www.thewiseinvestmentgroup.ca

THE WISE INVESTMENT GROUP

ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc.

Scotia Wealth Management

Maccabi Canada is looking for

Athletes

To represent Team Canada at the
20th Maccabiah Games
Israel - July 2017

The Maccabiah Games, an international sports competition, are held every four years in Israel. It is one of the top three gatherings of athletes in the world! In 2013 over 9,000 athletes proudly represented 78 countries.

Our main goal is to assemble top level Jewish athletic talent to compete in the Games.

For a complete list of sports, registration and tryout information, visit our website.

2017 MACCABIAH

www.maccabicanada.com
416.398.0515 x203

Billionaire gives $30 million to U of Manitoba med school

MYRON LOVE
PRAIRIES CORRESPONDENT, WINNIPEG

Dr. Maxwell Rady was one of the most prominent Jewish doctors of his era to practice in Manitoba, and now, thanks to a major donation by his son and daughter-in-law, Ernest and Evelyn Rady, his name is being officially linked with the University of Manitoba's faculty of medicine.

In honour of Ernest and Evelyn Rady's $30-million gift, the largest in the university's 139-year history, U of M's faculty of health sciences – which includes the colleges of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and rehabilitation sciences – will now be known as the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, and doctors will now graduate from the Max Rady College of Medicine.

In an emotional speech at the graduation ceremony for 106 new doctors on May 12, the 78-year-old San Diego-based billionaire philanthropist said: "In [the] spirit of wanting to make a difference – a big difference – I decided to make a gift to my alma mater, and specifically to the faculty of health sciences in honour of Max and Rose Rady. They taught me the values of hard work and giving back.

"The college of medicine is where my father got his start and allowed him to make a difference in the lives of so many people here in Manitoba, and the college is of particular significance to myself and my sisters."

Dr. Brian Postl, dean of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, called the donation transformative. "This gift raises the stature of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and will bolster teaching, learning, inter-professional collaboration and research in the health sciences for generations."

Maxwell Rady, born Avraham Radishkevic, immigrated to Manitoba from Russia in 1893, and changed his name when he arrived in Canada. He worked as the secretary at Talmud Torah School and put himself through medical school at U of M. He was one of the first Jewish doctors given admitting privileges at St. Boniface Hospital, which was founded by the Grey Nuns.

He married his wife, the former Rose Bronfman, in 1922. A dedicated volunteer, Rose Rady was the first Jewish woman in Winnipeg to participate actively at the highest leadership levels in non-Jewish causes.

Max and Rose Rady had three children,

Ernest Rady at the University of Manitoba's faculty of medicine 2016 convocation
DANIEL GWOZDZ/UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PHOTO

Ernest and his two older sisters, Marjorie Blankstein (a longtime community leader in her own right) and Mindel Olenick, both of whom still live in Winnipeg. All three are U of M graduates, as is Evelyn Rady.

Rose and Max Rady also have their name attached to the city's Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre in recognition of the substantial donation made by their children toward the construction of the Asper Jewish Community Campus, which opened in 1997.

Ernest Rady holds commerce and law degrees from U of M. He lives in San Diego, where he founded American Assets financial services and is a former part-owner of Major League Baseball's San Diego Padres. In 2006, the Rady family gave a $60-million donation to the Children's Hospital of San Diego, the largest children's hospital in California, which was subsequently renamed Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego.

Rady and his sisters previously gave U of M's college of medicine $900,000 to establish the Mindermar Professorship in Human Simulation in 2009.

The $30-million donation will be placed in an endowment fund within the university's ongoing $500-million Front and Centre capital campaign and will generate about $1.6 million each year for student financial aid, research, and equipment and capital upgrades. ■

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
JEWISH-LATIN FIESTA!
MAL'ACHEI MAMBO
Sunday, June 5, 2016
with
Cantor Gaston Bogomolni and Cantor Ari Litvak
under the musical direction of
Claudio Waisgluss
Holy Blossom Temple
1950 Bathurst Street
Adults - $40 / Students and Youth (18 and under) $20
For tickets, contact 416 789 3291, ext. 224
www.holyblossom.org

Is Israel advocacy crowding out other social concerns?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Benjamin Shinewald, former CEO of the defunct Canadian Jewish Congress, says the Jewish community is turning inward, with the notable exception of the widespread response to sponsoring Syrian refugees.

He places some of the blame on previous governments that politicized issues such as climate change, which he says should not be seen as either right- or left-wing issues. But much of the problem lies in the Jewish community's focus on Israel advocacy to the exclusion of other causes, he argues.

"Israel advocacy has never taken up so much space in the community agenda as it does now," crowding out other concerns such as poverty and fighting for human rights, he says.

Ultimately, the over-emphasis on Israel advocacy is alienating a generation of young people, he adds.

"Israel advocacy has a super-important place in our community, but how we go about it and how we harness resources for competing obligations as Jews is a discussion this community needs to have."

Earlier this year, Shinewald, and 40 other "authors, artists, human rights advocates, scholars, rabbis [and] Jewish communal professionals," signed an article in *The CJN* calling for just such a debate.

Social action and advocacy are, for many, a key part of Jewish identity. JODIE SHUPAC PHOTO

The response has been disappointing. "It was surprising to many in the community this did not spark a discussion," Shinewald says.

Shimon Fogel, who heads the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the community's pre-eminent voice on social and political issues, says the Jewish community is represented by CIJA on a wide range of initiatives.

CIJA is a "lead member of coalitions" dealing with genetic discrimination, physician-assisted death, immigration and refugee policy and aboriginal issues, among other concerns, he wrote in an email.

"We reject zero-sum propositions. Within our constituency, there are those who have a special interest in Israel-related issues, while others are driven by a concern for social policy issues. One basket of priorities is not pursued at the expense of the other."

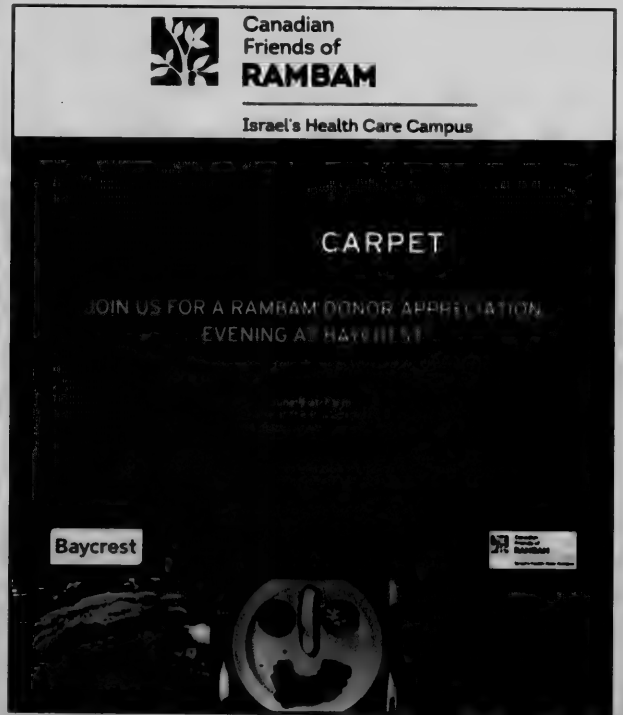
On issues that have no "unique or specific Jewish dimension," such as the environment, "there is a sense that in light of the many general organizations devoted to those issues, Jews can engage directly without a Jewish-specific conduit. But that does not make the issue any less important to the Jewish community," he wrote. In those cases, CIJA will often comment or join a coalition, but not as a "stand-alone initiative."

But there are those who argue that not only is it vital for Jewish institutions to be deeply involved in a wide variety of issues, it's also crucial for the future of the Judaism.

The success of the Jewish community will be determined, "by how well we can integrate our traditions with the moral callings of our time, how well can we integrate our Jewish particularness with our universalism," says Rabbi Yanklowitz.

"This is not only to suggest whether we can survive as a Diaspora people, but whether we're going to have truly something of value to add to the world during this critical period." ■

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE BAR/BAT MITZVAH EXPERIENCE
keeping the meaning in the mitzvah
MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED
MODERN KOSHER CATERING
BY MILLENNIUM CATERERS
BETH RADOM CONGREGATION
conservative . vibrant . egalitarian . inviting
18 Reiner Road Toronto tel: 416.636.3451 www.bethradom.com



INTERNATIONAL

Wynne speaks out against BDS during Israel trip

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visited Yad Vashem and the Kotel during weeklong trip to Israel and the West Bank. ONTARIO MINISTRY PHOTOS

JENNIFER TZIVIA MACLEOD
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, JERUSALEM

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne capped off her week-long business mission to Israel and the West Bank on May 20, which began with a visit to Haifa's Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

Wynne's mission, which comprised more than 150 people, was massive in both size and scope, and included more than 40 stops over the course of five days. According to the premier's office, it generated more than $87 million worth of business deals for Ontario in areas such as high-tech, education and medicine.

At an event in Tel Aviv early in the week, Wynne spoke out to reiterate her position on boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

"I entirely oppose the BDS movement. In fact, any position that promotes or encourages anti-Semitism in any way – we have to stand against that," she announced to enthusiastic applause.

However, back in Ontario, a private members' bill against BDS was defeated 39-18 at Queen's Park on May 19. Tory MPP Tim Hudak and Liberal MPP Mike Colle introduced the bill, with Hudak stating that the aims of BDS are "to sponsor the delegitimization of the state of Israel as well as to foster hatred and animosity against those of Jewish faith in support of Israel." The bill would have barred the province from doing business with companies supporting BDS.

Wynne said that while she supports free speech, "it's unacceptable for students, or parents, or children to feel unsafe or discriminated against. So I oppose movements that are attempting to divide our society and are attempting to promote anti-Semitism, homophobia, anti-Islamism, all of those -isms that create fear and hate in our communities."

During her visit, Wynne enjoyed unprecedented access, with highlights including extended personal meetings with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. She has previously led business missions to China, India and the United States, drumming up business for Ontario and promoting the province as a world leader in trade, on par with many smaller countries.

Wynne was accompanied on the trip by high-profile MPPs, including Minister of Innovation and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Reza Moridi and Minister of Health Eric Hoskins, as well as more than 130 representatives from Ontario's business, financial and educational sectors.

Moridi said, "We are here today, working as one team – a dream team, driving Ontario's future success."

Canadian Ambassador Vivian Bercovici said during the visit that Israelis "already know how fabulous Canadians are. We don't need to sell them on that... now we're going to get out there and tell everybody what a great place Ontario is to do business."

While many of the deals cemented during the trip took place between businesses, including dozens of new business agreements and partnerships in the science and technology and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors, and did not directly involve government, Wynne said she sees official representatives playing a facilitating role, noting, "It helps to have the government opening doors and allowing those connections to happen."

Other significant deals over the course of the week included a $50 million five-year deal between Ontario's Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine and six Israeli universities and research institutions, which will generate an estimated 150 new jobs in Ontario.

New and extended partnerships were also announced between medical institutions, including Toronto's Baycrest Health Sciences and University Health Network, along with numerous colleges and universities in Ontario and Israel, such as the University of Toronto, York University, McMaster University and OCAD University that will ensure two-way exchanges of students and innovation for years to come.

"Ontario is a place that is hungry to maintain its position... in terms of economic growth and being the economic engine that we are. We are in a very strong position... we need to keep that, and we can't be complacent. We need to be very intentional," Wynne said.

As well as stopping in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, Wynne's mission spent time in the West Bank, in Ramallah and Bethlehem, meeting with Abbas and signing deals with businesses, health-care institutions and universities there.

While in the West Bank, Wynne attended a scholarship ceremony for the Daughters for Life Foundation, which will provide opportunities for 21 young women to pursue post-secondary education at Palestinian universities and colleges. She attended a parallel ceremony in Jerusalem giving scholarships to 28 Israeli Arab and Jewish students to study in Israel.

The Daughters for Life Foundation was established in 2011 by Palestinian-Canadian doctor Izzeldin Abuelaish after the killing of three of his daughters by Israeli tank fire in the Gaza War of 2008/2009. Additional scholarship opportunities were announced that will bring West Bank students to study in Ontario.

Wynne also made stops at both the Western Wall and Yad Vashem, where she laid a wreath and noted in the guest book that, "It is only through love, tolerance and mutual respect that we can shine a light to keep the darkness at bay." ■

See The CJN's interview with Wynne on next page.

Israel trip means big business, premier tells *CJN*

JENNIFER TZIVIA MACLEOD
SPECIAL TO THE CJN, JERUSALEM

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne believes the outcomes of the busy week of meetings she has led between government officials and sectors including business, technology and health will convince naysayers about her mission to Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) this week.

"I couldn't disagree more with the notion that it's not worth making a trip like this," she said in an interview with *The CJN*.

Over the week, Wynne said, "we have signed agreements and memoranda of understanding worth about $182 million, [creating] 216 jobs. More than that, I would say that there is huge potential for us to do more together, whether it's in educational exchanges, whether it's research and development innovation.

"There were 44 deals that were signed... but the impact will go way beyond that."

Israel is a great connection for Ontario because there are so many cultural similarities, she believes. "We are both knowledge economies and we know that both jurisdictions see our people as our most important asset and resource. So if we're going to be able to compete globally, we have to make sure that our people are at their best.

Premier Kathleen Wynne met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during her trip to Israel. ONTARIO MINISTRY PHOTO

"I know that our business delegates have been very, very happy with the connections that they've made and have said that it was very much worth being here."

Deals have been inked between universities, business partnerships and organizations like IBM Canada and its Israeli counterpart, with TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries, which already has a presence in Ontario about possibilities for expansion, and Mississauga's Inflamax Research and Israel's AdOm Tech in the medical technology field.

While in Israel, Wynne said, she's seen "investment in people and their skills and abilities... which is exactly what we're trying to do," and she's developed a better understanding of the term "start-up nation," crediting Israel's success, in part, to the fact that the Office of the Chief Scientist, which signed deals with several Ontario entities, is autonomous and not part of the government.

Before her political career, Wynne had a close relationship with the Jewish community, at one point working as an educator helping train students and staff in conflict resolution at schools such as Toronto's United Synagogue Day School (now Robbins Hebrew Academy). She says Jewish schools were particularly open to her message.

"There was a real receptivity to that work in the Hebrew day schools exactly because there's the *derech eretz* portion of the curriculum... 'We have to figure out how to get along with each other, we have to figure out how to resolve problems and talk things out.'"

Addressing last week's failed private member's bill in the Ontario legislature to bar the province from deals with companies supporting boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS), Wynne reiterated her support of the Jewish community and her government's strong conviction that "any movement like the BDS movement that is based on anti-Semitism, that is based in division and promotes hatred, is just unacceptable."

She has been gratified at how warmly her delegation has been received throughout the trip, receiving an almost-unprecedented level of access for a regional, not national leader, including extended meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and PA President Mahmoud Abbas. "I hadn't necessarily expected that, overall, people would be as happy that we're here."

Asked if this reception was connected to the unequivocal support offered by former prime minister Stephen Harper during his 2014 visit, making Canada the darling of the Israeli media at the time, Wynne said positive relationships between the two nations go back many years. "We're part of that goodwill that has been in place for many decades.

"Prime minister Harper built on it in a particular way, but what I have said to all of the folks in political meetings I'm in is that I believe that Prime Minister (Justin) Trudeau is going to be able to do the same thing... to build on those decades of friendship."

Overall, Wynne said, "It's been an amazing trip...I am leaving with the sense that this is such a beautiful, complex place. I knew it... but now I have a visceral sense of that."■

We specialize in heating, cooling and saving.

Seasonal Rebate up to $1,700 + IESO Rebate up to $650

Total Savings up to $2,350

RECEIVE UP TO A $1,700 REBATE* with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

RECEIVE UP TO $650 IN IESO REBATES.

AM GROUP Heating & Cooling Ltd.
94 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill, ON
905-597-6033
1-855-597-6033
www.amgroupinc.com

OFFER EXPIRES 6/10/2016
*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from $250 to $1,700. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.
© 2016 Lennox Industries Inc.

FREE
Klez-fusion Concert

Saturday, May 28, 8 pm
Glendon Hall, Glendon College, York University
2275 Bayview Avenue near Lawrence

Josh Dolgin aka Socalled
Mixing Klezmer and hip-hop in a funky evening of Jewish rhythm

The Horables
Toronto's fabulous Klezmer quartet will get us up and dancing

Part of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations Conference, May 28–30, Glendon College

Presented by: United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO) and Morris Winchevsky School

For tickets and information, call the Winchevsky Centre 416-789-5502

Ya'alon steps down due to 'lack of trust' in Netanyahu

JTA
JERUSALEM

Following reports of his imminent replacement, Moshe Ya'alon resigned as Israel's defence minister citing distrust in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

His resignation – he is rumoured to be replaced with former foreign minister Avigdor Liberman (see analysis on next page) – came in a statement on May 20, when this edition went to press.

Ya'alon said it was due to Netanyahu's "conduct during recent developments and in light of lack of trust in him." He also said he was leaving politics.

Earlier last week, officials from Netanyahu's Likud party confirmed that talks were ongoing to have Ya'alon, a Likud member and former chief of staff, replaced with Liberman, leader of the right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu party. The talks involved bringing Yisrael Beiteinu into the coalition, a move which would have broadened the coalition's number of seats in the 120-seat Knesset from 61 to 67.

In a statement May 20, Netanyahu said: "I regret Bogie Ya'alon's decision," using Ya'alon's nickname. "I think he should have remained a full partner in the country's leadership."

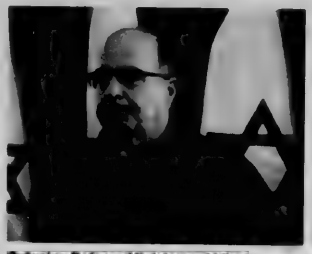
Netanyahu said Ya'alon was not asked to drop the position due to any "crisis in trust" but as part of a political deal designed "to being stability to Israel as it faces major challenges." He added he offered Ya'alon to become foreign minister, but that Ya'alon decided to resign instead.

Ya'alon's resignation follows discord between him and Netanyahu over policy issues, most recently on whether Israel Defence Forces officers should be permitted to express their personal opinions publicly. Netanyahu harshly condemned Deputy Chief of Staff Yair Golan's drawing of parallels between Nazi Germany and Israeli society during a Holocaust commemoration ceremony earlier this month.

"If there's something that frightens me about the memory of the Holocaust is the recognition of revolting processes that happened in Europe in general and in Germany in particular back then, 70, 80 and 90 years ago, and finding proof of their presence here, in our midst, in 2016," Golan said.

Ya'alon subsequently called on IDF officers to "continue to speak their mind."

Liberman's prospective appointment provoked fierce opposition from left-wing and centrist politicians.



Outgoing Defence Minister and Likud member, Moshe 'Bogie' Ya'alon, announced his resignation from the Knesset on May 20.
MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90 PHOTO

Yuval Diskin, a former head of the Israel Security Agency, or Shin Bet, wrote an op-ed that was published in *Yediot Acharonot* May 20 saying that Liberman's appointment may be the "beginning of the end" of the State of Israel because it would encourage Jewish fundamentalists and place the defence establishment under the control of "an insecure prime minister and an inexperienced defence minister." He said he would not trust them to use the army responsibly.

Diskin also revealed that Ya'alon disobeyed direct orders while serving as the head of the IDF Israeli Central Command in 1998, when Netanyahu was prime minister. Shin Bet was ordered to storm a building with two Hamas terrorists near Hebron. The IDF was ordered to keep away from the area to avoid escalation but Ya'alon sent troops anyway because he disagreed with the order, Diskin revealed.

Ya'alon and another senior officer told Diskin that "despite the decision of the defence minister and the chief of staff, they were sending the troops we required as backup. I was proud of their courage to take such a decision," Diskin wrote.

With Ya'alon walking away from his seat in the Knesset representing Likud, stepping in to replace him will be Yehuda Glick, a U.S. native who leads a group that advocates for wider Jewish access to the Temple Mount.

In October 2014 he was seriously wounded in an attempted assassination at the Menachem Begin Center in Jerusalem by a Palestinian gunman. As a guide, he also leads groups of Jewish tours to the Temple Mount to earn his livelihood. ■

ANALYSIS

Netanyahu embraces a politician who despises him

David Horovitz
JERUSALEM

The job of Israeli defence minister – in a country all too often drawn into conflict, in a country that requires its young men and women to serve in its army – holds immense significance and sensitivity. The burden of defending this country is complex and ever-shifting. The dilemmas – practical and moral – over how best to protect Israel are acute. The defence minister, helming a hierarchy potentially sending young Israelis to their deaths, carries an extraordinary degree of responsibility, second only to that of the prime minister.

Last Wednesday, May 18, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu entrusted that position, that burden, that responsibility, to Avigdor Liberman, a politician who has relished staking out non-sensitive positions. A politician who shoots from the lip.

A politician who, just weeks ago, chose to show solidarity with a soldier charged with manslaughter in the death of a disarmed Palestinian assailant – even as the army's leading generals were seeking to emphasize the imperative for soldiers to maintain Israel's guiding moral standards.

A politician who has called for the ouster of Mahmoud Abbas, even as Netanyahu has been trying to assure the international community of his desire to enter negotiations with the Palestinian Authority president.

A politician who, even as the last war against Hamas was at its height in the summer of 2014, and even as he sat in the intimate cabinet forum stewarding the Israeli military response, publicly castigated Netanyahu and his own government for its ostensibly inept conduct. Who after the war ridiculed the prime minister under whom he had served as paranoid and ineffectual. Who derided Netanyahu in an interview with this writer last year as being incapable of facing down Hamas, incapable of tackling the threat posed by Iran, incapable of defending the country.

A first question that must be asked, therefore, is: Why? Why is Netanyahu choosing to bring, to this most crucial and sensitive of positions, a man who plainly has no respect for him, cannot be trusted to support him in public, will alienate a not-insignificant proportion of international supporters of Israel, will exacerbate tensions in parts of the Arab world, and who will render at least some Israeli parents considerably more wary when the day comes for their children to be enlisted?

Avigdor Liberman leads a press conference in the Israeli parliament on May 18.
YONATAN SINDEL/FLASH90 PHOTO

> *This revived partnership would appear to be a recipe for renewed disappointment and grief.*

Why do so when the former defence minister Moshe Ya'alon, who announced his resignation on May 20, sees the complexities of the Palestinian conflict much as Netanyahu does, has shown no hesitation in confronting the international community when he believes it is misjudging Israel's challenges, is respected by the IDF's top command, stood side-by-side with Netanyahu to grapple with numerous rounds of conflict and surges in terrorism, and shares Netanyahu's demonstrable reluctance to get embroiled in lengthy military misadventures?

There are plenty of answers. But it is hard to see them as sufficient. For those who dislike Liberman and regard him as dangerous, of course, no answer would be sufficient. But even for Netanyahu, the calculation seems flawed.

First and foremost in Netanyahu's thinking is the fact that he holds a 61-strong coalition in the 120-seat Knesset, and that's a lousy way to have to govern. Whether or not he really would have preferred Isaac Herzog's dysfunctional party to join him, the fact is that the Zionist Union leader has little support from his own MKs, was driving a hard bargain, and is reviled by Netanyahu's right-wing constituency. Liberman, by contrast – in one of the reversals that are his hallmark – suddenly pronounced himself ready and available, to the delight of much of the rest of the current coalition.

Netanyahu thus widens his government, keeps his right flank happy, and humiliates Herzog.

And if he had come to regard Ya'alon as a potential political threat, as overly emphatic in his championing of the military ethos, as an irritating stickler, then sidelining the current defence minister constitutes an added bonus.

But that brings us to a second question: how is this bombshell appointment likely to pan out?

Domestically, in the short term, Netanyahu could conceivably feel rather pleased with himself. He may be spared the humiliation of legislative defeats, and may have rendered himself less vulnerable to political extortion from within that narrowest of coalitions. He has plunged the main opposition party into a frenzy of bitter recrimination and public ridicule. He may relish having the tough-talking Liberman at his side. He may try to persuade the international community that he had no room to manoeuvre and portray himself as the relatively moderate, responsible figure who can still be relied upon to prevent any overly radical lurches to the right, be it on settlements, the use of force, controversial legislation and more.

But it is also easy to envisage that the Obama administration, with whom Netanyahu has had such a difficult relationship, will take an extremely dim view of this unexpected new coalition constellation, and may henceforth prove more inclined to help the French along with their international peace conference idea, or more flexible on the matter of Palestinian-prompted efforts at the UN Security Council.

It is hard to believe that Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah Sissi, who just recently was hailing potential peace opportunities and may have believed he would soon be dealing with Foreign Minister Herzog, will be joyfully contemplating the arrival of Liberman. Much the same could be said of the Saudis, who just days ago, remarkably, sent Prince Turki bin Faisal Saud to share a public forum in Washington, D.C., with Netanyahu's ex-national security adviser Yaakov Amidror.

And even if one subscribes to the notion that all of Netanyahu's key calculations ultimately reduce to a desire to maintain his own prime ministership, this revived partnership would appear to be a recipe for renewed disappointment and grief. For if Netanyahu was irritated by Ya'alon's unstated prime ministerial aspirations, Liberman emphatically seeks the top spot. He attempted to plot that course by allying his Yisrael Beitenu with the Likud before the penultimate elections, and was stymied. Now, though his political weight was much reduced in last year's elections, he is being invited to take the job – defence minister – that he sees as an essential staging post on the route to the premiership.

Whatever grandiose professions of friendship, trust and co-operation are made in the next few days, therefore, there is no reason to believe that this latest iteration of the on-off Netanyahu-Liberman alliance, which began almost 30 years ago, will end any differently than its predecessors: in bitter separation.

The final question, though, is how much damage will be done in the interim. ■

Times of Israel
Timesofisrael.com

Jewish Life

MUSIC | THEATRE | YIDLIFE CRISIS | PARSHAH

Jewish Music Week features something for everyone

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Jewish Music Week artistic director Aliza Spiro promises that the sixth annual event in Toronto will have something for everyone.

Presenting free concerts by day and gala concerts by night, the programs include Sephardi and Klezmer music, Israeli pop, Broadway tunes, as well as jazz, big band, cantorial, folk, and gospel music.

The event, which is always scheduled to run after Lag b'Omer to accommodate observant Jews who cannot listen to music during the Omer, will run from May 29 to June 5.

Spiro said in an effort to cater to all age groups, there is a show for children, another that targets young professionals, and a third that caters to seniors.

The Cool Kids Concert, presented in partnership with Jewish Family & Child on June 5, features American entertainer Eric Komar who recently released a children's album.

For the first time this year, JMW is helping B'nai Brith reach out to young professionals with a concert by ARI, formerly known as Daniella Watters, on May 31 at EFS on King Street. She will be promoting her debut album *Tunnel Vision*.

"Young people tend to work, and they're not around during the day, so for the most part, they aren't able to attend our daytime events. This year, for the first time, we have a nighttime concert specifically geared to young professionals. It's downtown at EFS, which is about as hip and trendy as you can get. It's like the polar opposite of having a concert at a synagogue," Spiro said, adding that it's not to say that musical presentations at synagogues aren't a good thing, but with this event, they're trying to target an audience that wouldn't find themselves at a shul for a show.

Another event presented in partnership with Active 55+, a seniors group based at the Miles Nadal JCC, will honour Austrian-American Jewish actor, folk singer, musician and composer Theodore Bikel, who died last year. Mitch Smolkin and award-winning pianist Nina Shapilsky, will pay tribute to him on June 2.

Spiro said that many of the free daytime concerts, for which you have to register in advance, are at full capacity, and have waiting lists. She expects that JMW will attract between 6,000 and 10,000 people.

"There are a lot of Broadway lovers and every year, we do stuff for Jewish Broadway. Steven Lutvak, who won the Tony for the best musical last year for *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* – which is being presented by Mirvish until June 26 – will kick off the weeklong event on May 29 at Hugh's Room on Dundas Street.

The following evening, the Shirat Tikvah Jubilee Gala Concert at Beth Tikvah Synagogue will celebrate 50 years of music at Beth Tikvah and will feature the music of the late Srul Irving Glick, Helen Greenberg and Eyal Bitton.

On June 1, Beth Tzedec Cantor Simon Spiro will perform with the Toronto Festival Singers – formerly the Beth Tzedec Singers – at the Glenn Gould Studio.

The following night, four of this year's UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's ShinShinim, young Israeli emissaries selected for a year of service in Toronto's Jewish community, will open the Israel Music Today show with covers of some of Israel's most popular songs, including tracks by Idan Raichel and Rita, Arik Berman and Keren Peles.

"The opening act of that night is by the Shinshinim. We took four of them who are unbelievably talented. They're just marvellous. They'll be opening for the Evan Malach performance. I love the fact that we're able to give a platform to these kids," Spiro said.

Another draw is the Canadian premiere of a documentary about Flory Jagoda, a 90-year-old Sephardi composer and performer, called *Flory's Flame*, which will be screened at Baycrest on May 30. ■

For more information about Jewish Music Week, visit www.jewishmusicweek.com

Among the many artists performing at Jewish Music Week are, clockwise from top: Steven Lutvak, Flory Jagoda, Soy Sefardi and Lenka Lichtenberg (pictured with her band).

Danny Marks highlights Jewish blues musicians at music week lecture

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

Musician, broadcaster and blues historian Danny Marks will be bringing his guitar along to a lecture he's giving about Jews and the blues, as part of Jewish Music Week. He'll be performing his *Belt Line Blues*, a coming-of-age song in which he reminisces about the railway line that bordered the backyard of his family's midtown Toronto home.

Marks, the host of the 2013-14 HiFi TV series *Cities in Blue*, which focuses on the history of the blues in eight U.S. cities, wrote *Belt Line Blues* for the Piedmont, Kan. episode.

"We saw Toronto's first subways arrive fresh off the boat, on flatbeds," he recalled, and, growing up, he remembers playing up and down the line with friends. Today, the trains that Marks saw pass twice a day are gone, as are the tracks, removed to create the Kay Gardner Beltline Park and Trail.

The hook of *Belt Line Blues*, an engaging country-blues tune, is the touching verse about Mark leaving home as barely a young man. Marks, who got his first guitar when he was 11, realized he needed to go out on his own to follow his dream of becoming a professional guitarist. In *Belt Line Blues*, he sings: "Well, I left home when I was 17/ Mama was a cryin'/ Baby boy please don't go/ I said I gotta go/ And my papa said, 'Hand me the keys.'"

Marks went on to join the Yorkville village-era pop/blues group Edward Bear and played on the band's 1970 hit single, *You, Me and Mexico*. He became a sideman for Canadian and international performers, and he paid his dues in the Toronto club scene, often playing at Grossman's Tavern, a blues incubator on Spadina Avenue. Hosting blues jam sessions eventually led to Mark's dual career as musician/broadcaster. Marks, who currently hosts JazzFM91's Saturday night blues show, bluz.fm, plans to return to the small screen.

A recipient of the Toronto Blues Society's Blues with a Feeling Award for lifetime achievement, Marks got his first taste for the blues watching Louis Armstrong perform on the *Ed Sullivan Show*.

"He considered his music to have a lot of blues and he recorded a lot of blues, a different kind of blues than some but still distinctly blues," Marks said.

Armstrong, who wasn't Jewish but was adopted by a Jewish family, is one of the artists Marks will discuss. One of the greats of African-American culture, Armstrong wore a Star of David until the day he died.

"A lot of the Jewish soul and spirit went into him as a young boy and shaped him," Marks said, adding that as a child Armstrong paid for his first trumpet by helping out in the family's rag business, "the real schmatte business."

Marks intends to pack a lot of information into his hour-long lecture. Harold Arlen; Benny Goodman; Leonard and Phil Chess; Michael Bloomfield; Leiber and Stoller; Phil Spector; Morris Levy, the founder of Roulette Records, and Jerry Wexler, who coined the term "rhythm and blues," are among the producers, musicians and songwriters he'll be talking about.

You can pick up a copy of Marks' latest release, a critically acclaimed collection of songs he wrote for the TV series *Cities in Blue*, from him at his Jewish Music Week lecture or at the Cadillac Lounge on Queen Street West in Toronto, where he plays Saturday afternoons. For more information, visit www.dannym.com ■

Marks lectures on Jews and blues at 10 a.m. on May 30 at the Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. The Jewish Music Week morning lecture series also includes talks on the portrayal of Jews in opera; on the creative process of a Jewish composer; on Jewish musical comedy, and on Ethel Stark, who overcame anti-Semitism and sexism to form the Montreal Women's Symphony Orchestra. All the lectures are free, but tickets are required for some. www.jewishmusicweek.com

Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community
Two Neptune Drive
A Baycrest Residential Property
Luxury Rental Suites Available
For Independent Senior Living
One + Two Bedroom
65+
Baycrest
Two Neptune Drive
Toronto, ON M6A 3E6
For more information about Two Neptune please visit www.TwoNeptune.ca or contact Laurie Banks at 647-788-4887 or Laurie@TwoNeptune.ca

TERRA PAVE
ASPHALT • CONCRETE • INTERLOCKING
COMPETITIVE PRICING
FREE ESTIMATE
647-328-8867

www.cjnews.com

ARI has new name and a new style

RUTH SCHWEITZER
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

ARI, the singer formerly known as Daniella Watters, says her new persona signals a change in her sound and her musical direction as well as her desire to get away from writing pop standards.

ARI means lion in Hebrew, it's Nordic for eagle, and her personal name, Daniella, from the story of Daniel in the lion's den, completes the metaphor.

"I wanted to steer away from singing too much about love topics, to go to another level or emotion, and be very visceral and honest about other experiences," she said, speaking on the telephone from Los Angeles. She will be in Toronto later this month for Jewish Music Week.

In her six-track debut EP, *Tunnel Vision*, recorded in Toronto, ARI balances dark, melancholic elements, some from her own experience, with light, empowerment and strength.

"Without going through pain in my life, I wouldn't be able to channel it and turn it into art," she said.

Teachers, a recently released single and video from the EP, addresses the sexual double standards between men and women. "It's an empowerment song, calling out the differences in how men and women are treated and how boys and girls are brought up," ARI said. In their formative years, guys get the message, sometimes from their fathers, that it's alright to be promiscuous, she said. Meanwhile, fathers are telling girls, "Don't wear this, don't do that,'" she said, while encouraging the boys "to get those girls."

When they're dating, men are allowed, stigma free, to have many sexual partners, while if a "girl's numbers are too high, the guys are turned off," she said, adding a "lot of shaming goes onto women because men want to be the only key to the lock."

ARI stresses she's not advocating promiscuity in the video. Rather, "there shouldn't be such a heightened shaming, making people feel bad about who they are," she said. "We're all human, we're all sexual beings. Slut shaming and blaming women for being too provocative need to end."

Another recently released single and video from the EP, *PLV (Pretty Little Villains)*, stands up for anyone who's been abused or taken advantage of.

"I had my own experiences being taken advantage of, just as many people, men and women, children and adults, have, and this song came out of that," she said.

ARI was motivated to write *PLV* after reading about a human-trafficking incident in Toronto, close to where she lived. She sings *PLV* while sitting in her bathtub, with thick (school) paint, symbolizing bad experiences, oozing down her face.

ARI (formerly known as Daniella Watters)

> *Without going through pain in my life, I wouldn't be able to channel it and turn it into art.*

"It's going to fall on your head, it's going to get all over you, but you can't let it be you," she said. "What happens to you isn't you. That's something that's just happened to you and you can wash it away."

In contrast to the serious tone of *Teachers and PLV*, *Tiny Bubbles*, a single from Tunnel Vision, to be released this month, is a lighthearted tune with somewhat comical, satirical lyrics that reflect on the drug culture. ARI's sound has gone through a transformation, from pop soul and R&B with jazz inflections, as Daniella, to minimalist indie pop with an electronic hip-hop cadence. ARI's vocal delivery is less soulful and more indie sounding than Daniella's, but "I think the soulful will always be a little bit there because it's just the nature of my voice," she said.

You can hear selections from the EP *Tunnel Vision*, to be released next month, at Maison Music!, a B'nai Brith Young Professionals event that's part of Jewish Music Week. ARI's band, keyboardist Dean Aivaliotis, drummer Jeremy Morgan and guitarist Robb Cappelletto, will play on top of a track to produce the electronic sound their instruments can't make. The music will sound very much like the EP, ARI said. To view Ari's videos, visit www.ari-music.net ■

ARI performs at Maison Music! at 8:15 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) on May 31 at EFS, 647 King St. W. The music continues with the orchestral indie rock band, Common Deer, followed by a kosher midnight barbecue. For tickets, visit www.bnaibrith.ca/events. For more information, visit www.jewishmusicweek.com

ADVERTISEMENT

FUR-GIVE & FUR-GET:

A 'Paws'itive Approach Towards Alzheimer's Care

Like many of her generation and pedigree, she was born into a family of six to a young single mother unable to fully care for her. Her father, and the other fathers of those of her siblings who came before, didn't stay around long enough to raise her. She was at risk of ending up homeless and on the streets, begging passersby for scraps, looking through dumpsters, or worse yet – fighting for her very survival in a shelter.

Thankfully, she was adopted out at ten months old to a loving home. Now at 42, as a middle aged adult herself, she has settled into a regular routine. Each day the alarm goes off early in the morning. She wakes after sleeping like a dog, her comfy blanket lying rumpled on the bed. In the dark she groggily stumbles around in search of her favourite slippers and is eager to sink her teeth into the morning paper before heading to work. Running behind schedule, she gulps up breakfast and hurriedly and quite unladylike slurps down some water. Rushing out the door, she hops in the car for the ride to work.

It is a nice spring morning and she drives with the windows down feeling the fresh breeze through her golden hair. She is well known and popular in the neighbourhood and people smile and wave as the car passes by. She recognizes many familiar faces and she has even given kisses to many of them.

Arriving five minutes late, she bounds up the front walkway, stops just short of the main doors, crouches down and proceeds to relieve herself in the bushes....

It's another rewarding day in the life of Piper, a gentle-natured 6-year-old Golden Lab and certified St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog. Corroborated by scientific research, her weekly visits at the Alzheimer's Retirement Home result in residents displaying increased mood, engagement, eye contact, cognitive and verbal skills. Staff also equally benefit. Through Piper's visits, quality of life within the whole retirement community is improved.

One KENTON PLACE
For excellent care.
onekentonplace.ca

ISAAC WEINROTH
Executive Director, One Kenton Place Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Community

With over 26 years of combined experience in the fields of Gerontology and Long Term Care, Mental Health and Developmental Services, Mr. Weinroth holds a Master of Health Sciences in Health Administration from the University of Toronto as well as a Combined Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Gerontology and Economics with a minor in Religious Studies from McMaster University.

Neil Simon play continues to resonate with audiences

DOROTHY LICHTBLAU
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

One of theatre's most famous duos is back on stage at Soulpepper's Young Centre for the Performing Arts. Felix Ungar and Oscar Madison, the lead characters in Neil Simon's highly successful comedy *The Odd Couple*, have returned to embody the meaning of, "Honey, I love you, but..."

The familiar story is about best friends with diametrically opposite personalities who decide to share an apartment after each of their marriages has fallen apart. Felix is an obsessive neat freak who can't take time out from anxiety to enjoy life. Oscar relishes pleasure and is messy and careless par excellence.

This is the third time the show has graced Soulpepper's playbill. Apparently, out of approximately160 plays produced by Soulpepper, it is the sixth most popular production. *The Odd Couple* still delights audiences and makes them laugh. This is despite the social-political changes that have occurred over the last 50 years and the degree to which tastes have changed. Why?

Artistic director Albert Schultz who continues to perform in company productions despite his crammed schedule, places the answer at the feet of Simon. Schultz considers him, "A gifted writer who has penned some of the greatest comedies of the 20th century." Schultz claims that not only is Simon's ability to write a funny line unrivalled but also that he is a master of comedic structure. In *The Odd Couple*, Simon drops the audience into a play about marriage that isn't a marriage play. Schultz says.

"Everyone who comes to the show can relate to the situation because they've experienced the challenges, the frustrations and the hilarities of being in a relationship."

In this work, Felix represents "the feminine" part of the relationship painted in broad, over-the-top strokes. Oscar is the irresponsible "masculine" aspect of the couple. "The twist", says Schultz, "is that these roles are played by two heterosexual males."

Simon brings audience members to a familiar context, a relationship, but wacko clowns inhabit it. The joke is that these characters are an aspect of each of us. Who hasn't at some point been foolish or over-the-top ?

OK, so Simon is brilliant at creating a world that the audience will buy into, he deftly creates believable characters and funny lines pour out of his finger tips, but isn't the play ultimately froth, mere entertainment?

"Yes, this play is about coming to the theatre to be entertained," Schultz says. "There is a need and a place for theatre of that kind."

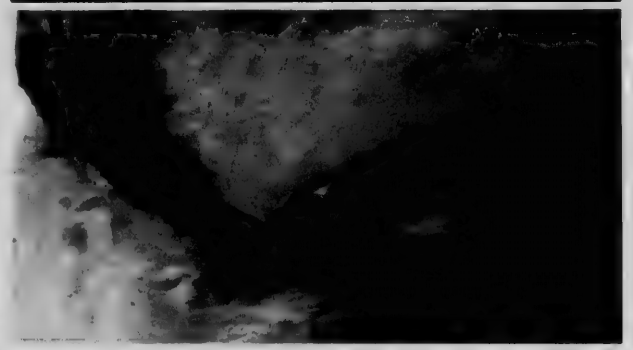
Schultz does not take the art of entertaining lightly. To understand why, perhaps one has to recall that "to entertain" has more than one meaning. One could say that a talented comedy writer is like a perceptive host who is able to make a guest who has spilled wine on the carpet feel comfortable.

His view is that Simon has been tarred by the brush of his own success. "There are those who say he can't be a good writer if he is that popular, but I say he is a great writer.

"*The Odd Couple* is about two people who are very different from one another but profoundly care about each other. They are people in deep crisis who have found each other and endeavour to find a way to maintain their friendship," he says. "This is what helps them move through their crisis."

In the current production, the fine cast – led by Schultz as Oscar and Diego Matamoros as Felix – use their talents to reveal the various aspects of the characters and the many dimensions of Simon's writing. When treated with respect, *The Odd Couple* is perennially funny and entertaining because it vividly shows the crazy ways people deal with sorrow. ■

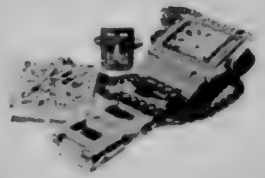
The Odd Couple runs at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in the Distillery District until June 11. www1.youngcentre.ca



Dark Bird

Heaven and Earth, an art exhibit by Romi Samuels and Sheila Carson, runs at Gallery1313 on Queen Street West in Toronto until June 5. Pictured is *Dark Bird* by Samuels from a series in which birds are an expressionist metaphor for freedom, fragility and power. Her large canvases, in dramatic black and white, with bold and energetic strokes embrace the struggle against the forces of nature.

If you don't wear it
CASH IN
— or —
TRADE UP



If you don't mind getting more
MCD
JEWELLERY
BUY • SELL • TRADE
2104 HWY 7 • 905.738.1276 • mcdjewellery.com

ARE YOUR DIY PROJECTS A PROBLEM?
Add me to your Tool Box
Spring is Here...Don't wait to start your Home Improvements
HOMEPRO®
Residential Services
We specialize in any and all Home/Condo repairs
• Plumbing • Electrical • Carpentry
• Drywall & Plaster Repairs • Paint & Wallpaper
• Appliance Installation & Interior Renovations
Servicing York Region and the GTA for over 33 years
2 year warranty
SPRING SPECIAL 10% OFF*
Senders Never Pay Tax
*on projects over $1,000. before tax.
Call Steve at
416.823.8358
Email: steve@yourhomeprorenovator.com

Cancer Research
END CANCER
Our brilliant scientists have made remarkable breakthroughs that are improving and extending the lives of cancer patients across the globe.
Make a difference by sending your memorial [illegible]
ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

West vs. East rivalry distracts from the big issues

Chaimie and Leizer

For those of us with a sweet spot for hip hop – for readers over 50, think bee-bop on repeat with totally bubbie-inappropriate material – we might well be familiar with East Coast and West Coast rivalry – names like Tupac Shakur and the Notorious BIG (not to be mixed up with the Notorious GIC, now a notoriously awful one per cent per annum) represent long-standing cross-continental conflict. Well, on some level, it's no different in the Jewish community. And while Minsk versus Pinsk might have been it years back, this time around for us Hosers, it's West Coast versus East Coast.

Religiously, there's something about the natural freedom of the West Coast and the allure of the Pacific that brings out the most spiritual practices of Judaism (and we're pretty sure it's not the salmon, as lox swims plentifully through every intestine on the East Coast, both upstream and downstream). There is something more natural, more loose, more traditionally disaffiliated yet more connected to divinity and the inner yogi in the West. Or in other words, if Safed found its way onto the continent, it would immediately place itself on a BC Ferry to Vancouver Island.

Statistically speaking (note: all of the following are from sources at least as reliable as Donald Trump's intel "team"), there is a 37 per cent greater chance on the West Coast that a religious ceremony will involve cannabis, and a 25 per cent chance that meat will not be involved. West Coasters will be 20 per cent less likely to be affiliated with a traditional synagogue. They will be 40 per cent more likely to be affiliated with a yoga studio. They are 140 per cent more likely to attend services in a yoga studio.

On the other hand, geographically, East Coast Jews tend to be connected more with the Old World, as they are literally closer to the seat of European history. Coming from Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal, you're about the same distance from Stonehenge as you are from stoned friends. This is not just convenient for European travel, should you have a craving to experience a little anti-Semitism in the flesh, but it also puts you more on the Israeli clock, which brings East Coast Jews somewhat closer to the Israeli zeitgeist. By this theory, Newfoundlanders would be slightly more Israeli, and while this seems highly counterintuitive, Newfie does sort of sound like a cute Israeli term for a Zionist pioneer (*Bruchim habaim HaNewfim!*)

On the other hand, the relative peace, quiet and slow pace of life of the West Coast is fundamentally anti-Israeli (and arguably anti-Semitic). And while you could say that Tel Aviv is a beach town with the sort of progressive ideas you might find on the West Coast, if you've experienced its humidity, it's much more of a packed subway ride in August than a stroll down Wreck Beach (not that there's anything wrong with that).

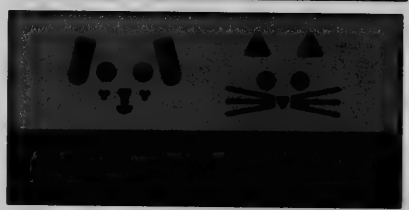
(Regardless of distance, it is important as Jews to practise the Shalosh Regalim by going to the United States three times a year for holy shopping pilgrimages and staying the mandatory period to claim our fully duty-free allowance. Whether it's Bellingham, Wash., or Plattsburgh, N.Y., we are not duty-free of this obligation.)

At the end of the day, we as Canadians, united by our Trans-Canada (brought to you by Tim Hortons), still deal with the same national problems, the same questions of whether Justin will be "good for the Jews" (Trudeau, but more importantly, Bieber), root for the Jays and Raptors (under different levels of duress), and feel that same love/hate relationship with Gary Bettman – is he good for the Jews, but bad for Canadian hockey?

The tachlis: in many cases these territorial rivalries are just media fabrications to distract you from the real issues: Fairmount versus St. Viateur bagels. (You can watch YidLife Crisis debate bagels on YouTube.) ■

Chaimie and Leizer are Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, co-creators of the world's first online Yiddish sitcom YidLife Crisis.

BUY • SELL • TRADE
• Estate Jewellery & Antique Jewellery
• Rolex • Patek Philippe
• Cartier And Morelli
• We Pay Top Cash For Your Gold & Silver
90 Eglinton East (1 block East of Yonge)
440-1233 • 440-0123 • vanrijk.com
VAN RIJK
VAN RIJK JEWELLERS



THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
CJN
Come intern for us this summer
Are you a journalism student, recent grad or budding writer looking for an internship? Join *The CJN* this summer. You'll gain valuable newsroom experience and work closely with our editorial and online teams. Interested?
Send your resume to *cjninfo@gmail.com*.
Please use "Summer Interns" in the subject line.
Honorarium included
We thank all for their responses, but only candidates of interest will be contacted.

PRICE MATCH
15% OFF
any purchase of $60 or more*
*Valid only at PET VALU Bayview and Lourdes. Some conditions apply. Expires May 31, 2016
/PVBayviewLourdes
@PetValu_Bayview
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Minimum $50 order.

Wietzes Toyota
Gideon Landau
Wietzes Toyota
gideon.toyota@gmail.com
RED TAG
0 · 1,500
25,000
Get Low Interest Rates on Toyota Certified Used Vehicles!
TOYOTA Certified
Gideon Landau at your service
for Purchase of New or Used Vehicles
Selection of used cars with full warranty lowest price for a new car of any other vehicle manufacturer
Wietzes Toyota
For appointment please call directly 647.284.7277

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 26, 2016

Rabbi Soloveitchik's essays deal with timeless questions

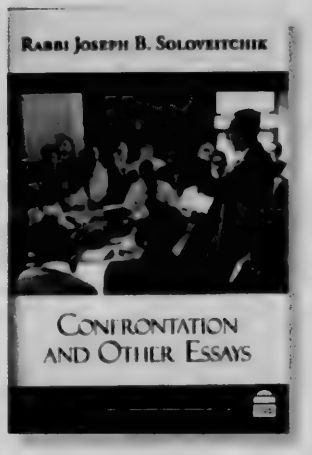
MARTIN LOCKSHIN
SPECIAL TO THE CJN

In his lifetime, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik (1903-1993) was the acknowledged leader of modern or "centrist" Orthodox Judaism in North America. Today, outside of haredi circles, almost all Orthodox leaders in North America (and a growing number in Israel) see themselves as his students or as the students of his students.

Among many of his rabbinical students, Rabbi Soloveitchik is best known for his accomplishments in the technical field of Talmud analysis. His philosophical thinking, though, attracted a wider audience. His essays on issues not related to Talmud, while few in number, continue to reverberate today. Five of his English-language essays from the 1960s and 1970s have recently been republished by Maggid Books, under the title *Confrontation and Other Essays*. (Neither the criteria for choosing these specific essays nor the identity of the person who made the choice is explained in the book.)

Confrontation, perhaps Rabbi Soloveitchik's most controversial essay, was written in 1964 while the Second Vatican Council was in session, a year before the publication of *Nostra Aetate*, the Catholic document that began the process of redefining the Church's attitude to Jews and Judaism. Some Jews at the time were trying to influence the outcome of the council. Rabbi Soloveitchik wrote explicitly that Jews should "refrain from suggesting to the community of the many [= Christians] ... changes in its ritual or emendations of its texts." He also spelled out what he saw as the appropriate limits to "dialogue" with Christians.

As the essay spoke only in general terms, in 1967 Rabbi Soloveitchik published an addendum (also reprinted in this book) to clarify that he opposed "any public debate, dialogue or symposium concerning the doctrinal, dogmatic or ritual aspects of our faith" with Christians. But, he wrote, "we are ready to enter into dialogue on such topics as war and peace [this during the worst of the war in Vietnam], poverty, freedom, man's moral values, the threat of secularism, technology and human values, civil rights etc., which revolve about religious spiritual aspects of our civilization."



Confrontation and other essays
Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Maggid Books

> *Rabbi spelled out what he saw as the appropriate limits to 'dialogue' with Christians.*

Despite his attempt to make his position crystal clear, his disciples still argue today about what he meant, often offering careful exegesis of this essay, as if it were a passage from the Talmud. Although it is debatable whether the relationship between Jews and Christians today is comparable to the situation 50 years ago, students of Rabbi Soloveitchik still ask: Did he oppose only public dialogue about articles of faith? When he admits that rabbis and Christian clergy who legitimately discuss moral problems do not discuss them "as sociologists, historians or cultural ethicists in agnostic or secular categories" but bring their religious "thoughts, feelings, perceptions and terminology" to the discussion, was he thus opening the door to very wide forms of dialogue?

While *Confrontation* is important as a historic document, all of these essays illuminate the thought of one of the most brilliant rabbis of modern times. Rabbi Soloveitchik's secular erudition (he earned a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Berlin just before moving to the United States in 1932) can be seen on almost every page.

As he was a keen student of the human condition, his words spoke even to Jews who lacked deep faith. He did not feel that the purpose of the Jewish religion was to make us feel more at ease. Judaism, in his understanding, forces us to confront the tensions or dialectic (a favourite word of his) involved in being a human being:

"Man is a dialectical being: an inner schism runs through his personality at every level. . . the Judaic view posits that this schism is willed by God as the source of man's greatness and election as a singular charismatic being. Man is a great and creative being because he is torn by conflict. . . The fact that the creative gesture is associated with agony is a result of this contradiction, which pervades the whole personality of man."

The essays explore a number of the tensions in the human condition, including whether we should identify as community members or as individuals and whether we are primarily citizens of the world or members of a particularistic people. Rabbi Soloveitchik contrasts the Jewish approach with that of Hegel, who also speaks in terms of opposites which he labels thesis and antithesis. While Hegel claims that thesis and antithesis have to be resolved in a synthesis, Rabbi Soloveitchik teaches that in Judaism, synthesis is neither desirable nor possible.

"Man is, quite often, a captive of two enchanting visions, summoning him to move in opposite directions. . . Man must decide which alternative to take . . . The clash is staggering . . . The Halachah is concerned with this dilemma and tries to help man in such critical moments. The Halachah, of course, did not discover the synthesis, since the latter does not exist. It did, however, find a way to enable man to respond to both calls."

Rabbi Soloveitchik's essays have an uplifting poetic quality. While they were written a generation or more ago, they deal with timeless questions. Sadly, since Rabbi Soloveitchik's death, no other thinker has combined his level of deep talmudic learning with a mastery of contemporary philosophical literature and sensitivity to the difficulties of the human condition. Republishing these essays now makes sense, both for those of us who have read them before and, hopefully, for a new questioning generation. ■

The Socialite

By Tara Fainstein

Carole Cohen, Heather Paperman, Sharon Tal (designer), Osnat Feldman and Sheryl Rosen Adler

Jeanine Mintzberg and Naomi Faraj

Stephanie Hutman, Sarah Hutman and Romy Hutman Schick

Andrea Abdulezer, Gilda Shahin-Abdulezer and Heather Paperman

Nancy Ditkofsky and Francine Neudorf

A Rich Heritage

Over 100 women from Montreal Federation CJA's Women's Philanthropy came to see the latest collection by Maskit, the iconic Israeli ready to wear label launched in Israel in 1954 by Moshe Dayan's wife, Ruth Dayan. Gifted designer Sharon Tal shared the inspiring story of the design team's journey through Israel to reconnect with Maskit's original artists and roots, ending with re-establishing the brand and continuing its legacy. ■ – *The Socialite*

Arlene Abitan, Ruth Bensimon Chouela and Karen Soussan

Robin Rosen, Rona Rosen, Lori Cohen and Heather Adelson

Karyn Saragossi Lassner, Trish Benguelid, and Jill Kimmel

Lydia Hazan and Karine Hazan

Leah Mitelman, Rosanne Kozloff and Karen Benguelid

Brenda Gourarz and Evelyn Bloomfield Schechter

Heather Adelson and Osnat Feldman

PBL PHOTOGRAPHY

For submission details: email thesocialite@thecjn.ca

Give a Gift Card for Special Occasions
Kosher Dining • Spa • Hotel • Events
KOSHER DINING IN TORONTO
Windsor Arms Hotel
A La Carte Kosher Dining
OPEN NIGHTLY SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
18 St. Thomas Street, Toronto In the heart of Bloor-Yorkville
416-971-9666 • windsorarmshotel.com

What's New

MAY 26 - JUNE 2

by Lila Sarick

Thursday, May 26

LGBT COMMUNITY & ORTHODOXY
Rabbis Steve Greenberg and **Chaim Rapoport**, **Dr. Marshall Korenblum** and **Carol Seidman** discuss "The LGBT community and orthodoxy," 8 p.m., Associated Hebrew Schools Main Campus, 300 Atkinson Dr., Thornhill. www.torahinmotion.org

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS
Dr. Nasreen Khatri discusses "Care for the caregivers," 10 a.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $5 for non-members, free for members. RSVP, 416-221-3433.

ONLY BY BLOOD
Renate Krakauer discusses her new novel *Only by Blood*, 7:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women Toronto. $5/$10.

JOB FAIR
JVS-Emet Employment holds a job fair, 3-5 p.m., Lebovic JCC, 9600 Bathurst St. Pre-register, information at lebovicjobfair@jvstoronto.org

Sunday, May 29

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY
Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, son of a decorated Nazi tank commander, discusses his life story, 7 p.m., Temple Har Zion. $20. RSVP 905-889-2252, ext. 109

BOOK LAUNCH
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz Congregation holds an afternoon tea, 3-5 p.m. to celebrate the launch of the Beth Jacob Book of Memories, 147 Overbrook Place. Guest speaker, **Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits.**

Monday, May 30

CABARET NIGHT
Beth David Synagogue celebrates its 60th anniversary with music of the '60s at a cabaret night with **Cantor Marshall Loomer**, 7:30 p.m. $18.

Bowling for Reena

From left, event co-chair Steven Justein, Reena president and CEO Bryan Keshen, Reena Foundation executive director Sheila Miller and Toronto Maple Leafs legend Darryl Sittler hold a cheque for $190,000, which was raised May 1 at the fifth annual Striking for Reena bowling event. Proceeds support Reena's respite and enrichment programs for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

WAR & PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Prof. Gabi Ben Dor, head of the National Security Studies Program at the University of Haifa, discusses "War and peace in the Middle East," 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. On June 1, he will discuss "Israel 2016: good life in a bad neighbourhood," at 7:30 p.m.

SHREK THE MUSICAL JR.
Participants and staff of DANI present *Shrek the Musical Jr.*, 7 p.m., Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Tickets, $20-$30 at the door. 905-889-3264, ext. 231.

LEGAL ETHICS
Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner discusses "Access to justice: pro bono vs. quid pro quo," 7 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

JUBILEE GALA CONCERT
Beth Tikvah Synagogue holds its Jubilee Gala Concert, 8 p.m., featuring **Rabbi Jarrod Grover, Cantor Tibor Kovari, Beth Tikvah Choir** and **Jubilee Chamber Orchestra**. For tickets, call 416-221-3433.

Tuesday, May 31

CHUG HATANACH
Arnold Ages leads a study of Isaiah, Chapter 10, Beth David Synagogue, 8 p.m.

LUNCH AND LEARN I
Penny Krowitz discusses "Act to end violence against women," 12:10 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. RSVP 416-221-3433.

LUNCH AND LEARN II
Prof. Adam Chapnick discusses "Multiculturalism and refugee status," Beth Sholom Synagogue, noon. $18. RSVP 416-783-6103.

PERSONAL SAFETY SEMINAR
Local police discuss fraud, crime, safety and more, 1 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue.

BUYING THE MOOSE
Na'amat Canada Toronto's Clubs Aviva and Tamar present *Buying the Moose*, 8 p.m., Curtain Club, 400 Newkirk Rd. $20. For tickets, 416-636-5425.

Wednesday, June 1

JUDAISM AND THE TRINITY
Rabbi Michael Skobac discusses "Why Judaism rejects the doctrine of the trinity," 8 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. 416-789-0020.

DANI GALA
DANI holds its gala and charity casino, honouring **Esti** and **Randy Cohen, Norene Gilletz**, 7 p.m., Terrace Banquet Centre. For tickets, 905-889-3264, ext. 231.

Thursday, June 2

YIDDISH VINKL
Shirley Kumove discusses "Growing up in two languages: a memoir," noon, Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. $20 includes lunch. RSVP yiddishvinkl@yahoo.ca

Et cetera

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Bernard Betel Centre needs volunteers to deliver meals or visit with seniors in their homes. Call **Cheryl Besner**, 416-225-2112, ext. 127.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Deadline reminders:
The deadline for the issue of June 9 is May 30. All deadlines are at noon.
Phone 416-391-1836, ext. 269; email **whatsnewcjn@gmail.com**

◗ Looking to volunteer with your children this summer? Circle of Care is looking for people to deliver meals to seniors through its kosher meals on wheels program. Call **Lisa**, 416-635-2900, ext. 284.

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL
Na'amat Canada holds its Israel Day Festival, June 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Wood Valley Park, Lebovic JCC. Enjoy pony rides, live auction, games and more.

LEMONADE STAND
The 6th annual Jake's lemonade stand for sarcoma research and SickKids Foundation will be held June 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 102 Mountbatten Rd., Thornhill.

QUILTING FOR REFUGEES
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto, invites the community to create quilts for newly arrived refugee families, June 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

JF&CS

GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Registration is required for all programs. Classes are open to all members of the community. Fee reductions available. Call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 6215, or visit www.jfandcs.com
◗ Partnering with and supporting adults with AD(H)D: A 1-session workshop for people who have adult loved ones in their lives diagnosed with AD(H)D. June 1, 7-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst St.
◗ High conflict divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies to deal with a high conflict situation, not for those in an abusive situation. June 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lebovic JCC, 9600 Bathurst St.
◗ It's never too late to date: A 1-session workshop for men and women in midlife who have been single for 2 or more years, June 15, 7 p.m., Lipa Green Centre.

For Seniors

◗ **Adult 55+ Culture, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 155. Swing dance classes with **Kris Light** of Bees Knees Dance Studio, Tuesdays to June 21. Dance lesson at 11 a.m., social dance at noon. No partners required; **David Levine** discusses "Literature on film: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," May 26 at 1 p.m.; social games club June 9, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RSVP.; **Ralph Wintrob** discusses Yiddish performer Jacob Adler, June 9, 1:30 p.m.; Afternoon tea and concert with jazz quartet The Satin Dolls, June 23, 1 p.m.
◗ **Adult 55+ Fitness, Miles Nadal JCC.** 416-924-6211, ext. 526. Learn to play pickleball, Thursdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Movement and exercise program for people experiencing balance and mobility challenges, Wednesdays at noon.
◗ **Bernard Betel Centre.** 416-225-2112. May 31, **Gerald Ziedenberg** discusses "Great Jewish heroes: Hannah Senesh," 10 a.m.; May 31, concert "Soy Sefardi," noon; June 2, wellness lecture on "Art of living," 1:30 p.m.
◗ **Earl Bales Seniors Club 60+.** 416-395-7881. Casino Rama June 8; Down memory lane with live entertainment, June 15, 2 p.m.; social bridge, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.; bridge with partners, Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.
◗ **Lunch and Learn. York Jazz Band** performs at a seniors' lunch and learn program, June 7, noon, Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $9. 416-633-5100.
◗ **New Horizons** is a Jewish Hungarian seniors club. Kosher food and trips. 416-256-1892.
◗ **Adath Israel Congregation.** Wednesday afternoon socials. Bridge, mah-jong, Rummikub, 12:30 p.m. **Judi**, 416-785-0941.
◗ **Shaar Shalom Synagogue.** Play duplicate bridge Mondays, 12:30 p.m. 905-889-4975.
◗ **Beth Emeth Synagogue.** Experienced mah-jong and Rummikub players meet Mondays and Wednesdays. Must reserve, 416-633-3838.
Gentle exercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m.
◗ **Temple Har Zion.** Mah-jong on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Email bevmichaels1@gmail.com
◗ **Beth Tzedec Synagogue.** Play bridge, mah-jong and canasta, Thursdays, 1:30-4.
◗ **B'nai Brith Seniors Program.** Daily program (exercise, bingo, entertainment) and lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $2 per day, 15 Hove St. Amy, 416-633-6224, ext. 134. Call **Maureen**, 416-781-3514.

Prosserman JCC

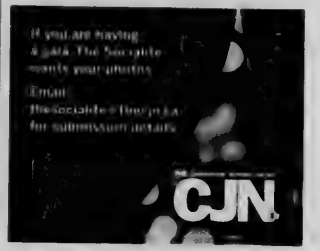
Sherman Campus, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-638-1881, www.prossermanjcc.com
To register for programs, call ext. 4235.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 25, 10:30 a.m.
◗ Examining contemporary Jewish standup comedy with **Rosalin Krieger**, June 4-28, 1 p.m.
◗ Opera appreciation with **Iain Scott**, "Great masters of Italian opera," Thursdays, June 2-23, 7 p.m.
◗ Family night. Join Shoresh Jewish Environmental programs for a hands-on look at the creatures that live in the ravine beside the JCC. Dinner will follow. June 20, 5:30 p.m.
◗ Children's outdoor art classes start June 22. Summer ceramics start June 28.
◗ Stroke and Parkinson's support and fitness, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
◗ MS social and fitness group, meets Wednesdays.

Miles Nadal JCC

750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org
◗ Winning entries in the Jewish Music Week student art contest are on display in the gallery until June 8.
◗ *The Love of Music* presented by the North York Concert Band, May 28, 7:30 p.m., Al Green Theatre. www.northyorkconcertband.ca
◗ MNJCC Community Choir performs its 20th anniversary concert, June 1 and June 2, 8 p.m. For tickets, call ext. 0
◗ **Harold Troper** and **Dimitry Anastakis** discuss "Why does history matter today?" June 6 and June 20, 1:30 p.m.
◗ Summer Hebrew Institute for adults. Hebrew beginners conversation, Hebrew intro and Yiddish, start the week of July 4.
◗ *The Vagina Monologues* presented by the Markham Cast, June 10, 8 p.m., Al Green Theatre
◗ All-night Jewish learning, downtown Tikkun Leil Shavuot June 11. Community dinner, register by June 5. Full program, 8 p.m.-8:30 a.m.
◗ Prenatal yoga, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
◗ Everyday Friends: social programs for people age 15-29 with developmental disabilities, first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Ext. 330.
◗ Michael Bernstein Chapel holds services Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.; Sundays at 8 a.m. **Coleman Bernstein**, 416-968-0200.

Schwartz/Reisman Centre

Lebovic Campus, 9600 Bathurst St. 905-303-1821. For programs, ext. 3025.
◗ Legacy writing workshop with **Liz Pearl**, May 26, 1 p.m.
◗ Saggar firing workshop, June 2 and 9 at 1 p.m. Beginner and advanced ceramics courses start June 29.
◗ Intermediate mah-jong starts May 26, 7-9 p.m.
◗ Learn to paint on clay, May 26 at 1 p.m.
◗ Enjoy Father's Day, June 19, with fun activities, including triathlon races for ages 3-13. ■



MARRIED WITH KIDS

A taste of empty nest syndrome

Lauren Kramer

"We will *not* have you treating this house like a hotel," my mother informed me sternly. I was 17 or 18 years old at the time and filled with the wanderlust that comes with new independence. My diary was jam packed with social activities – people I needed to see, gossip to be exchanged, boys to be admired and parties to attend. Home was a convenient place to take a shower, get some rest and have a good meal.

But the last thing I wanted was to share a cup of tea with my parents, exchange news or find out what was troubling them. I remember scoffing haughtily at the very idea that I considered our house a hotel. My mother's suggestion that I spend more time at home seemed so demanding, so unrealistic. I was young and deeply engaged with youth. Home was just a place to recharge my batteries before heading out into the world again.

I'm older now, and in my parents' shoes as I watch my home become a hotel for my son. Almost 16, he's fiercely independent, a social organizer who gathers people around him and arranges fun activities when he's not studying for school, training for a bike race or working his weekend job at the fish and chips restaurant down the road. As we witness the pace of his schedule accelerate each weekend, my husband and I look at each other in disbelief.

"We never get to see you anymore," we lament with more than a hint of Jewish guilt. "When will you have time for us?"

It's weird to hear my parents' words come so easily from my own mouth.

For sure, we're intensely proud of him. Somehow – and we don't know what we did right – we raised a kid who is ready to take on the world. Full of adventure, fun and street-smarts, our son is confident, charismatic and engaging. He's the kid who willingly vacates a seat on the subway for a senior, who helps mothers carry their strollers down the stairs. He's doing just what he's supposed to be doing, and though he's a few years away from moving out, our nest has begun to empty as his independence gathers momentum.

> *You're never prepared for the emotional fallout of watching them spread their wings and leave the nest.*

Intellectually, we knew it would happen. We just didn't know the moment would come so quickly, and that we'd feel so bereft when it arrived.

We're deeply ambivalent about the hole left by his diminishing physical presence in the house. The only sacred evening when we know for sure he'll be with us is Friday night's Shabbat dinner, but it's no longer safe to assume he'll join us on a Sunday family hike or a Saturday night dinner at friends' homes. His time is his own now, his schedule is packed from dawn to midnight, and even when he's home, his attention is diverted to a screen where the socializing continues in textual form.

The transition from boy to adult happened overnight it seems, and though his siblings occupy a good chunk of our time and attention, we didn't know how much we'd miss this young man's constant presence, or the sadness that would tug at our insides when he'd choose his friends' company over ours.

We know this is how it's meant to be. You raise 'em, you try to instil strong values and then you let 'em fly, hoping, praying they won't crash. Still, you're never prepared for the emotional fallout of watching them spread their wings and leave the nest.

University is two years away, so there's still time to get used to the idea that his days in the family home are numbered. But how it aches to see those wings practise for flight. When the time comes, I'll be sobbing in the corner, mighty proud, but missing him with a longing I could never have imagined. ■

Mazel Tov!

SPONSORED BY PARTY SUPPLY DEPOT
92 DONCASTER, THORNHILL. PARTY.CA 905-764-5467

Welcome to the world, Zoë Hawa! She joins her two brothers, Zachary and Benjamin. Mazel tov Sandra & Kevin and to the Zichermann-Haber family.

[redacted] Zev Ezra Zimmer. Proud parents Rachel & Noah Zimmer. First time grandparents Lori & Michael Ricar and Tami & Yossi Zimmer.

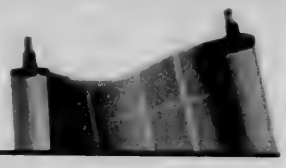
Huge mazel tov to John Franken on the recent celebration of his 94th birthday at Hillel Lodge in Ottawa. Much love from family and friends.

Happy fifth birthday Madelynn on April 2. Hugs and kisses from your mom, Natalie Parnes Doyle; dad, Jamey Doyle; brother Liam and new baby sister Taylor.

Sherry Lando Feller announces the engagement of Jonathan Jacob (J.J.) Feller & Rachel Elizabeth Brenner of New York. Dad would be proud. Mazel tov!

Parshah

Behar | Leviticus 25:1-26:2



Maharat Abby Brown Scheier considers how to strike a balance between the physical and the spiritual
Rabbi Denise Handlarski reflects on the laws of shmittah and the idea that rest breeds productivity
Rabbi Yirmi Cohen chronicles the origin of Lag b'Omer and the life of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier

On Lag b'Omer we celebrate the life of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the second century sage and mystic.

The Talmud relates that Rabbi Shimon spoke out against the Roman authorities, and, after fleeing imprisonment, he and his son spent 12 years in a cave learning Torah.

When they emerged, the Talmud describes that their gaze would incinerate any object they saw. The spiritual heights they attained in the cave were incompatible with the physical world around them. They criticized the people for engaging in life's necessities, like planting, instead of eternal pursuits such as Torah study.

Unable to interact with the real world and with real people, they were sent back to the cave for another year.

When they emerged a second time, they engaged with an old man whom they saw holding two bundles of myrtle and running at twilight. The man explained that the branches are to perform the Torah's two Shabbat-related mitzvot: remember (*zachor*) and observe (*shamor*).

The man took something beautiful, lush and aromatic, and used it for something sacred. No longer critical of others, the father and son actually praise this man for loving the mitzvot.

Spending such intense uninterrupted quality time with our children engaged only in lofty pursuits, as Rabbi Shimon and his son did, may seem almost idyllic. The ability to immerse oneself in Torah in an interruption-free cave is not a surprising feat. There were no errands to run, meals to cook or bills to pay. This does not reflect the real world.

After all those years of study, one interaction with an old man teaches them how to find balance. This interaction teaches the very spiritual men that the physical world must play a part in a spiritual reality. It can actually bring love and beauty to the tradition.

As Jews, we study in order to engage with the world and learn from others. ■

Maharat Abby Brown Scheier is a Judaic Studies teacher in Montreal.

Rabbi Denise Handlarski

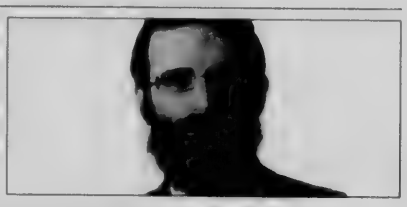
In this parshah, we have the rules for leaving the land fallow on the shmittah, the sabbatical year. We know that, agriculturally, land requires time to be left fallow in order to maintain good soil quality. But there are ways the agricultural can give rise to the cultural. Many of us consider the idea of shmittah metaphorically for what it can teach us about rest and renewal. Shabbat is our time for rest. Shmittah is the Shabbat for the earth.

We live in an age where there's a lot of talk of mindfulness, of living in the present moment. And yet we simultaneously live with the expectations of being able to multitask, of being constantly accessible, and of being able to manage our many roles seamlessly. We are overworked, overcommitted and overwhelmed. Devices meant to make our lives easier often make us feel that we can never take a break. They are there to enable us to be "connected," and yet I believe there has never been a time in history when people feel less connected to their families and communities.

Shmittah literally means release. What if we released ourselves from some fear, guilt and obligation? What if we asked ourselves what can I let go of? Fields that give us food and sustenance, if overworked and overwrought, will stop producing. And we are the same. If we are overworked and overwhelmed, then we will be unable to be fully available to those we love.

We, too, have a limit. And in this culture that measures goodness by productivity, it's good to remind ourselves that rest breeds productivity. Just like the harvest will be better if we rotate our crops and let the land rest, we will be better if we have a chance to rest and recuperate as well. ■

Rabbi Denise Handlarski is spiritual leader of Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto.



Rabbi Yirmi Cohen

Lag b'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer, is a very joyous day. On it, the students of the great Rabbi Akiva stopped dying from a unique plague because they did not respect each other.

It's also the yahrzeit of the great Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a student of Rabbi Akiva.

In accordance with his express wishes, we mark the day as an occasion of great joy, in celebration of his life. Throughout the night and day, thousands of three-year-old boys, Ashkenazim and Sephardim alike, get their first haircut near his resting place. Enormous bonfires are lit, with singing the entire night. It's a wonderful sight to behold.

The Talmud relates that for 13 years, Rabbi Shimon hid in a cave fearing Roman persecution. By the grace of God, we live in a land where no one has to hide in a cave in order to observe Judaism and spread it to fellow Jews.

I will never forget the Lag b'Omer parades in New York, when Jews of all types came together in Jewish unity. The Lubavitcher Rebbe had much naches as the Hebrew schools all passed by with their mitzvah floats.

One boy was acting the part of saying the *Shema* dressed in his pyjamas. The Rebbe asked, "Where is his pillow?" The Rebbe was concerned with every detail.

So whether you're in Meron or Toronto, take your family for an outing with some roasted marshmallows and sing a song of Jewish pride!

We also read the parshah of Behar on Shabbat. The Torah was given on Sinai because it was a low mountain. But why not give the Torah in a valley, to teach us to be more humble? The answer is that one also needs to be proud when doing mitzvot and be firm like a mountain when facing obstacles. Am Yisrael Chai! ■

Rabbi Yirmi Cohen is spiritual leader at Ohalei Yoseph Yitzchak Congregation in Toronto. yirmicohen@sympatico.ca

CLASSIFIED 416-391-1836

DAVID EICHORN

REAL ESTATE INC. BROKERAGE

416-787-1712

www.eichornrealty.com • david@eichornrealty.com

NEW LISTING: BATHURST / HILLHURST

Gorgeous Property In Desirable Neighbourhood Just North Of Forest Hill / Spacious 5 Bdrm Side Split / Custom Renovated Kitchen And Baths / Upgraded Electrical, Plumbing, And HVAC / Generous 50X128 Lot / Close To Cortleigh Parkette, Schools & Subway / Asking: $1,499,000 / Ben Eichorn** 416-787-1712

JUST SOLD: BATHURST / HILLMOUNT

Custom 3500 Sf Above Grade Living Space / 4+1 Bdrms, 5 Baths / Open Concept Lr/Dr / Chefs Kitchen Incl. Center Island W/ Granite Counters, S/S B/I Appliances & W/O To Deck / Main Floor Study / Bsmt Rec Room & Nanny Quarters 5th Bdrm / Ben Eichorn** / Diana Da Silva*** 416-787-1712

SOLD: BATHURST / LAWRENCE

3 Bdrm Bungalow / Bright, Spacious Home / Prime 50' Lot / Master Ensuite / Side Entrance / Eat-In Kitchen / Minutes Walk To Lawrence Subway, TTC, Shopping, Parks / Ben Eichorn** 416-787-1712

*BROKER OF RECORD **BROKER ***SALES REPRESENTATIVE

68 RODEO DRIVE THORNHILL

$1,488,000 Backs On To Park. Spacious 4+2 BDRM. Large Eat-In Kitchen & Walk Out To GDN. Formal Princ RMS. Family Room & Den On Main. Full High Lower Level. Laundry RM On Main FLR. DBL Garage. 55 FT Lot. A Must See.

Marilyn Merrick* & Saul Merrick* 416-486-2875

Royal LePage

MERRICK

TORONTO REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

3 bdrm townhouse @ Taboo Resort available from June 24th-July 1; and July 22-29. Pls call: 416-733-0411 ext. 23

Reliable, hard working and experienced caregivers available. Please call 416-546-5380

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1750 Steeles Ave. W., Ste. 218
Concord, Ont. L4K 2L7

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Forest Hill

REAL ESTATE INC. • BROKERAGE

Village 416-488-2875 • Central 416-785-1500
Bayview 416-226-1987 • Yorkville 416-975-5588
Signature 416-929-4343 • Downtown 416-363-3473
Lawrence 905-709-1700 • Vaughan 905-695-0305
Mississauga 905-949-9200

EAST PROPERTY

81 + 83 BROOKLAWN AVENUE @ KINGSTON RD/ST. CLAIR
$749,888 Each! Attention All Builders/Developers/End Users!!! Great Opportunity To Own A Premium 42.5X133 Ft Lt In Demanding Central Location. Permits+Drawings Ready To Build 3398 Sq.Ft. & 3192 Sq.Ft. Homes! 1 Lot Severed Into 2! Zaferi Bhuiyan* 416-226-1987

RENTAL PROPERTIES

2501-330 TWEEDSMUIR AVE! THE HEATHVIEW BY MORGUARD!
$1,870/Mo! Spectacular 1+1Br 1[illegible] East Facing Suite W/Panoramic Lake+City Views! Approx 6[illegible] Luxury! Move Right In! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

34 CARSCADDEN DRIVE! BATHURST N/SHEPPARD!
Seldom Available! Your Choice Of Several Reno'd 2Br 2Bth Units In A Secluded Park Like Setting On The Ravine! $1,375-$1,450 Plus Parking+Utilities! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

310 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE+320 TWEEDSMUIR AVENUE!
The Heathview By Morguard! Spacious N/St Clair! Brand New Condo Style Complex W/Incredible Amenities! Your Choice Of 1Br, 1+1Br, 2Br! From $1,610-$4,870! Immed! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

300 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST! ROYALE APARTMENTS!
Just East Of Mount Pleasant! Your Choice Of Updated Or Reno'd 1Br 1Bth Units From $1,225-$1,500 Plus Parking+Utilities! Immediate Occupancy! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

***Broker of Record **Broker *Sales Representative
www.foresthill.com

Elli Davis

#1 in my Central Toronto office for over 32 years!

ROYAL LEPAGE

416.921.1112 www.ellidavis.com
800.622.9536 mail@ellidavis.com

Real Experience • Real Results • Real Estate with Elli

225 Davenport Road #101 $899,000

The Dakota! Main floor garden suite with landscaped patio. 2 Bedrooms (2nd used as den), combined living/dining room, approx. 1,132 sqft. Parking/locker. Superb building amenities. Steps to Yorkville and Hazelton Lanes. Bring your garden gloves!

33 Jackes Avenue #201 $2,250,000

Grand suite of approx. 3,000 sq ft! Steps to Yonge/St. Clair/Summerhill shops & amenities. Dir elevator, 2 bdrms + den, reno'd kitchen. 2 Parking, 2 lockers. Stellar service, valet plg, indoor pool, sauna, exer rm & more! Best value!

Central Jerusalem

athome israel

Vacation Apartment Rentals
Affordable Spacious
1, 2 & 3 bedrooms
Short term and long term availability

For details please email athomeisrael2013@gmail.com

Conservatory, 343 Clark, reno., 2 bdrm/2 bath. + solar., hdwd, indry, indoor plg., immed. 905-881-6380

LUXURY RENTAL CONDOS Wilson/Bath. Immediate occupancy available for independent 65yrs+. Newly renovated 1 & 2 bdrm. For Info/tours 647-786-4887 www.TwoNeptune.ca

Ben Buys Book Collections, manuscripts, diaries, letters, documents & militaria. 416-890-9644

Part Time Music Teacher for Primary Grades

Paul Penna DJDS is seeking a music teacher for SK through Grade 4 to deliver a music program that incorporates both Jewish and general studies.

PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Qualified candidates are asked to send a resume and cover letter to info@djds.ca.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

TO PLACE AN AD CALL Monday to Friday

416-391-1836

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.

The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash.

The CJN assumes no responsibility for errors that may occur in classified ads. Please bring any problems to the attention of your ad representative within one week of publication.

Reach qualified buyers

GET RESULTS!

CJN THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

SERVICE DIRECTORY
416-391-1836

BISTRO GRANDE
• Catering • Restaurant • Bistro
SUNDAY BRUNCH
1000 Eglinton Ave. W. Toronto
416.782.3302
www.bistrogrande.com

I can clean your home, apt. & offices nicely, & quickly Call 647.867.8144

HANDYMAN SERVICES of all kinds. Paint,drywall, plumbing, tile. Plus! Plus! 647-574-9190

All kinds of electrical jobs. For great service call Serge at 416-834-4312. Licensed

BATHURST CONCRETE AND REPAIR. Concrete stairs & verandas, Garage floors, Sidewalks, Wet basements, Brick, Tuckpointing, Flagstone repair, Small jobs. Reas. 32 yrs. exp. Lic. NO HST. Joe, 416-451-8956.

ONE CALL 4 ALL – Renovations, Repairs & Handyman services. 31 yrs. experience; satisfaction guaranteed. Barry 416-821-1797.

Hardwood floors & stairs. New or old; refinish or install. Affordable, reliable. Roman - 416-716-9084

We schlep for Less. Attentive service. Reas. rates. 416-999-6683, BestWayToMove.com

Earl Bales Sr. Woodworkers. Chair Repairs, Caning, Reglueing, Custom, reas. 416-630-8487.

G & M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice. Large or small. 905- 738-4030/gem2010@live.ca

Mercantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touchups. Restoration, refinishings & gen. repairs on premises. 416-654-0518

SRM Movers-Call Stanley! insured, home, apt., office, bus. 416-747-7082/Cell 416-788-7082 srmmovers220@hotmail.com

Painting, residential, commercial, interior/exterior, drywall. Reasonable. FREE ESTIMATES. PAINT HOUSE ENT. 416-459-1383

Kurdi Painting for both exterior & interior, drywall repairs, plastering, stucco removal & smooth ceiling. 416-827-5563

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the Metropolitan Licensing Commission 416-392-3000

STAY UPDATED WITH THE REDESIGNED CJNews.com

Second of a three-part series

New takes on Jewish classics

DANIEL KOREN
dkoren@thecjn.ca

As any kosher foodie will tell you, Toronto's kosher food scene has been on the rise of late. In fact, for enthusiasts of kosher food who prefer to dine out, this month marks Kosher Restaurant Month throughout the city, with 23 eateries participating by offering patrons a 10 per cent discount.

But what about a culinary experience that isn't necessarily kosher, but still has Jewish roots? Where would culturally Jewish Torontonians go for some culinary classics that feel close to home?

Well, there are actually several options.

If you're in Thornhill, Centre Street Deli is great for classic deli fare, while Meron To Go is the place for Israeli staples, and What A Bagel offers kosher-style breakfast and brunch.

In the downtown core, some chefs offer slightly modified versions of the Jewish classics they grew up with, were influenced by, or both.

At Rione XI on St. Clair West, chefs Danilo and Sandrelle Scimo serve food inspired by Rome's historic Jewish quarter. Here you'll find authentic Italian dishes one wouldn't normally consider Jewish: wood fire-baked pizza, cornish hen, and carbonara that uses bresaola (air-dried salted beef) instead of pancetta (Italian bacon). Many of the pizzas also don't mix meat and cheese. The restaurant also pays tribute to Rome's Jewish quarter with two murals painted on its walls: one of the Great Synagogue of Rome, the other a map of the Jewish quarter.

If you head south and then east on Dupont Street, you'll eventually run into two of three Jewish-themed eateries within one kilometre of each other, all owned and operated by chef Anthony Rose: Schmaltz Appetizing (purveyors of fine fish), Fat Pasha (Rose's take on Israeli and Middle Eastern fare) and his flagship restaurant Rose & Sons (gluttonous Jewish-inspired brunch). At any of these spots you'll find new takes on Jewish or Israeli classics you grew up with. The Chubb Chubb sandwich at Schmaltz, for example, is Rose's take on lox and cream cheese, and features smoked whitefish salad, gravlax, horseradish cream cheese and dill cucumbers.

Rose also serves a sandwich called Farshtunken, which in Yiddish means "stinky." The sandwich consists of three types of herring, raw red onion, and a well-buttered bagel. It may live up to its name, but oy vey is it ever delicious.

At Caplansky's Deli on College Street, celebrity chef Zane Caplansky offers an entire menu's worth of his takes on classic Jewish delicatessen, from the Leaning Tower of Caplansky (thick-cut challah french toast with layers of cream cheese, blueberry jam and beef bacon) to the smoked meat knish pocket. There's also a latke poutine and a drink called the Jewmosa. While none of it is kosher, it's all deeply rooted in Jewish cuisine, Caplansky says. Furthermore, the restaurant's walls are clad with Jewish paraphernalia. Employees even wear shirts that read, "Kickin' it Old Shul."

Only a few minutes away you'll find People's Eatery in Chinatown on Spadina Avenue. Known for merging diverse cuisines, it serves a latke topped with trout, sour cream and roe (fish eggs). At Free Times Cafe, a staple in Toronto's downtown Jewish community, there's a range of Jewish and Israeli items, from chicken shish kebobs to smoked salmon platters, but also Canadian classics like nachos, chicken fingers and pearneal bacon burgers. The result is a diverse crowd that appreciates good food, Jewish or not.

If you head further south, and are in the mood for brunch, Noah Goldberg, executive chef of Peter Pan Bistro on Queen Street West, makes a mean shakshuka made from in-house ingredients. Goldberg first tried shakshuka in Israel, adored it, and decided to make his version using cumin, coriander, spices, and a medley of tomatoes, roasted red peppers and onions. He also adds za'atar, a dollop of labneh (a strained yogurt cheese that's quite popular in Israel) and recommends adding sausage made of lamb, not pork.

Kosher-style sausage is much more popular now anyways, he says. ■

Next week: Being vegaterian and kosher.

Zane Caplansky's hot knish pocket served with smoked meat gravy

The Farshtunken sandwich

Chef Anthony Rose

Chef Zane Caplansky

LIM/TTORED MEDIA PHOTOS

To watch videos of chefs Rose and Caplansky creating their takes on Jewish classics, visit www.cjnews.com or www.facebook.com/TheCJN.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS
MAY 26, 2016

Rachel Frenkel: 'In a difficult world, we derive strength from whatever gives us strength'

SHERI SHEFA
sshefa@thecjn.ca

Rachel Frenkel is the dean of students at Nishmat, the Jeanie Schottenstein Center for Advanced Torah Study for Women, and the director of Matan's Hilkhata Institute at Matan Women's Institute for Torah Studies.

The *Jerusalem Post* described Frenkel as "a symbol of the period of unprecedented social unity, prayer and faith, a period that carried on into the rocket-racked days of Operation Protective Edge," after her 16-year-old son Naftali was kidnapped and murdered along with two other teens, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar, in June 2014.

On May 17, Frenkel led a discussion at Beit Avraham Yoseph Toronto Congregation in Thornhill, organized by the BAYT Sisterhood and the Canadian Friends of Nishmat, about the loss of her son and how her life and the climate in Israel has changed since then.

Rachel Frenkel, the mother of Naftali who was murdered in 2014.

In the time since your son was murdered, you've been seen as a public figure, a national heroine, a strong female religious leader. Are you comfortable with these labels?

[Laughter] None of them. It's not that I'm shy or humble. I'm trying to stay away from labels and just do the things that we feel connected to and that are important to us both in the field of Torah learning and involvement of women in Torah and in this thing that I've been thrown into – reluctantly is an understatement. I would not choose this for obvious reasons, but beyond the tragic side, and that never goes away, there was tremendous... it creates awe. You stand in front of the people and in a world where so many people are murdered all the time and nobody winks, here there were three kids who didn't come home from school and millions of Jews around the world lost sleep over it. It is almost miraculous, and we felt so grateful for the support and everything that was going on at every stage – if it was prayers, if it was rallies, if it was memorials – the whole idea that the whole Jewish world stood together like that, it speaks volumes about who we are and who we could strive to be. My role in this is really minor. It is the people that presented themselves.

I can say this about Israelis, and I know it is partially true also about Jews around the world: when Jews remember it, they remember the tragedy, but they also like who they were at the time. Something about our self-image. We showed our best at that time, and the ability of different segments of the Jewish world to stand together, to pray together, to connect, it can't be taken for granted.

You are often widely praised for your grace and composure, and I think it comforted a lot of people. From where did you pull your strength at that time?

I don't feel comfortable with that description. We dealt with things very intuitively as things came, and sometimes I feel like saying with so much support, *zeh lo chochmah* (it's not hard).

In a difficult world, we derive strength from whatever gives us strength, and if I have a share in that, it is a blessing, and I take no credit for that. We all play our roles in trying to do more good in the world.

I don't know, I might be embarrassed, I don't have an objective view, and I don't think anything we did was extraordinary. That is why I'm uncomfortable.

> *In a world where so many people are murdered all the time and nobody winks, here there were three kids who didn't come home from school and millions of Jews around the world lost sleep over it.*

During that time Israelis and Jews in the Diaspora were praying and grieving together, but do you feel that Jews living abroad can even truly feel one with Israel in these circumstances?

In Israel, they say we are very good in emergency situations, but in day-to-day life, we're not so nice to each other. Of course, I wish our everyday experience would be much more solidarity, etc., etc., but the mere fact that we are capable of being there is part of our identity. I think it is something to aspire to and build towards. We don't always have to be at the peak, as long as we are in the right direction.

Have there been any long-lasting effects?

That's a difficult question. I remember after that summer, a few weeks after it was all over, there were two images I was playing with. One was of a person walking in the dark and they are stumbling and can't find their way, and then there is lightning, which shows the reality that surrounds them and the lightning goes away and it is dark again and they are stumbling again but they have some inner knowledge of where they're at. It's truth, it is not an illusion.

And then on the other hand, when I was asking myself, "Will any of this last?" I was given the metaphor of a person that experienced love. And that couple might have not worked out eventually, but it's a life-transforming experience.

Hopefully, some things did stay with us. And sometimes the memory of that story, of that summer, evokes or awakens that place in us. There are no one-summer solutions to anything. In Israel, a few months later, we were in the middle of an election period and it was back to normal.

In your role as an educator, with women in particular, there are some people who see you as a feminist in the Orthodox world. Do you consider yourself to be a feminist?

I'm sure everything we are enjoying today in the development of Torah by women is directly related to the feminist movement – not the movement, but the changing role women are taking in the world in general. On my side, it would be an ingratitude to badmouth feminism in any way, because I think women all over the Jewish world, especially the ones taking their place in learning, in religious commitment, in religious involvement – and I'm talking in the Orthodox world at the moment – they are all gaining from the changes in women's standing in the last 100 years or so. The way the question is presented, it's as if it is a bad word. I don't have a problem with the word, and I'm thankful to think that it enabled so much for us.

My major motivation is not a gender motivation, but a Torah motivation. I seek Torah because this is what I wish for. This is what I want to develop. This is where my religious life wants to grow. It is not the gender agenda pushing this, but definitely, it has enabled a lot of what has happened. The motivation is a love of Torah. It is a religious motivation. It is wanting to grow to the highest levels within Jewish life, and Jewish life was always connected to learning. If you don't learn, you don't experience the religious value of Torah life. ■

This interview has been edited and condensed for style and clarity.

A near-death experience

Backstory

ELI HONIG

As an infant, hidden in occupied France during the Holocaust, whose father and father's family perished in Auschwitz, I grew up with a haunting legacy. Over the years I wrestled with many aspects of this history.

My mother was five months pregnant with me, and she was left with her two little girls, when my father was arrested in the first nationwide roundup of Jews in France, on July 16, 1942. When I was much older, she told me that once, prior to his arrest, she had removed her yellow star and travelled to Paris from the town of Château Gontier where our family was in enforced residence. When she arrived she was caught in large police dragnet of prostitutes and placed in a jail cell with them. Three days later, she was released and returned home.

Late in my mother's pregnancy, two SS or Gestapo officers came by car to the small town to arrest her and her two girls. In a last act of desperation she blurted out that she was about to give birth. Since she was very heavy with child, and since the officers realized what a childbirth would do to their Mercedes, they retreated, saying that they would return. Through the remarkable mind numbing efforts of the extended Christian Counord-Gardon family, they failed in their mission. I was born, and they placed us in different hiding places for the duration of the war.

The Germans, realizing that their "prey" had eluded them, started hunting for us. They even interviewed my midwife who told them that Mme. Honig was so desperate that she probably jumped into the nearby Mayenne River with her children. When in 1980 I visited the people who had risked life, limb and torture to save us, I was told that the Germans dredged the river for three days in search of bodies - thereby allowing for more time to execute our escape.

I have in my possession a copy of a letter from the chief of the French police in Château Gontier to the commissioner of police for the province of Mayenne, stating that Mme. Esther Honig disappeared with her three children (names, and places and dates of birth included), and that he had no idea which direction she took. But he assured his superior that as soon as he found the whereabouts of the "fugitives" he would let him know. The letter was dated Nov. 24, 1942. So my mother was labelled a fugitive, and by extension I was too, at the age of three weeks.

> *For almost two years we all had near-death experiences, though only my mother was aware of the true danger at the time.*

When I was 50 years old I visited my mother in Montreal, and together we watched a video of the Holocaust interview that she had at the Living Testimonies Project at McGill University. There and then I finally learned the reason for her surreptitious nighttime trip to Paris where she was arrested and eventually released. She was going to an underground clinic to have an abortion! When she stepped out of the jail, she didn't know where to go. One direction led to the clinic and the other direction led to home. Then she saw a German soldier across the street and she said to herself that what she could do with two children, she could do with three. And she left for home - and I was born.

The revelation that I was almost aborted made me reel. But it was my mother's courage, and the realization that I ended up being the vehicle for the saving of my mother and my two sisters, not to speak of me, that has haunted me for years. Now I realize that for almost two years we all had near-death experiences, though only my mother was aware of the true danger at the time. As an infant, I could have no understanding of what transpired then. Yet it was surely the near-death experiences that have shadowed me in my cognitive years. ■

Eli Honig taught physics at the Anne and Max Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for 31 years, and for longer than that at the University of Toronto.

OBITUARIES AND RELATED NOTICES

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

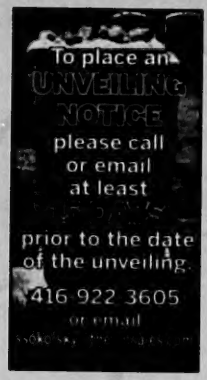
Grigory Gavrilovich	May 5/16	4300 Bathurst Street
Norman Hoffman Q.C.	May 9/16	355 St. Clair Ave. West
Perce Young	May 8/16	40 Warren Road
Edward Yehuda Gefen	May 6/16	44 Charles Street West
Martin (Moshe) Kulbak	May 9/16	44 Cedarcroft Blvd.
Dr. Mark Edson	May 11/16	88 Promenade Circle
Renee Blustein	May 12/16	83 Forest Heights Blvd.
Frances Heisler	May 12/16	162 Searle Avenue
Nathan Kaufman	May 11/16	111 Avenue Road
Samuel Hamovitch	May 12/16	645 Castlefield Avenue
Fahima Meranda	May 12/16	7905 Bayview Avenue
Winnie Posner	May 12/16	55 Ameer Avenue
Gershon Bengershon	May 13/16	25 Breda Court

Helen Cornfield	May 4/16	55 Ameer Avenue
Madeline Berke	May 9/16	1 Canterbury Place

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Velvart,Richard	May 11, 2016	205 Cummer Ave
Grunet, Arthur	May 13, 2016	Private
Jacobs, Abraham (Al)	May 13, 2016	16 Goodwill Ave
Goldreich, Regina	May 13, 2016	295 Joicey Blvd
Bielak, Cynthia	May 14, 2016	7 Townsgate Dr
Frankovits, Miriam	May 15, 2016	3560 Bathurst St
Rosenberg, Harry	May 15, 2016	120 Promenade Circle
Farber, Mikhail	May 17, 2016	Private

The unveiling of a monument in the memory of
ABIE and EVA ASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 29, at 12:30 pm
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park (BLMP)
6033 Bathurst St., Toronto | Warsaw Lodzer-Section 46
Relatives and friends are invited to attend
A light lunch will be held in the BLMP Reception Room

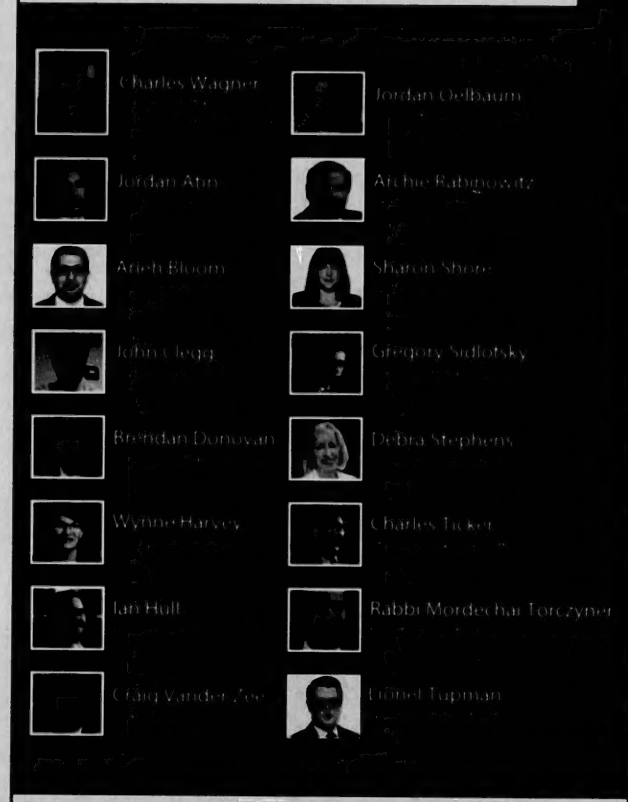


The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ROSE KLUG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday June 5, 2016
at 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
3169 St. Clair Ave East
Farband section #30
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

CLE for Lawyers & Accountants
Estate Disputes & Prenuptial Agreements

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

PRESENTERS



Sponsored By: B'nai Brith Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, Dentons, Hull & Hull LLP, Wagner Sidlofsky LLP and Whaley Estate Litigation

Trust Experience®
HULL & HULL LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
Scotiabank
大成 DENTONS
WHALEY
B'NAI BRITH CANADA
WS WAGNERSIDLOFSKY LLP

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue • 470 Glencairn Ave, Toronto

Full and Frank Disclosure – Possible liability of Lawyer

CLE Seminar

Charles Wagner
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP
Chair, Trusts & Estates

On June 21, 2016 the Bnai Brith Trusts and Estates group is presenting its annual CLE seminars for lawyers and accountants. The format is a moot court which allows the presenters to educate attendees in an interesting way. This year's seminar deals with a wealthy widow who marries a younger man. Her children insist that their mother signs a prenuptial agreement. The mother and her fiancé comply. But when the mother dies her surviving husband cries foul and wants to set aside the agreement. The validity of that agreement is the main issue, but there are very important additional legal issues that are addressed by the seminar.

Jordan Oelbaum
Shnnurr Kirsh Schnurr Oelbaum Tator LLP

Another issue is the ethical obligation of the son who was a lawyer. He knew that his mother was purposefully hiding her assets. Is that ethical? If not what are the consequences of a lawyer conspiring with a client to hide assets? In this case scenario the Widow had two children – a son and a daughter. It may be that if the lawyer was negligent the surviving spouse will win, resulting in a sizeable reduction in the inheritance received by him and his sister. A court could hold him liable to his sister if in the end the will is set aside and the surviving husband inherits under the law of intestacy or is allowed to make a claim for equalization under the Family Law Act.

Arieh Bloom
Whaley Estate Litigation

The Widow's son, played by Arieh Bloom of Whaley Estate Litigation, was the lawyer who drafted the agreement and took his mother on as a client. In this scenario, the son provided independent legal advice to his mother. He knew that his mother purposely failed to make full and frank disclosure to her fiancé about the extent of her wealth. The Family Law Act provides that a court may set aside a domestic contract or a provision in it, if a party failed to disclose to the other significant assets. Attendees will learn under what circumstances a court may exercise its jurisdiction to set aside such agreements.

Greg Sidlofsky
Wagner Sidlofsky LLP

What will make this part of the presentation especially interesting is that the lawyer examining the son in chief is Jordan Oelbaum of Schnurr Kirsh Schnurr Oelbaum Tator LLP . Jordan regularly represents lawyers accused of negligence. Cross examining the alleged negligent lawyer will be my partner Gregory M. Sidlofsky of Wagner Sidlofsky LLP who is s an experienced litigation lawyer certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a Specialist in Civil Litigation. Greg and I have experience suing lawyers. It will be an exciting part of the presentation seeing these two square off.

The event will take place on June 21, 2016, at Shaarei Shomayim-Synagogue at 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5N 1V8, and is open to lawyers and accountants. Please contact Elyse Gruenspan at B'nai Brith Canada at (416) 633-6224 or email at egruenspan@bnaibrith.ca.

PLEASE
REWIND